

JUST

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EDITORIAL

The FOIA guarantees that any person has a right, which is legally enforceable, to look at all federal agency records except for those specifically exempted by law. There are nine exemptions to the FOIA, not one of which pertains to UFO records or other information. Yet, when we request such information we are told that it is exempt from release due to national security or that "records cannot be released because they have been destroyed" or that "the information is properly classified and cannot be released". These responses raise suspicion in the government's pronouncements that UFO's are not real. If these statements are true how can the government use such exemptions for withholding data that is "non-existent".

To support this posture of unreality, an Air Force fact sheet released to the public on Dec. 17, 1969 states that the Secretary of the Air Force was terminating Project Blue Book and that after 22 years of study they had concluded that:

(1) "No UFO reported, investigated and evaluated by the Air Force has ever given any indication of a threat to our national security."

(2) "There has been no evidence submitted to or discovered by the Air Force that sightings categorized as 'unidentified' represent technological developments or principles beyond the range of present

day scientific knowledge."

(3) "There has been no evidence indicating that sightings categorized as 'unidentified' are extra-terrestrial vehicles."

However, we are told by no less than Dr. J. Allen Hynek, the Air Force's Blue Book advisor for 20 years, that Blue Book was nothing more than a public relations venture and not a scientific study. Who is correct? Judging from the Air Force's track record on the matter it tells us that the government has not been up front with us and still manages to keep important UFO-related material from the public. We object to this policy of secrecy. We feel that the public has a right to know under law and the government has a duty to tell what they know about UFOs.

Larry Fawcett

MJ12: MYTH OR REALITY?

Did a secret government panel once intensively study a crashed-UFO case with compelling physical evidence at it's disposal? Did this panel set the UFO debunking policy for the government which persists to this day? These are certainly questions which have echoed throughout UFOlogy for decades, generating scores of wild rumors. Many of the rumors died a quick death while others lingered, helped

along mainly by a cadre of conspiracy theorists/supporters. One such story was Frank Scully's Aztec, New Mexico UFO crash which formed the basis for the 1950 book Behind the Flying Saucers. In virtually all of these cases, the substance necessary to the credibility of the story was sorely lacking.

Recent revelations have shown that at least a small number of the surviving rumors deserve a day in court, most notably the Roswell, NM incident of 1947, involving the alleged crash of a UFO and the recovery and study of the debris (and bodies) at Wright Field (Wr.-Patt.AFB, Ohio)

A relatively new rumor has surfaced which we would like to discuss in some detail because it is new and it bears some interesting connections to old stories. CAUS does not yet endorse this as fact. Our long-standing policy of requiring conclusive government documentation still stands and will always stand. We have yet to see such documentation in this instance. Nevertheless, it is hoped that open discussion will elicit practical response toward proving or burying this latest tale.

During the final stages of CLEAR INTENT, I had collected documents relating to the multiple sightings of UFOs over Kirtland AFB, NM in August 1980. The story of this series of reports is in the Epilog of CI. What wasn't inserted in the book was a document, allegedly a government document, which had made the rounds in the so-called UFO grapevine. It told of an analysis performed by the Air Force of the "Dr. Bennewitz" photographic data, which had been part of the subject matter in the confirmed AFOSI file release on Kirtland. It concluded that some of the photos were "Legitimate negatives of unidentified aerial objects". The document went on to discuss, very briefly, a top-secret "Project Aquarius" and something called "MJ12". These terms meant little to us at the time so inquiries were launched to determine the origin of the terms and the document.

No government agency had any

knowledge of the matter and the alleged originator, AFOSI (Air Force Office of Special Investigations), said that the document was a "fabrication". Since we had no evidence to prove otherwise and since the document came from a source other than the FOIA I chose not to use it in CI. My copy of the "Aquarius" document contained several misspellings and irregularities in format, further adding to my suspicions but I did not rule out the possibility of this perhaps being a re-typed version of an original, legitimate document by a "mole" in the military. The piece was filed and remained in limbo for a time.

