

SUN # 74

Winter 2002-03
Copyright 2002

Bogus Documents Cited In Support Of New MJ-12 Papers

On Aug. 29, after a one-year hiatus, Dr. Robert Wood and son Ryan issued a press release announcing that they had posted four "new" MJ-12/UFO documents on their Majestic Web-site—documents allegedly "leaked" in July 2001 to their primary source, Timothy Cooper. But one of the papers, allegedly authored by the famous nuclear physicist Dr. Edward Teller (titled "*UFO Technology and The Imbalance of Power*") is a "Bogus-UFO-Version" of what appears to be an authentic memo by Teller to President Ronald Reagan urging his adoption of a Strategic Defense Initiative. (The latter document will be referred to as the "SDI Memo" [SDI-M] while the former will be referred to as the "Bogus-UFO-Memo"(B-UFO-M.) In the apparently authentic SDI-Memo the word "UFO" NEVER APPEARS, while in the bogus version, "UFO" APPEARS MANY TIMES. The second sentence of B-UFO-M reads: "*The fate of all hinges on the development and use of UFO technology.*"

The unsigned SDI Memo (which appears to be an early draft) is typed on plain white paper and is titled "Edward Teller's Pitch to President Reagan for SDI." If authentic, it would have been written in the early 1980s before Mar. 23, 1983, when President Reagan launched the SDI program. The unsigned B-UFO-M is typed (or printed) on onion-skin paper which was used prior to the 1960s to make "carbon copies," before the Xerox duplicator was in wide use. Because the onion-skin copy is very difficult to read, the Woods' Web-site provides a typed "replica," which the Woods say "is attributed to Edward Teller."

SUN's suspicions about the authenticity of the B-UFO-M were raised by its use of the term "cold fusion" which was not "invented" until early 1989 when Stanley Pons and Martin Fleishmann revealed the alleged results of their experiments—six years after Pres. Reagan launched SDI. And B-UFO-M also refers to "free energy...a revolutionary mode of transportation." This wild concept was not promoted until around 2001 by Dr. Stephen Greer.

B-UFO-M states that a UFO/ET craft was recovered in 1941 (near Cape Girardeau, MO.)—a questionable claim first made in a paper which Timothy Cooper earlier provided to the Woods and was later seemingly confirmed by Ryan Wood [SUN #69, Fall 2001]. SDI-M quotes a former top Pentagon scientist, Dr. John S. Foster, as estimating "*that in 1960 the United States and the USSR spent equal percentages of their military budget on space defense and research and development, while by 1976 the Soviets were spending three times as much as the U.S.*" But the B-UFO-M has been doctored to read "*...of their military budget on UFO research and development...*" Another quote from the bogus memo: "*In the United States a counterforce strategy...is supposed to destroy space-borne targets, including UFO nuclear weapons, before they are launched.*" (Emphasis added.) [SUN Comment: The bogus memo offers NO evidence that any UFOs carried nuclear weapons.]

Two of the documents written on onion-skin paper were (allegedly) authored by an astronomer whose initials are "LCR," who was a member of the CIA's Office of Scientific Intelligence.

One of the LCR documents is titled "*UFO Sovereignty Over Air Space: A Defense Intelligence Problem.*" [The first Soviet Sputnik satellites flew over the airspace of many countries (including the U.S.) in late 1957 without obtaining advance permission, and this issue was the subject of heated discussion in the United Nations in the early 1960s. But the LCR document omits any mention of same.] The second document by LCR, (allegedly) an executive briefing for the CIA Director, is dated December 1976 and titled "Unidentified Flying Object (sic): *Implication For National Security And Human Survival.*" Although the first mentions the (alleged) recovery of two crashed UFOs in New Mexico during the summer of 1947, NEITHER DOCUMENT IS CLASSIFIED. (Stan Friedman claims that any mention of a recovered crashed UFO in a document requires that it be classified "Top Secret" [SUN #72/Summer 2002].)

It is claimed in the second document that the CIA published a BOOK by LCR entitled "Central Intelligence, UFOs And National Security." NO COPIES OF A BOOK WITH THAT, OR A SIMILAR, TITLE HAVE EVER BEEN REPORTED. The CIA publishes many reports but NO books.

