

F-2018-01132
Oren A. Reed

Timothy S. Cooper

14 February 2020

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Agency Release Panel
Information and Privacy Coordinator
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

FEB 24 2020

Ref: F-2018-01827¹¹³²

Dear Mr. Mark Lilly:

I received your 23 January 2020 letter regarding the above referenced subject and find the response unacceptable. The four documents accompanying your letter do not address my 2 March 2018 FOIA request in any meaningful way. Most of the documents can be pulled from the Agency's own online FOIA digital reading room web site and 2017 CREST files. The Agency has had almost two years to locate and review the contents of General Smith's Friday, 19 December 1952 Weekly Friday Black Book Briefing on the subject of "flying saucers" given to President Truman in the Oval Office. I therefore make a formal Mandatory Declassification Review request for the whole briefing book, attachments, photos, maps, Air Force, Army, Navy, State Department, FBI and Department of Defense analysis of Project Blue Book UFO case files collected from AF intelligence and foreign sources that would comprise the report and attachments.

I base my MDR request on the fact that the Agency admits the briefing document does exist. I must assume it has been reviewed at the highest level and should be declassified and released as the Agency has done with the rest of the UFO files that are accessible to the public unless there is some overriding reason for it to remain classified. I have not been told the real reasons why the document should not be released. First of all, this is a historical document of immense importance to the American people (and the world for that matter) as well as an intelligence product for the President's eyes only. I am sure there are many in the Agency who would like to know what General Smith told President Truman as much as you or I would. My logic is this: that if there is nothing beyond what the Agency has already released in that briefing document, then why withhold it? I would think it would make the Agency shine if it concluded almost 70 years ago that there was nothing to UFOs (if that's the case). Secondly, I find it hard to believe that its contents would be any more sensational, more profound, or more damaging to the national security than what has been released by the Pentagon and USN since 2017.

Thirdly, I can appreciate the humiliation the Air Force would suffer if there was something to UFOs after all. For the life of me though, I cannot understand why something that does not exist is classified by the CIA (if that's the case). It makes no sense. The Agency is a no nonsense, scientific, highly advanced, articulating, evidence demanding, professional intelligence collection and analysis organization who prides itself on acquiring only factual information on threats and intentions about enemies of the United States. If UFOs (and I mean **true interplanetary space vehicles**) do not constitute a direct threat to the body politic as was concluded in 1952 I see no reason to deny this request. By refusing to declassify and release the briefing document in full only perpetuates the conspiracy theory that the Agency has something to hide. It also nourishes the public perception that a UFO from another planet *did* crash outside the town of Roswell, New Mexico, on 4 July 1947. For the Agency to admit that other beings from other planets have visited and are continuing to visit this planet would not bring down the government and create nation-wide panic as it was once believed by the Agency. People are better educated and better informed on the subject than it was 70 years ago.

I have learned that the Agency does have ARCHINT files on alien artifacts that are linked to the archaeology of the Hebrew Bible. If this is the main reason for withholding the briefing document it would no more be a sensational disclosure that finding the original five books of Moses or the discovery of Noah's ark on the Mountains of Ararat or the Q written by Jesus Christ himself. Or does the Agency plan to classify the Bible, too? Of course not! We live at a time when science is making breakthrough after breakthrough discoveries in genetics, biology and of possible existence of other extraterrestrial life in the Universe and UFOs are no longer a taboo subject among scientists. I think it is high time the Agency releases *all* that it has. If there is some underlying menace to the phenomenon that warrants denial that we, the general public are not aware of, the reality will make itself known sooner or later and in spite the Agency's secrecy. If the White House has seen this document and has decided it should not be released to the public then the Agency's hands are tied and I will understand.

After two years of patient waiting I think I deserve some kind of meaningful answer. After all, it was I who found it first before anyone in the Agency knew of its existence. If the Release Panel ultimately decides it must remain classified then say so and I will move on. In either case, people are going to hear of its existence... one way or another. They deserve to know the truth either for good or for bad. Don't you think?

Sincerely,

Timothy S. Cooper



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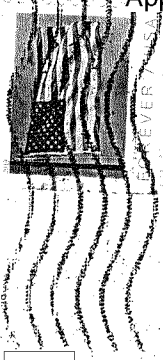
Timothy S. Cooper

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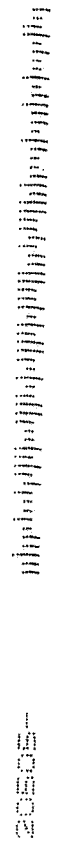
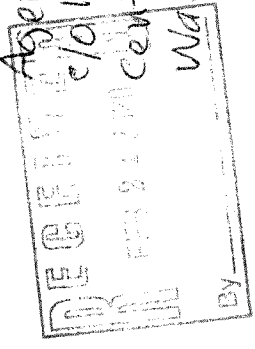
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Agency Release Panel
e/o Information and Privacy Coordinator
Central Intelligence Agency
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