This past summer the mysterious "MJ12" portion of the "Aquarius" document surfaced again when CAUS was advised by several members that California UFO researcher Lee Graham was conducting inquiries into MJ12, apparently based on specific information from an unknown individual in the government. The specifics were rather intriguing.

MJ12, or Majestic 12, was a panel formed to investigate and report it's findings to the President of the United States on the matter of unidentified flying objects. It addressed in particular the Roswell, NM incident of July 2, 1947. The panel consisted of the following individuals:

Detlev W. Bronk
Lloyd V. Berkner
Vannevar Bush
James V. Forrestal
Gordon Gray
Roscoe H. Hillenkoetter
Jerome C. Hunsaker
Donald H. Menzel
Sidney W. Souers
Nathan F. Twining
Hoyt S. Vandenberg
Robert M. Montague

The report submitted to the President, called "MJ12", was classified "Top Secret-Eyes Only", 9 back-to-back pages long, dated September 18, 1947, and was signed by President Harry Truman.

And how did Mr. Graham get this information? He saw it! He held the document in his hands, which was briefly supplied to him by his military source.

Naturally, many questions arise out of this. Was this document an official document? It could have been a fake except that the signature of President Truman was checked and matched with an authentic Truman signature (Graham did this from memory as he wasn't allowed to keep a copy). It still could have been faked but then why does an individual go to the trouble of typing up a lengthy, phony document, show it to a single person, then take it back again when much more could have been gained from a hoax by letting Graham keep it for dissemination? A document with a recognizable signature of a president would certainly raise a few eyebrows! It would still be suspect despite that but it would not be readily apparent if supplied on a photocopy in lieu of an original.

Therefore, for a time, a hoax document would catch fire in the UFO community, cause much comment and consequently give the hoaxer much satisfaction.

Such did not happen here. It is not clear why a potential "dis-informer" did not follow-up on a promising situation, unless of course the document were real. The informer's behavior here is a little more consistent with his being a "leaker" of sensitive information on UFOs. However, there is no way to prove it at this time. A checkable copy of this document would have to surface for examination.

What about the data in the "MJ12" report? The date is immediately telling. September 18, 1947, is the birthday of the CIA, the official first day of their existence! Is it a coincidence or a tell-tale clue to the document being phony? Or could this report have been one of the first orders of business for the fledgling CIA?

The connection of the 1947 Roswell incident to this affair makes sense. Based on the information unveiled by Bill Moore, Stan

Friedman and others, the Roswell crash was clearly a major topic in high government circles. It strains credibility to think that piles of metallic debris would have been sent to Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio from New Mexico for analysis if the material were simply parts of what should have been an easily-recognizable radar reflector balloon to Army Air Force officers. After the arrival of the material at Wright-Patterson and wherever else it may have gone, official documentation ceases. No useful government files describing analysis of the debris have been unearthed. Obviously analysis took place somewhere. Where is the report? If the Roswell object were a strange device of some sort, then involvement of the individuals listed as MJ12 members would make sense.

Let's see who these members are:



Hester

LLOYD V. BERKNER

A scientist known for his achievements in the fields of physics and electronics and in public administration, Lloyd V. Berkner was appointed in March 1949 by Secretary of State Acheson to the post of special assistant to the Secretary, in charge of the military assistance program proposed to strengthen Western Europe. Berkner is on the staff of the department of terrestrial magnetism at the Carnegie Institute of Washington, having begun this association in 1933. The executive secretary of the Joint Research and Development Board in 1946 under Dr. Vannevar Bush (now the Research and Development Board of the National Military Establishment), Berkner also was head of a special committee appointed at the request of the Secretary of Defense to direct a study that led to the establishment of the Weapons Systems Evaluation Group.



Wide World Photos

DETLEV W. BRONK

Detlev W. Bronk, the sixth president of Johns Hopkins University, entered upon that office in January 1949, as successor to Dr. Isaiah Bowman. A physiologist and biophysicist of international repute, Bronk is chairman of the National Research Council and a member of the Medical Advisory Board of the Atomic Energy Commission. During World War II he served several Federal offices in advisory capacities.