British Documents Claimed To Confirm MJ-12 Authenticity

The authenticity of the "Majestic 12 First Annual Report," earlier posted by the Woods, has been questioned not only for its content but because the "First Annual Report" on the efforts of this seemingly important group was not published until at least four years after MJ-12 (allegedly) was created. (The report contains details of events that allegedly occurred as late as May 1951.) On last Sept. 10, Ryan Wood and British UFOlogist Nick Redfern issued a press release which claimed that UFO documents recently declassified by the British government "support the authenticity of the Majestic-12 First Annual Report."

For example, the Wood/Redfern press release states: "*Of the many and varied entries contained within 'The First Annual Report,' Point 6 of Annex C is certainly one of the most intriguing and refers to an incident that occurred at Maury Island, Washington State in June 1947. According to a local resident, Harold Dahl, a UFO was seen to malfunction over the harbor and spewed a large amount of unidentified debris into the water. Dahl, his son, and two colleagues collected the debris and showed it to Dahl's boss, Fred Crisman.*"

Wood and Redfern then quote briefly from the MJ-12 report account which they claim is confirmed by British papers: "*The death of two Air Force counterintelligence officers in the crash of their B-25...after interviewing two auxiliary Coast Guard men who reported six UFOs over Maury Island, Wash., in June 1947....The material given to Davidson and Brown [the two AF pilots killed in the crash] was believed to have come from Maury Island and may be the celestial fragments containing metal from a nuclear reactor from a UFO. Fragments were turned over to CIA agent Shaw.*"

WRONG. If Wood/Redfern had read the lengthy FBI report on the Woods' Web-site, they would have learned that that the incident was a hoax and that the CIA was NOT in any way involved. The FBI files contain a memo dated Aug. 7, 1947, signed by Crisman and Dahl admitting that they had found the rock-like fragments in a gravel pit on Maury Island and sent them to the editor-publisher of "Venture" magazine.

If the person who wrote the MJ-12 "First Annual Report" had checked with the FBI, he would have learned the truth about the Maury Island incident and that it was a hoax.

CUFOS Faces Severe Financial Crisis, According To Jerry Clark

The "continued existence" of the J. Allen Hynek Center for UFO Studies (CUFOS) is doubtful because of sharply declining subscribers to its quarterly publication "International UFO Reporter" (IUR), according to Jerome Clark, a member of the CUFOS Board. CUFOS, created in 1973 by Hynek and Sherman J. Larsen, decided early-on against creating a large membership of UFO enthusiasts like the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON). Several years ago, CUFOS opted to cut back on IUR's publication schedule from bi-monthly to quarterly rather than raise the annual subscription rate from \$25/year. But it increased IUR's size from 24 pages to 32 pages. MUFON, which suffered a drop of more than 40% in subscribers to its 24-page "MUFON UFO Journal" in the last decade, has raised subscription rates from \$25/year to \$30 and most recently to \$35, while maintaining its monthly publication schedule. In recent years, the "MUFON UFO Journal" has carried more "newsworthy" UFO articles while "IUR" has tended to focus more on historical UFO incidents.

In CUFOS's earlier years, Jerry Clark served as "IUR's" editor-in-chief, writing an editorial for each issue which typically was very critical of UFO skeptics. But for the last several years there have been no Clark editorials and he has been listed as one of three editors. In the Spring 2002 issue of "IUR," Clark devoted six of the 32 pages to a very critical review of the recent book by James W. Moseley and Karl T. Pflock, titled "Shockingly Close To The Truth" [SUN #72/Summer 2002]. Early in Clark's review, titled "The Trivialist," he commented, "*As I wrote in my profile of Moseley in [my book] The UFO Encyclopedia, 'Over the years he has entertained just about every view it is possible to hold about UFOs, without ever managing to say anything especially interesting or memorable about any of them.' The new book is more of the same.*" (Clark's review was the most venomous SUN has seen.)

Clark is a "UFO Believer," and a decade ago he voiced the opinion that the Roswell Incident provided the best evidence of ET visitors and government UFO coverup. Moseley has publicly expressed his doubts about the case and Pflock authored a recent book that debunks the Roswell Incident. Clark also has a close relationship with Budd Hopkins (the UFO-abduction guru) who has a very frigid relationship with Moseley.

Hynek, who was disappointed that he was not selected to conduct a follow-on study of UFOs to the Colorado University/Condon investigation, decided to create CUFOS in 1973. Six years earlier, in an article Hynek authored in the Dec. 1967 issue of Playboy magazine, he called for the creation of a central U.S UFO investigation center. Hynek stated that if UFOs "*actually exist, we would have photographs, movies, spectograms, plaster casts of [landing] indentations...within a year of the initiation of such a no-nonsense program....But if [the effort] is sincerely and intensively carried out for a full year and yields nothing, this in itself would be of great negative significance.*" (Emphasis added.)

