Legislative Counsel

Assistant Director, NZ

Reply to the Honorable Joseph E. Karth

1. In response to your 5 July request, a proposed reply to the Honorable Joseph E. Karth is attached.

2. As is indicated, we have received a number of letters from Mr. Davidson on the subject of Flying Saucers since 1956. We have in every case referred these letters to the Air Force for appropriate reply inasmuch as they are the Executive Agent in such matters. In each instance we have notified Mr. Davidson of such action.

3. Our file on this matter is rather extensive and should you have any additional questions, we would be pleased to attempt to answer them.

[Signature]
Robert Scoville, Jr.

Attachment:
Reply to the Honorable Joseph E. Karth

Approved for Release 2/2010
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A3 JUL 1961

Honorable Joseph E. Karth
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Karth:

In response to your 30 June inquiry concerning statements made
by Lee Davison in his 26 June letter to you, please be advised
that Mr. Davison has been involved in rather extensive correspondence
with this Agency and with the Air Force since early 1958 on the
matter of UFO's.

Mr. Davison believes that the Central Intelligence Agency is
withholding information from him which would prove that this Agency
is, to quote his letter to you "... solely responsible for
creating the Flying Saucer fiction...". He believes further
that this information is contained in the Scientific Advisory
Panel Report of UFO's, dated 17 January 1959 (Secret). Mr.
Davison was supplied with the declassified and "Official" version
of this report, but this apparently has only served to convince him
that what is being withheld is information which would prove his
allegation. This is in spite of the fact that he was informed3 as long
ago as 20 May 1956 that "The complete formal report of the panel
has not been fully declassified for security reasons. The Formal
Report is not available to the general public for distribution or
reproduction." and "For your information, the classified portion
of the Formal Report and the unofficial supplement did not deal
specifically with UFO's but on other matters of intelligence
significance which affect the national security." In addition,
Major Hokler went to great lengths, in this four-page letter,
outlining to Mr. Davison all of the information currently
available on the subject of UFO's, interpreting the Formal Report
of the Scientific Advisory Panel, commenting on erroneous or

3Letter from Major H.D. Hokler, U.S. Air Force Executive
Officer, Public Information Division, Office of Information
Services
misleading statements on this report in Captain Eppel's book, "The Font of Unidentified Flying Objects", and explaining why a portion of the report has been classified. A copy of this letter is appended for your information.

In summary, Mr. Davidson's belief that this Agency is involved in the "Flying Saucer Fad" and is using this as a tool in psychological warfare is entirely unfounded. His indication that CIA is misguiding persons in leading them to believe in Flying Saucers is also unfounded. This Agency in conjunction with the Air Force investigated, in 1953, the threat to national security of the then prevalent flying saucer rumors. Since that time, CIA has not participated in any flying saucer activities and has referred all correspondence to the U. S. Air Force.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

Lawrence R. Houston
General Counsel

Enclosures:
1. Letter, 26 June 1951, from L. Davidson
2. Letter, 20 May 1953, from Major Tucker
3. Letter, 21 May 1953

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