On July 30, 1948, Detlev W. Bronk was named successor to Dr. Isaiah Bowman, who was retiring, as president of Johns Hopkins University. The new administrator assumed his office on January 1, 1949. Proposed to the university's board of trustees by Karl Compton, Bronk (Compton's only candidate) thus became sixth president of the Baltimore university, which was founded in 1876.

The study of neurophysiology over these years was Dr. Bronk's main field of research. By evolving a methodology, with the aid of electrical, optical, and electro-microscopic aids, he was able to measure the changes in nerve cells during the passage of stimuli to the brain. These same techniques assisted him in evaluating the molecular structure of nerve cells and the placement of the atomic and ionic components in the cells. Experiments in collaboration with Dr. Frank Brink resulted for the first time in the measuring of the pressure which carries oxygen through the body.

With Dr. Edward U. Condon, Director of the National Bureau of Standards, Bronk in June 1947 was named a member of the Scientific Advisory Committee of the Brookhaven National Laboratory, an organization devoted to atomic research. A few months later he was placed on the Advisory Committee for Biology and Medicine of the United States Atomic Energy Commission. As chairman of the National Research Council, Bronk supervised the choice and distribution of research fellowships for the AEC. When it developed that a scientist with Communist affiliations had received one of the fellowships, both Bronk and AEC chairman David E. Lilienthal were called before the Joint Congressional Committee on Atomic Energy in May 1949 to discuss the selection. Pointing out that no question of political sympathy was contained in the fellowship application blanks, Dr. Bronk indicated that he would call a meeting of the council's fellowship committee to consider a more careful screening of applicants.



Wide World Photos

GORDON GRAY

Gordon Gray, who succeeded Kenneth C. Royall as Secretary of the Army in June 1949, first came to the Pentagon Building in September 1947, as Assistant Secretary. He is widely known as chief author of the so-called "Gray Report," which recommended the placing of the National Guard under the control of the Federal Government instead of the separate States, in the interest of modern defense needs. A veteran of World War II, in which he served both as enlisted man and officer, Gray, a Democrat, is a lawyer by training, and has three times been elected to the Senate of North Carolina. From 1937 to 1947 he was publisher of two newspapers of that State, in Winston-Salem.



DR. JEROME C. HUNSAKER

Jerome C. Hunsaker, head of the Department of Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (on leave), chairman of the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, has left an indelible impression upon aeronautical science. Among his contributions are the design of the NC type of flying boat; the design of the *Shenandoah*, the first large airship made in this country; the development of launching catapults and arresting gear for deck landings

on airplane carriers; the design of light planes for service on these carriers; the development of gas-proof fabric for airship construction; and the promotion of air-cooled radial engines for planes.



U. S. Air Force

GEN. NATHAN F. TWINING

Soon after the end of the war in Europe, Twining was returned to the United States for interim duty at Washington, and on July 24 he was appointed to succeed Major General Curtis E. LeMay as commanding general of the 20th Air Force based on the Mariana Islands in the Pacific. B-29 Superfortresses of Twining's command dropped the atom bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and other 20th Air Force "very heavy" bombers made devastating incendiary and demolition attacks on the Tokyo area.

For various World War II achievements, including feats of personal courage, Twining was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit with one Oak Leaf Cluster, the Distinguished Flying Cross, and the Air Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster, as well as the Yugoslav Order of Partisan Star and the rank of Companion of the Order of the British Empire.

Returning to the United States after the Japanese surrender, Lieutenant General Twining was assigned to Continental Air Force headquarters at Bolling Field, Washington, D.C., in October 1945. In December he was named commanding general of the Air Material Command, with headquarters at Wright Field, Ohio.

On October 1, 1947 he was appointed commanding general of the Alaskan Department and later in the month became commander-in-chief of the Alaskan Command, continuing as such until May, 1950, when he was recalled to Air Force headquarters at Washington to become acting deputy chief of staff for personnel.