Hendry's "The UFO Handbook" Could Have Aided UFO Research

In SUN's opinion CUFOS's ALLAN HENDRY made a very significant contribution to the truly scientific investigation of UFOs with his book "The UFO Handbook," which included the results of his investigation of 1,307 UFO reports during his initial year (1976-77) as CUFOS's chief investigator. HENDRY'S BOOK STATED THAT NEARLY 92% OF THE UFO SIGHTINGS REPORTED TO CUFOS (many of them by law-enforcement agencies over a CUFOS "hot line") TURNED OUT TO HAVE PROSAIC EXPLANATIONS—WHICH HENDRY CALLED "IDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS," OR "IFOs."

In the "Foreword" of the book, Hynek wrote: "*Although I recognize the importance of finding*

out just to what extent misidentification, wishful thinking, emotions, and hallucination enter into the UFO problem, I regretfully failed to make such a study. [SUN Comment: Despite his then nearly three decades of investigating UFO reports.] Allan Hendry is the first to attempt such an important evaluation....He has arrived at some very striking and unexpected results, and has exploded or thrown into serious question some of the 'instinctive' conclusions of even very experienced UFO investigators." Hendry first met Hynek in 1972, four years prior to joining CUFOS, which sparked his interest in UFOs. Hendry joined CUFOS in 1976 after graduating from Michigan University, having minored in astronomy and majored in commercial art.

Of the 1,307 UFO reports that Hendry investigated, 78.2% (1,024) were "nocturnal lights." ALL OF THESE TURNED OUT TO HAVE ONE OF 20 PROSAIC EXPLANATIONS. A total of 360 (35%) were bright stars or planets; 230 of these "UFOS" turned out to be advertising airplanes. These, plus aircraft and meteors, explained nearly 88% of all nocturnal-light type UFO reports. Hendry was not able to find prosaic explanations for slightly more than 8% of the UFO reports (but he was able to spend an average of less than two hours per case in investigation). For some explained cases, he admits that finding a prosaic explanation "was sheer luck." So he then asked, "How can I be sure if my remaining 'UFOS aren't simply IFOs,' perceived (sincerely) to the point of fantasy? The emotional climate about the subject ...appears to be adequate to support such a hypothesis for a great many UFO situations, if not all."

Hendry summed up his views on UFOs in the closing pages of his book, whose bibliography listed more than 70 UFO books, but none of which were written by UFO skeptics. "Personally, I want there to be anomalistic UFOs that defy the laws of physics for the simple reason that it would usher in a new scientific revolution," Hendry wrote. "But with our current inability to fully draw the distinction between real UFOs and IFOs, fantasies or hoaxes, coupled with a heated emotional atmosphere, I can only assert that it is my feeling that some UFO reports represent truly remarkable events."

When Hendry's book was published in 1979 by Doubleday in a large-page soft-cover edition, it was not widely acclaimed by UFOlogists and soon was "out of print." In the early 1980s, Hendry announced he was leaving CUFOS and took a position with a major producer of guided missiles in Arizona—this was several years before books by Whitley Streiber and Budd Hopkins were published, which popularized the concept of "UFO abductions." However, Hendry has remained aloof from UFOlogy for more than two decades, turning down speaking invitations.

Greer Offers \$1,000,000 Prize For Novel (UFO) Energy Source

Dr. Stephen Greer, who claims the U.S. Government already has reverse-engineered exotic UFO energy sources which do not need petroleum, and who has created a company to exploit such technology (Space Energy Access Systems [SEAS]), is offering a prize of ONE MILLION DOLLARS "to the inventor or inventors who provide a testable prototype of an invention that can serve to either replace current internal combustion energy systems or greatly increase their efficiency. The Z-Prize is named after the Zero-Point Energy Field that many physicists claim is a vast field of energy that can be tapped from the space around an object." In a Sept. 30 press release Greer said, "We know such breakthroughs in energy generation have occurred in the past, only to be suppressed by a number of questionable means. This time we are committed to identifying and bringing to the public the most advanced systems to replace our addiction to oil and fossil fuels." (Emphasis added.)

Applications for the Z-Prize must be submitted by Dec. 1, so that prize winner(s) can be determined by Dec. 31, 2002, "unless the company determines that the contest needs to be extended."

