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SERI SERIAL: OW0701064894

COUN COUNTRY: JAPAN

SUBJ\*SUBJ: SEASIDE TOWN TO BUILD CENTER FOR UFO STUDY

SOUR SOURCE: TOKYO KYODO IN ENGLISH 0538 GMT 7 JAN 94

TEXT TEXT:

((TEXT)) KANAZAWA, JAN. 7 KYODO -- A SMALL CITY ON THE JAPAN SEA COAST IS AIMING TO BECOME AN INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR THE STUDY \*OF UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS (UFO'S), A CITY OFFICIAL SAID FRIDAY. HAKUI, IN ISHIKAWA PREFECTURE, IS ENGAGED IN AN AMBITIOUS PROJECT \*TO BUILD A CENTER ON UFO'S AND OTHER SPACE PHENOMENA OVER THE NEXT TWO YEARS.

THE CENTER'S MAIN ATTRACTION WILL BE A LIBRARY WHERE BOTH SPECIALISTS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC WILL BE ABLE TO GAIN ACCESS TO \*OVER 10,000 OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS RELATING TO UFO PHENOMENA. INFORMATION WILL BE PROVIDED IN BOTH JAPANESE AND ENGLISH.

THE OFFICIAL, TORU WADA, SAID, "IN THE FUTURE, WE HOPE THE CENTER WILL BECOME A FOCUS OF INTERNATIONAL ATTENTION IN TERMS OF COLLECTING \*AND DISSEMINATING INFORMATION ON UFO'S."

THE CITY HAS PAINSTAKINGLY ACQUIRED THE DOCUMENTS OVER A 10-YEAR PERIOD FROM SUCH SOURCES AS THE U.S. CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY (CIA).

AMONG THEM ARE A 1950 REPORT BY THE U.S. FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION (FBI) ON THE RECOVERY OF THE BODIES OF THREE ALIEN BEINGS, SOME 90 CENTIMETERS IN HEIGHT, AND FRAGMENTS OF THEIR SPACECRAFT, ABOUT 15 METERS IN CIRCUMFERENCE, AFTER A CRASH-LANDING NEAR THE MEXICAN BORDER.

\* THE CENTER, TO BE BUILT TO RESEMBLE AN OVAL-SHAPED UFO, WILL BE THREE STORIES HIGH AND HAVE A TOTAL FLOOR SPACE OF 6,200 SQUARE METERS.

AT THE FOREFRONT OF THE CITY'S EFFORTS IS JOSEN TAKANO, 38, AN EMPLOYEE OF THE MUNICIPAL OFFICES'S PLANNING SECTION, WHO HAS BEEN \*INVOLVED IN THE STUDY OF UFO'S SINCE HIS STUDENT DAYS.

\* TAKANO, WHO HAS A COLLECTION OF THOUSANDS OF BOOKS ON UFO'S, HAS ALSO GATHERED LARGE QUANTITIES OF DOCUMENTS FROM THE UNITED STATES THROUGH THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT, AS WELL AS FROM SUCH COUNTRIES AS BRITAIN, FRANCE AND CANADA.

"WE DO NOT INTEND TO OFFER OUR OWN CONCLUSION ON THE EXISTENCE OF \*UFO'S," TAKANO SAID. "RATHER, WE JUST WANT TO PROVIDE PEOPLE WITH INFORMATION SO THAT THEY CAN MAKE THEIR OWN JUDGMENT."

\* HE IS WAITING FOR THE DAY WHEN THOSE WANTING TO LEARN ABOUT UFO'S WILL GET ALL THE INFORMATION THEY NEED JUST BY VISITING HAKUI.

TAKANO SAID EFFORTS ARE UNDER WAY TO GATHER EVEN MORE INFORMATION THROUGH A NETWORK OF ENTHUSIASTS IN 12 OTHER COUNTRIES.

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