Twining, whose permanent rank dating from February 19, 1948 is that of major general, became a four-star general (temporary) on October 10, 1950, when major changes in the top Air Force command brought him an appointment as Vice-Chief of Staff. At that time the *Washington Post* characterized him as "something of an elder statesman in the Air Force despite his relative youth," since his "unusually rounded command" had made him fully acquainted with "the tactical support as well as the strategic side of the Air Force job."

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DONALD H. MENZEL

The director of the Harvard College Observatory at Cambridge, Massachusetts is Dr. Donald H. Menzel, who was appointed in January 1954, after having served as acting director since the retirement of Harlow Shapley in September 1952. He has been a member of the Harvard University faculty since 1932 and professor of astrophysics since 1938, and was chairman of the astronomy department from 1946 to 1949. Long recognized as a leading authority on the solar chromosphere, Dr. Menzel in collaboration with J. C. Boyce had established in 1933 the presence of oxygen in the sun's corona, and with Winfield W. Salisbury he made in 1941 the initial calculations which led to the first radio contact with the moon in 1946.

Menzel's theory, first advanced in 1952, that the so-called "flying saucers" are in most instances optical phenomena akin to mirages, is set forth in his book *Flying Saucers* (1953).



Widu World Photos

JAMES V. FORRESTAL

James V. Forrestal, who came to Washington from Wall Street in 1940 as an "anonymous assistant" to President Roosevelt, advanced rapidly in the Government service, serving as Under Secretary, and then as Secretary, of the Navy for a period of seven years. In September 1947 Forrestal became the first Secretary of Defense, in charge of coordinating the activities of all the United States armed services, and of determining national defense policy. His department is the National Military Establishment.



U. S. Navy

REAR ADM. ROSCOE H. HILLENKOETTER

Rear Admiral Roscoe H. Hillenkoetter was from May of 1947 to September of 1950 the director of the Central Intelligence Agency, the first permanent intelligence office to be organized in peacetime by the United States Government. It is under the National Security Council, which is one of the divisions of the Executive Office of the President. The Rear Admiral's appointment was announced on May 1, 1947, when he was called from the post of naval attaché at the American Embassy in Paris, to which he had once been assigned as assistant attaché in 1933. That intelligence service, together with his record in the setting up of the wartime intelligence network in the Pacific, was the basis of his selection as the director of the CIA upon its establishment in 1947. In August 1950 it was announced that Hillenkoetter would be succeeded as CIA director by Walter Bedell Smith*; and in November the Rear Admiral returned to sea duty when he took command of the Seventh Task Force, which is stationed near Formosa.

While Hillenkoetter was the first director of the CIA as such, his predecessors in central intelligence work were Lieutenant General Hoyt S. Vandenberg* and Rear Admiral Sidney W. Souers*, who is Executive Secretary of the National Security Council.

VANDENBERG, Hoyt Sanford, air force officer; born Milwaukee, Jan. 24, 1899; s. William Collins and Pearl (Kane) V.; student Columbian School, 1918-19; B.S., U.S. Mil. Acad., 1923; student A.C. Tactical Sch., 1934-35, Command and Gen. Staff Sch., 1935-36, Army War Coll., 1936-39; m. Gladys Rose, Dec. 28, 1923; children—Gladys Rose, Hoyt Sanford. Comm'd. 2d Lt., 1923, U.S. Army Air Corps; promoted through grades to lieut. gen., Mar. 1945, gen., 1947; instr. Fighter Tactics, A.C. Tactical Sch., 1936-38; asst. chief of staff A.A.F., 1940-41; chief of staff, Northwest African Strategic Air Force, 1942-43; dep. chief of staff, 1943; head of air mission to Russia, 1943-44; app'd. dep. comdr. in chief, A.E.F., Apr. 1944; made comdr. gen. U.S. 9th Air Force in France, Aug. 1944; became asst. chief of staff G-2 (Intelligence), War Dept. Gen. Staff, Feb. 1946; app'd. U.S. dir. Cent. Intelligence, June 1946; became dep. comdr. A.A.F. and chief of air staff A.A.F., 1947; vice chief of staff U.S. Air Force, October 1947, chief of staff 1948-53. Awarded Distinguished Service Medal (with Oak Leaf Cluster), Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal (4 Oak Leaf Clusters), Legion of Merit, Bronze Star. Home: Washington. Died Apr. 2, 1954.