The press release says that "SEAS has a Technical Advisory Board comprised of prominent scientists and engineers." But a press release issue two weeks later says that SEAS is looking for a qualified Project Manager. The search has been underway for several months. Seemingly, no member of the company's Technical Advisory Board is interested. Perhaps they want to become a millionaire.

Sci-Fi Cable TV Mini-Series To Promote UFOs, Abductions, And Roswell

The biggest TV mini-series—consisting of 10 two-hour pro-UFO dramatizations—will be broadcast on successive nights on the Sci-Fi Cable-TV channel, beginning Dec.2, as a Stephen Spielberg Production, titled "TAKEN." Based on advance publicity by the Sci-Fi Channel Web-site, the mini-series story line will promote UFOs as extraterrestrial craft, which first appeared as "Foo-Fighter" lights during World War II, one crashing near Roswell in 1947—leading to a U.S. Government coverup. Further, that ETs are not only abducting Earthlings, but are breeding Earthling hybrids with psychic capabilities.

According to advance publicity by Sci-Fi, "TAKEN is a sweeping drama that weaves together the lives of three families over four generations and in the history of alien abduction and government conspiracy....SCIFI.com also will bring to light the rich personalities, current research and ongoing myths of the UFO phenomenon in America....For a look at the real life events and research that inspired the stories of TAKEN, fans can access columns by some of today's top experts on the UFO phenomena in this special UFology Web-site. Respected author/researcher Budd Hopkins and other insiders provide weekly columns examining different aspects of the UFO abduction, the Roswell Incident and other intriguing research into this area." [SUN Comment: We predict that the SCI-FI Web-site's UFO experts will NOT include any UFO skeptics.]

A poll of 1,021 adults, conducted by Roper and funded by the Sci-Fi Cable Channel, dealing with UFOs and extraterrestrials, found that 72% of those surveyed questioned whether the government was telling everything it knows about UFOs, but only 68% questioned the government's release of information on extraterrestrial life. The poll showed that 80% of the younger people (age 18-24) were more inclined to question the government's veracity about UFOs vs. 68% for those over 65. [SUN Comment: We wish that arrangements had been made to conduct a similar survey after "TAKEN" is broadcast and those surveyed were asked whether they had viewed the mini-series to assess its effect on people's beliefs.]

Sci-Fi Creates Group To Promote UFOs, Counter (Alleged) Coverup

The SCI-FI Channel held a press conference on Oct. 22 to announce its creation of a new organization, called Coalition for Freedom of Information (CFI), whose objective (according to a recent article in "Sci Fi Magazine") is to give it "a leading role in the search for the truth about UFOs." The new group is headed by Ed Rothschild, employed by the public relations company Podesta-Mattoon, headed by John Podesta, who served as President Bill Clinton's chief of staff from October 1998 until succeeded by Bush. (Podesta, reportedly, was a great admirer of the Fox-channel's "X-Files" TV show, which was very pro UFO.) Rothschild reported that CFI had created its own Web-site [www.freedomofinfo.org] "to generate public support for greater disclosure of government records and for more scientific investigation."

According to CFI's Web-site, it has the following three major objectives:

- "For far too long, there has been a stigma in the scientific community that discourages research

into the question of unidentified aerial phenomena....CFI hopes to foster a more open and rational environment in which scientific research into unidentified aerial phenomena can be conducted without censure or other negative repercussions.

- *“CFI will work to urge Congress to support a serious, independent scientific research effort and to seek release of still secret government documents.*
- *“National media coverage of unidentified aerial phenomena has been sporadic and sometime tongue-in-cheek....CFI will encourage the media to seek out respected scientists and researchers to present their evidence and views.”*

[SUN wishes CFI “rots of ruck” but predicts it will not achieve any of its stated objectives.]

At the press conference, CFI disclosed that Leslie Kean (CFI Research Director and very pro-UFO writer) had filed a Freedom Of Information Act (FOIA) request that the USAF release all its information on a UFO that (allegedly) crashed on the outskirts of Kecksburg, PA. , on Dec. 9, 1965. According to the USAF investigators the UFO was a bright meteor-fireball which was photographed while traversing Lake Erie. The two major pro-UFO groups (NICAP and APRO) accepted this prosaic explanation and did NOT include the Kecksburg UFO on their lists submitted to Dr. Condon of incidents they recommended that the University of Colorado investigate. Nor is the Kecksburg incident included in the cases cited in the report “The Best UFO Evidence,” authored by long-time UFOlogist Don Berliner, head of the Fund for UFO Research (FUFOR).

