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# OCCULTNESS & AMBIGUITY

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By James Deardorff

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## INTRODUCTION — ETI AND THE MEIER CASE

One of the many messages coming from the Meier case is the well known idea that UFO intelligences are to be equated with extraterrestrial intelligences (ETIs). Essentially the same idea minus the UFOs happens also to be a respectable school of thought discussed in astronomical journals for the past 15 years. This is the hypothesis that extraterrestrial intelligences (ETIs) are in our proximity and have been aware of us for millennia. However, radio astronomers usually prefer the competing hypothesis that all ETIs are essentially forever isolated within relatively small spheres of influence within the galaxy, and that we have therefore by chance escaped their detection so far.

The problem with this astronomical view is that it falls far short of recognizing Clark's law — that what ETIs in advance of us can do should seem indistinguishable from magic to us, whether they are 200 years in advance or 200 thousand years or 200 million years. This should apply to the fields of galactic transportation and communication as well as to other fields of which we cannot conceive. Thus, the possibility that advanced ETIs are not restricted in mobility by our present limitations of rocketry and relativity is much more plausible than not. That UFOs could be their vehicles of travel and refuge then becomes an obvious idea to explore, as the astrophysicist Peter Sturrock of Stanford pointed out in an article in the *Quarterly Journal of the Royal Astronomical Society* (a British journal; 1978, pp. 521-523). Unfortunately, his plea to bring the data of the UFO organizations into action has been ignored by astronomers, who

seek a message from the stars, not from a contactee on Earth. It would be very disappointing to them to have scientific interest in the ETI problem shift from radio astronomy to the UFO-contactee-abductee problem.

If we could dip into the past, say 200 years ago, and bring back some people and scientists to examine our present technology, they would regard much of it as magic, or occult. Similarly for us if we were brought 200 years into the future, assuming our civilization survives that long. Therefore, what we or ETIs 1,000 years into our future could do would seem like magic raised to the 5th power (1000/200). What ETIs 3,500 years ahead of us could do would seem like magic raised to about the 17th power — extremely occult. If there are any ETI-contactees around today who have been treated to some displays of their contactors and who have reported on it, their reports would therefore seem very occult to the rest of us. Eduard Meier is one such contactee whose reports, if genuine, should seem like magic raised to about the 17th power. *This they do.* Starting in 1975 he was supplied with a very lengthy series of messages over a several year period whose main theme is spiritualism — reincarnation and evolution of the soul. This does not sit well with many UFO investigators who seek hardware, not a spiritual message.

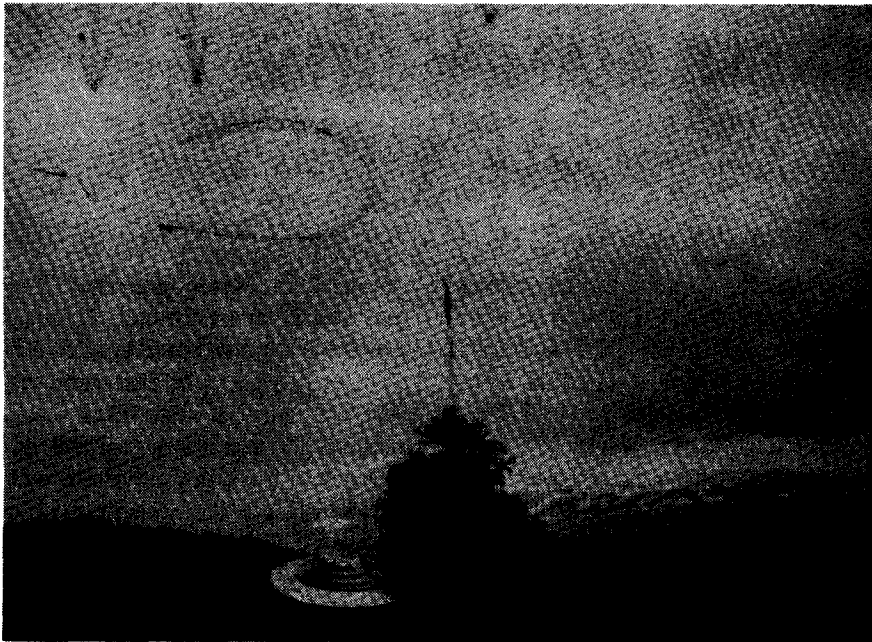
However, the Meier case is most unique in that the amount of evidence his contactors supplied him with, mostly photographic, is much more bountiful and of higher quality than anything seen heretofore. It was a new idea that a particular contactee somewhere might be singled out and supplied with evidence by ETIs in order to support their messages. Another idea totally foreign to UFO investigators is that the ETI might have a strategy of doing this in such a way that the overall covertness of the UFO phenomenon would be maintained until