U. S. Navy

SIDNEY W. SOUERS

On June 7, 1946, President Harry S. Truman accepted "with reluctance" the resignation from the national service of Sidney W. Souers, the St. Louis insurance and cotton and linen trades executive who, as a naval reservist on active war duty from July 1946, had directed intelligence in the Caribbean theater, become Deputy Chief of Naval Intelligence, risen to the rank of rear admiral, and subsequently, beginning January 23, 1946, had organized the nation's first Central Intelligence Office. Within fifteen months, however, former Admiral Souers was back in public life: on September 26, 1947, he took oath of office as executive secretary of the new National Security Council, created by the National Security Act approved two months earlier. The officially defined function of this body is "to advise the President with respect to the integration of domestic, foreign, and military policies relating to the national security so as to enable the military services and other departments and agencies of the Government to cooperate more effectively in matters involving the national security." The council, moreover, now operates the Central Intelligence Agency. Among the duties of the executive secretary is that of "briefing" the President daily on "that branch of world affairs termed 'military-political.'" In December 1949, Souers tendered his resignation from the National Security Council, effective January 15, 1950. President Truman's press secretary stated that Souers would remain as a special consultant to the Executive on security matters.

ROBERT M. MONTAGUE -

Sandia Base Commander,
Albuquerque, New Mexico, July
1947 - February 1951

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SUBSCRIBERS AND SUPPORTERS A
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YEAR. SINCE OUR LAST SEASONS
GREETING WE HAVE GAINED THE RE-
LEASE OF NEARLY 2000 PAGES OF
GOVERNMENT FILES. LET'S KEEP IT
UP!