But in a TV show on the incident, a Pennsylvania UFO researcher named Stan Gordon claimed that a former member of the fire department, named James Romansky, had seen an acorn-shaped object which USAF investigators had loaded on a flat-bed truck and transported back secretly to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio. Claims made by Gordon and Romansky prompted an investigation by an amateur astronomer/UFO skeptic named Robert Young, whose research raised doubts about the veracity of claims made by Romansky. Young agrees that the object was a meteor-fireball and that the USAF team did not recover ANY object. [One dominant characteristic of meteor-fireballs is that they appear to touch down many miles closer to observers than they actually do.] Gordon, who has produced a videotape (titled “Kecksburg: The Untold Story”) which he sells, has expanded his research to include investigating numerous reports of Sasquatch (Bigfoot) sightings in Pennsylvania.

Sci-Fi Channel Funds Search For Roswell Debris, Impact Evidence

On Oct. 29 Sci-Fi Channel announced that on Nov. 22 at 8 p.m. EST it would debut a two-hour program titled “THE ROSWELL CRASH: STARTLING NEW EVIDENCE,” which would include the results of a 10-day excavation of the “debris field,” conducted in mid-September and directed by the University of New Mexico’s Office of Contract Archeology. The TV show reportedly would include “all-new eyewitness interviews.” The search for debris was conducted by six volunteer UFOlogists, under Tom Carey and Don Schmitt, who conducted such a search roughly a decade ago WITHOUT ANY SUCCESS.

Dr. Bill Doleman, who directed the excavation-search and appeared briefly on Oct. 29 on the Sci-Fi Channel’s Web-site, said the searchers used a very sensitive metal detection system. “The conductivity survey had the goal of finding subtle variations in soil characteristics that might indicate the

presence of a buried feature like an impact mark that had been obscured by 55 years of natural erosion," he said. When asked about the results of the excavation-search, Doleman responded: "I am definitely not allowed to say anything about that, and you should definitely watch the show on Nov.22. I can say that I was surprised by some of the results."

"THE ROSWELL CRASH: STARTLING NEW EVIDENCE," a two-hour-long "pseudo-documentary," which made its debut on the Sci-Fi Channel on Nov. 22 (and was repeated twice during the "wee hours" of Nov. 23), did not live up to its title by presenting any "startling new evidence." As reviewed by John Fleck in the Nov. 23 edition of the "Albuquerque Journal" he noted "They found nothing to tack facts onto the legend--no little green men or pieces of an alien craft." Almost ALL of the nearly two dozen UFOlogists who appeared on the program voiced insistent views that it was an ET craft that had crashed on the Brazel/Foster ranch and that the U.S Government was engaged in a massive UFO coverup. One Roswell skeptic, Karl Pflock, who began his multi-year Roswell investigation suspecting a Government coverup, was unable to show ANY of the many authentic Top Secret/Secret documents (cited in his book) which had helped to convert him into a Roswell skeptic.

The program included an interview with Glenn Dennis describing his alleged experience with a (non-existent) nurse and her alleged involvement with autopsies of three dead ETs. Also on the program was a "new witness," retired Tech Sergeant Moe Cox, who claims to have seen photos showing THREE DEAD ETs AND TWO LIVE ETs. (No details were provided on investigation of Cox's claim.) Roswell researcher Carey reported that there were EIGHT ETs recovered, but he did not say how many were alive.

[SUN Comment: The Sci-Fi Roswell TV show, reportedly seen by more than two million persons, seems likely to convince many viewers that an extraterrestrial craft crashed near Roswell in 1947 and the U.S. Government is engaged in a coverup of the truth. The one-hour TV program which followed ("Abduction Diaries"), in which six "UFO abductees" described their alleged experiences. was far less impressive. IF YOU HAVE BEEN ABDUCTED BY A UFO, you can describe your experience to Sci-Fi Channel's UFO Center via e-mail: UFO@www.SCIFI.com.]