mankind is better prepared for the first official, overt contact. That is, that a prime contactee could be allowed a lot of color photographs and some movie-film exposure of their craft, but not allowed any photos of themselves nor allowed to bring any others to witness the actual contact meetings. I have mentioned five reasons now (italicized) why the Meier case was rejected, around 1979, by the main UFO organizations which spent little or no time looking into it before calling it a hoax.

A sixth reason is that Meier said he had been a contactee on many occasions well before 1975. Of course, this would be a perfectly logical course of action for ETIs who were pursuing a strategy and who needed to educate their contactee in certain matters. However, that fact was held against Meier on the grounds that ETI contacts or UFO sightings should be random things. Only recently have UFO organizations begun to realize, after several books on UFO abductions appeared under the auspices of respectable publishers, that abductees receive repeated attention from their abductors who seem to have their own strategies. Thus, we can now see that contactees might also receive repeated ETI attention, so that this sixth reason probably no longer applies.

It was therefore left up to lesser known investigators, with the exception of Wendelle Stevens, to investigate the Meier case in depth. He published his findings in 1982 in an investigative report of limited distribution. He could find no evidence of fraud, except by some who called Meier a fraud. Stevens was therefore also discredited by the main UFO organizations.

A few years later an initially inexperienced UFO researcher, the investigative journalist Gary Kinder, made an in-depth study of the Meier case for three years which culminated



in *Light Years*. As Dennis Stacy points out, Kinder broke new ground as well as treading old ground in having experts in various fields reexamine some of the evidence. But again there was no sign of a hoax, no sign of accomplices, and no mechanical nor financial means uncovered for Meier to have accomplished a hoax. Already, I have heard Kinder labeled as incompetent by UFO investigators for having reached these conclusions. I would recommend that you read his book and then decide for yourself if the case is not indeed worth the most serious of studies.

The lesser known investigators, Lee and Brit Elders along with Thomas Welch, published their results in two volumes containing enlarged color photos from Meier's daytime photo-session contacts. They spent over 300 days at the Meier farm house investigating the case, during some 16 trips between Arizona and Switzerland over a 4-year period, and it seems unlikely that the sales from their two photo-albums have recouped their expenses. They have apparently also been dismissed by the main UFO organizations for seeing reality in the Meier case, for taking his spiritual message seriously, and for charging for the sale of their photo-albums.

The reader need not be a student of psychology to recognize what appears to be going on here!

## COMPARISON

Since the occultness of reports from the Meier case is one reason it has been disparaged, let us briefly compare its occultness with that of other UFO cases to see if there is much new.

In at least two incidents in the Meier case, a tree too close to Semjase's hovering beamcraft soon afterwards developed many dead branches next to where the craft had been. This is so commonplace in the UFO literature as to need no substantiation here. However, in at least one of these instances the contactors (Pleiadeans) were said to have later caused the tree to disappear without any indication left that it had ever existed. This is the fir tree in Meier's photo series #55-57, 64-66, 69-71 and 76, all taken on July 9, 1975, according to Meier's records. In this series at least 5 of the photos show indisputably that part of the hovering object was either within the branches or on the far side of the tree from the camera.