BUSH, Vannevar, Am. elec. engr.: B. Everett, Mass., Mar. 11, 1890; s. Richard Perry (D.D.) and Emma Linwood (Paine) B.; B.S., M.S., Tufts, 1913, Sc.D., (hon.), 1932; Eng. D., Mass. Inst. Tech., Harvard, 1916; LL.D., Brown U., Middlebury Coll., 1939, Johns Hopkins, 1940, U. Pa., Yale 1942, Washington U., U. Buffalo, 1944, Princeton, 1947, Colby Coll., 1951; Eng.D., Poly. Inst. of Bklyn., 1941, Rutgers Coll., 1942, Carnegie Inst. Tech., 1948; Sc.D., Harvard, Williams Coll., 1941, Stevens Inst. Tech., 1943, Trinity Coll., 1946, W.Va. U., 1947, Columbia, 1947, U. Cambridge (Eng.), 1950, Boston U., 1959; m. Phoebe Davis, Sept. 9, 1916; children—Richard Davis, John Hatheway. With test dept. Gen. Electric Co., 1913; with inspection dept. USN, 1914; instr. math. Tufts, 1914-15, asst. prof. elec. engring., 1916-17; research on submarine detection with spl. bd. on submarine devices USN, 1917-18; asst. prof. elec. power transmission Mass. Inst. Tech., 1919-23, prof., 1923-32; v.p., dean engring., 1932-38; pres. Carnegie Instn. of Washington, 1935-55, trustee, 1958—Trustee Carnegie Corp. of N.Y., 1939-55, trustee emeritus; dir. Metals and Controls Corp., Am. Tel. & Tel. Co.; chmn. Merck & Co., Inc. Mem. adv. com. Nat. Security Resources Bd. Trustee Tufts, Johns Hopkins, 1943-55; life mem. corp. Mass. Inst. Tech., hon. chmn. corp., 1959—; chmn. bd. Graphic Arts Research Found.; trustee George Putnam Found.; regent Smithsonian Instn., 1943-55, Lammie medal Am. Inst. E. E., 1935, Edison medal, 1943; Research Corp. award, 1939; Ballou medal, Tufts, 1941; Halley medal Am. Soc. M.E.; John Scott medal Phila. City Trusts, 1943; gold medal Nat. Inst. Social Scis., 1945; Marcellus Har- ley award Nat. Acad. Scis.; Wash. award Western Soc. Engrs., 1946; Hoover medal Asso. Engring. Nat. Acad. Scis.; Scientists, 1947; D.S.M., Roosevelt Meml. Assn., 1945, Tufts Coll., 1947; John Fritz medal 1951; award Am. Inst. Com. Engrs., 1953; John J. Carty medal and award, Nat. Acad. Scis., William Proctor prize, Sci. Research Soc. Am., 1954. Mem. Nat. Adv. Com. for Aeronautics (chmn. 1939-41), Bus. Adv. Council of Dept. Commerce, 1939-41; chmn. Nat. Def. Research Com., 1940-41; dir. OSRD, 1941-46; chmn. Joint Com. New Weapons and Equip- ment of Joint U. S. Chiefs of Staff, 1942-46; chmn. Joint Research and Devel. Bd., 1946-47, chmn. Research and Devel. Bd., Nat. Mil. Establishment, 1947-48. Fellow AIEE, Inst. E.E., Am. Phys. Soc.; mem. Am. Acad. Arts and Sci., Nat. Acad. A.A.S., Am. Soc. Engring. Edn., (Lammie award 1955), Am. Soc. M.E. (hon.), Soc. Naval Architects and Marine Engrs. (hon.), Franklin Inst. (hon.); Levy medal 1928, Am. Philos. Soc., Am. Math. Soc., Sigma Xi, Tau Beta Pi, Phi Beta Kappa. Author (with W. H. Timbrel) Principles of Electrical Engineering, 1922; Operational Circuit Analysis, 1929, Endless Horizons, 1946; Modern Arms and Free Men, 1949. Builder of differential analyzer (machine for solving differential equations), 1942; research on transmission line transients, opera- tional circuit analysis, gaseous conduction apparatus, analytical devices, principles of elec. engring. Home: 304 Marsh St., Belmont, Mass. 02178. Mass. Inst. Technology, Cambridge, Mass. 02139.*

(Biographies gleaned from Current Biography issues, late 1940s and Who's Who.)

My first thoughts upon seeing this list of people is that if a UFO had crashed and was recovered, this would be the kind of panel that I would want to put together to investigate the matter. All of these individuals were at the top in their respective areas of expertise during the late 1940s and had the added benefit of government experience behind them. The Majestic 12 indeed!

A number of them were later involved in the UFO phenomenon. In fact, fully half of the panel would make a mark on UFO history during and after 1947:

- Hoyt Vandenberg- Said to have read the now-famous 1948 "Estimate of the Situation" and subsequently ordered it downgraded and destroyed

for lack of evidence that UFOs were interplanetary.

- Roscoe Hillenkoetter- Former board member of NICAP and proponent of UFO reality.

- Vannevar Bush- Mentioned in the formerly top secret Canadian "Smith memo" of November 21, 1950, as the head of a "concentrated effort" to study UFOs.

- Nathan Twining- Authored a well-known September 1947 Air Force memo strongly endorsing the serious nature of UFOs.

- Donald Menzel- Author of 3 books debunking the UFO phenomenon.

- Lloyd Berkner- Member of the CIA's "Robertson Panel" of 1953.

Panel members' backgrounds show that most had connections to either the National Security Council or the Research and Development Board (R&DB). The R&DB figures prominently in testimony given to us by Dr. Robert Sarbacher (see Just Cause #5) and CAUS is convinced that UFO file material exists in the R&DB's holdings at the National Archives.

Another curiosity. General Twining's pro-UFO "Flying Discs" memo (see CLEAR INTENT, pp.213-214) dated September 23, 1947, comes only five days after the MJ12 report. Could Twining's possible connection to an MJ12 panel have had an influence on his writing of the 9/23/47 memo?