Greer Says He Rejected Link With Sci-Fi Channel On UFOs

Because Dr. Stephen Greer's "Project Disclosure" seeks the release of UFO data which it claims the Government is withholding and the Sci-Fi Channel's recently created Coalition for Freedom of Information, seemingly, have similar objectives, it should not be surprising that Sci-Fi talked with Greer about merging their efforts. Greer says this did indeed occur "late last spring or early summer," but that he flatly rejected the idea. THE REASON: SCI-FI CLAIMS ABDUCTIONS ARE BEING CARRIED OUT BY ETs WHILE GREER CLAIMS THAT THEY ARE BEING CONDUCTED BY THE MILITARY-INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX PERSONNEL, disguised to appear as ETs. According to a recent Greer press release, "For the military-industrial-laboratory-intelligence-corporate complex, there would be trillions of dollars in lucrative spending....What better way to achieve this goal than to roll out serious UFO evidence and link it to a body of hoaxed faux-alien encounters....We have interviewed militaand corporate insiders who have described in excruciating detail how they have hoaxed these 'alien abductions'--and why." (Emphasis added.)

Greer also complained that Sci-Fi and Stephen Spielberg are "using some Disclosure Project witnesses" but did not identify any by name. He said he "explained all this to Mr. Spielberg's representatives at the Sci-Fi Channel and public relations firm. And that I would say as much if [I were] included in any of their programs. An invitation has not been forthcoming."

Short Shrift:

* FOIA Requests Peaked Last Year: The total number of Freedom Of Information Act (FOIA) requests received by all U.S. Government agencies totaled 2,246,212 last (fiscal) year. Total pending backlog at the end of last year was 177,969 which represented a five percent increase over the previous year. Total cost of responding to FOIA requests is estimated at \$275,792,041, according to the Justice Dept.

* Hopkins Finds Impressive New UFO-Abduction Incident: JIM MORTELLARO, with a very strange "UFO-abduction" tale, was slated to appear with Budd Hopkins at his Nov. 9 Intruders Foundation Seminar in New York City. According to Mortellaro, he was driving to a hospital to visit a friend when he experienced a period of "missing time." When he returned home several hours later and fainted in the kitchen, his wife noted blood on his face and clothing. Jim was rushed to a hospital emergency room where it was (reportedly) found that the bleeding was coming from Jim's nasal cavity and his bladder—but without any external signs which could explain such injuries. Mortellaro's puzzling internal injuries and their nearly miraculous healing within a few days, according to Hopkins, prompted the formation of a group of doctors and medical specialists to investigate the incident. *"This independent medical panel represents a first in the long history of UFO abductions,"* according to Hopkins. It *"may well turn out to be a landmark event in the history of abduction research."*

* NASA Cancels Contract With Oberg To Counter "Apollo Hoax" Claim: Roughly three decades after spending \$20 billion to send seven Apollo capsules to land on the Moon (including Apollo 13 whose three astronauts safely returned despite an on-board explosion), the National Aeronautics & Space Administration responded to a 1999 Fox Network TV show, which claimed the Apollo program was a giant hoax, by contracting with James Oberg to write a book debunking the Apollo Hoax allegation. (Oberg, who worked on the Apollo program at NASA's Houston center, has authored a number of books on space technology and is widely recognized as a leading expert on the once-secret Soviet Union's space program.) Several days later, NASA announced it had terminated Oberg's contract for undisclosed reasons, but Oberg informed SUN that he had inquiries from several publishers.

* Oberg Found Prosaic Explanation For USSR's Famous UFO Incident: In September of 1967 the Soviet news media carried reports of a giant UFO spotted by villagers in the Northwest part of the USSR. The UFO reports described rocket-like plumes emanating from the object. Oberg noted that the reports came from the vicinity of what was then a secret Soviet satellite launch facility near Plesetsk and the incident had occurred at the time that the Soviets had launched Kosmos 954. It was launched at a slightly different azimuth angle than previous satellites. Thus the rocket-booster flame was seen by villagers who were unaware of previous launches from the then-new Plesetsk facility. (The existence of the then-new Soviet launch facility was made public in 1966 by British school teacher Geoffrey Perry, whose students tracked Soviet satellites.) When Oberg first publicized his UFO explanation, the USSR denied same until 1983 when the existence of the Plesetsk facility was officially admitted.

Opinions expressed in SUN are those of its editor (unless otherwise noted) and do not necessarily represent the views of any organization with which he is affiliated. We deeply thank DR. GARY POSNER for help in proofreading.

SKEPTICS UFO NEWSLETTER IS NOW PUBLISHED QUARTERLY (FOUR ISSUES / YEAR)
Annual subscription rate is \$10 for U.S. and Canada. Overseas rate (airmail) is \$15/year.