I asked two professors of forestry at Oregon State University if this tree in the photos was at all identifiable; it did not take them long to say it was definitely a mature *Abies alba*, or European silver fir. (They had very little so say or ask about the saucer-shaped object.) This indicates that the tree could not have been a model tree, nor

the object a small model. It may be pointed out that the occult disappearance of UFO evidence is also not new; as an example, several different copies of a certain letter which would have helped expose a UFO coverup by the British government were noted to have disappeared under mysterious circumstances by Butler, Street and Randles, authors of *Sky Crash*.

The other occult aspect of this photo case, besides Meier's acknowledgement that these were shots of a posing beamcraft purposely allowed him, is that the contactor later took the time to explain qualitatively to Meier what had happened to the tree (they had "changed its time").

On numerous occasions soon after Meier had said he had had a contact with one or more of the Pleiadeans, he and others could point to geometrically precise "landing patterns" in remote meadow grass or on snow near his contact point. These received much photography by Meier and others. Again this is too commonplace to dwell on here, except to note the most occult aspect described well in Kinder's book, regarding the affected grass continuing to stay alive for months afterwards, but growing horizontally in a swirling pattern. The second occult aspect is that Meier could ask Semjase how this could be, and receive a qualitative answer (the grass' sense of direction of gravity had been distorted by 90 degrees).

On several, if not perhaps all, of Meier's beamship photography sessions, it appears that if Meier could photograph the craft then other Swiss villagers in the general vicinity, or motorists on one occasion, should also have noticed the craft or have been able to photograph it. Again Meier received an answer from Semjase to his question on this: they can render their generally invisible craft visible from any narrow sector they wish. This is not a new thought, but one forced into existence from other UFO-sighting cases, as discussed for example in the book by Randles and Warrington *UFO Cases: A British Viewpoint*.

In some of Meier's movie-film segments Semjase's beamcraft is seen to perform maneuvers involving

incredibly great accelerations for the craft or any occupants. However, this kind of behavior on the part of UFOs is so commonplace that it was one of the first occult aspects to which UFO investigators had to become accustomed.

On at least one of Meier's photo-collection sessions, Semjase could remotely control the basic operation of his movie camera while Meier concentrated on the use of his 35mm camera. And on the April 14th, 1976 occasion when a Swiss Mirage jet made 22 successive passes at Semjase's beamship, Meier reportedly learned later from her that she had remotely disabled the pilot's armaments and camera. However, reports of telekinesis have come out of numerous UFO investigations, often involving the continued motion or transport of an automobile no longer under the control of the driver whether or not its engine was running (as in the book *Sky Crash*).

### SPIRITUAL THEME

Regarding the spiritual theme which runs throughout the Meier case, especially in Semjase's messages, the occurrence of such is again nothing new although Semjase goes into much greater depth than usual. In a much higher percentage of alleged contactee cases than one would expect demographically, the message recipient ends up discussing reincarnation as a reality, regardless of his or her previous religious affiliation. Nevertheless, in almost all those cases the contactee had no evidence as substantial as photographs to back up his message. Thus, a dedicated Christian, Moslem or Jew who does not believe in reincarnation, or who believes in resurrection, may be alarmed by the Meier case and have strong incentive for dismissing it or discussing only its weak points.

Meier's claimed ability to receive thoughts telepathically from his contactors, telling him where to travel on his moped for a contact or photo session for example, is again not new. This is the normal mode of communication from UFO intelligences to humans, with language or thoughts



somehow being expressed in the native tongue of the contactee or abductee. The UFO organizations have by now mostly accepted this apparent fact as truth despite its great occultness. Even more occult, in many instances it is apparent that the UFO intelligences could read the mind of a witness and respond almost instantaneously. This is equivalent to inadvertent mental telepathy directed from human to ETI. An aspect of the Meier case which is only a slightly further extension into the occult is that he claims to have been taught how to communicate telepathically at will with Pleiadeans with whom he became acquainted; some of his two-way communication sessions were ostensibly via telepathy and did not represent face-to-face meetings.

A related piece of occultness is that the Pleiadeans are said to be able to detect when or if any human is anywhere near their contact vehicle, and able to ascertain the whereabouts of a particular individual, such as the contactee. This latter ability, however, is common to many other contactees' experiences.