The listing of Vandenberg and particularly Donald Menzel as MJ12 members is a major curiosity since both had later negative involvement in UFOs. If an MJ12 panel concluded that UFOs were real, Menzel's and Vandenberg's debunking would seem illogical. Or would it?

If a singular incident of high national security importance occurred, like a Roswell incident, such could be classified more highly even than the H-bomb, as the Smith memo so aptly put it. As study of the phenomenon progressed, secrecy would be of the utmost importance and any effort to diffuse the

interest of the public and non-need-to-know personnel would be encouraged. Therefore, General Vandenberg, by batting down Project Sign's "Estimate of the Situation", would be preventing undue attention from being drawn to the subject by Project Sign personnel, who could not be regarded as people having access to data more highly classified than the H-bomb. It was too visible to be part of an "inner circle". The "Estimate" also very likely lacked the proof to justify an interplanetary explanation for UFOs.

Dr Menzel's skepticism, in light of his supposed membership in MJ12, might be put into the same category as General Vandenberg's of being loyal and cooperative in not discussing a national security matter. However, it is difficult to imagine Dr. Menzel writing 3 totally skeptical UFO books and spending so much time over so many years arguing against UFOs if he were privy to a crashed UFO and occupants. Either he was never involved with MJ12 or he was a very good actor. (Interestingly, Dr. Menzel had a UFO sighting in 1949 which he could not explain [see Intern. UFO Rep., Nov/Dec 82, pg. 11] though he tried hard to explain it) Menzel's involvement is clearly a controversial point in an MJ12 theory which argues for evidence, evidence, EVIDENCE from it's proponents.

This MJ12 theory does come close to a proposition by Maccabee (Revised UFO History, 1982 [83]) that a small, highly-classified group, perhaps coordinated by intelligence arms of the military, studied the Roswell debris in detail. The inclusion of Sandia Base, NM Commander Robert Montague argues favorably for this.

Several other possible connections to an MJ12 group should be noted here. In November 1961, Wilbert Smith was interviewed by UFOlogists C.W. Fitch and George Popovitch of Akron, Ohio. Smith told of how he was loaned a piece of a UFO shot off over Wash. D.C. in July 1952 by the Air Force. After

his examination of the piece, Smith was to return it to the government. When pressed by his interviewers to whom the piece was to be returned, Smith said it wasn't the Air Force or the CIA but "a highly classified group". He added, "You will have to solve that problem - their identity - for yourselves". (Columbus Ohio Dispatch, 10/20/66)

In the 1964 book The Invisible Government by journalists David Wise and Thomas Ross, a "Special Group" is described (pgs 260-61) as being the hidden power center of the Invisible Government, which formulated policy and made decisions on crucial matters of national interest. This group was said to have been created in the early 1950s and was called the "54/12 Group". 54/12 was said to include the Director of the CIA and the Secretary of Defense, among others, which sounds rather similar to MJ12. Could MJ12 have been an early incarnation of the 54/12 Group?

UFO researcher Dr. Richard Sigismond confirmed to CAUS via phone of his recollection of a UFO lecture by Dr. Edward Condon at the University of Colorado in 1966 (see Intern. UFO Rep., Sep/Oct. 1983, pgs 3-5, 16). When Dr. Condon was asked about the 1958 Trindade Is., Brazil UFO photo series, he seemed to falter in his knowledge of the case. The late eminent physicist Dr. George Gamow, sitting in the audience, appeared very interested in the case. Condon's lukewarm assurance that the case would be studied did not please Gamow, who, in apparent frustration, blurted out that in 1952 he and General Curtis LeMay, former head of SAC, had served on a secret UFO committee, with the purpose of evaluating UFOs. Could this committee have been MJ12 or a descendent?

I have played both angel's and devil's advocate in this review of a rumor. We have either another story destined for the dung heap or a real hot potato! COMMENTS??? the Editor.