Also, the method by which Meier would, a day or so after each contact session, record the word-by-word conversations of the contact, was ostensibly some form of machine-controlled telepathy. His recording of it was like "automatic writing" or

"automatic typing." As an apparent result, his voluminous contact notes are much more interesting reading than if they were merely later remembrances or summaries of what had transpired. (Occasionally, Meier would note that an item which they had discussed at a contact meeting had been censored out of the later machine-telepathic transmission. Meier's objections to Semjase about this went unheeded; she reserved the right to withhold various portions of their conversations from the written record.) One may note that numerous alleged contactees claim to have received their messages via automatic writing.

Meier's reported rides in Pleiadean beamships also should not be thought of as new or preferential treatment; Enoch of Old Testament days appears to be one of the first contactees to have been so treated, judging from his books which never quite made it into the Bible. Daniel Fry (see his book *The White Sands Incident*) is but one example of a modern case of this nature which predates the Meier affair. And, of course, there are the numerous abductees who have been taken into saucer craft against their will. Since Meier appears to have been on a friendly basis (though not always so, judging from his contact notes) with several different Pleiadeans, and treated almost as if he were one of them, it would be surprising if he had

not been treated to such travels. At the least, a saucer craft would be a convenient place to hold covert contact meetings.

Meier's recordings indicate he once had a case of pneumonia partially cured during a contact session, and once had some broken ribs healed by a machine on Semjase's beamcraft. Again, this does not constitute unhead of UFO occultness. Numerous UFO witnesses or contactees have attested to having had various ailments cured following a contact — even cancer.

Several secondary witnesses in the Meier case noted that he vanished from their midst on a couple of occasions, apparently to attend contact meetings, and once he was observed to return in the same manner. Again, this basic phenomenon is not entirely new for us, having occurred, apparently, in the Travis Walton case (see *Abducted!* by Coral and Jim Lorenzen). Reports of UFO entities moving up or down a beam of "solid light" seem to represent a similar degree of occultness; see for example *Sky Crash*.

Meier's main investigators, Wendelle Stevens and Lee & Brit Elders, were occasionally at Meier's farmhouse when he went out for a nighttime contact meeting. They once noted soon afterwards that their watches registered highly incorrect times. Again, such a "disturbance in time" is not a new phenomenon to hear of accompanying a UFO event. However, Meier reported much more occult experiences involving time, namely various forms of time travel. One of his beamship trips, documented later via extremely lengthy contact notes, was said to occupy 5 days' time. When Meier returned, his face showed an approximately 5-day growth of stubble, and he promptly slept for 26 hours. This was attested to by witnesses, and his having shaved the morning he had departed was also attested to. Yet, he was noted to have been away for only one day.

On March 18, 1978, Meier allegedly was allowed to time-travel into the future to view and photograph the ruins of San Francisco after a devastating earthquake. This is one of the most occult, and most disputed, of his reports. His alleged photo of the

ruins at first glance is said to look just like a photo of a painting within the September, 1977, issue of *GEO*, a German magazine. Discussions within his notes from contact #106 with Quetzal, another Pleiadean, indicate Meier's apparent consternation upon learning that this painting had pre-dated his photo, and supply Quetzal's explanation which involved still more occultism.

## MAGIC

Does all this seem like magic raised to the 17th power? I believe that it does, and that occultism to some such degree must be expected if this comprehensive series of contacts were genuine. Yet most of Meier's confrontations with the occult do not represent phenomena unfamiliar to ufologists, but rather represent an unheard of amount of exposure to it by any one individual. According to Hynek's "strangeness index," the Meier case would rank at the extreme in strangeness; without Meier's photographic evidence and secondary witnesses to provide credibility the case would receive little or no attention. Disparagers of the case have therefore had to say something about the photographic evidence.

## PAST DISCREDITING OF MEIER'S PHOTOS

How were these photos belittled despite analyses by specialists declaring that no signs of fraud could be detected in the photos examined?

First, those specialists who had done the examination of selected prints, out of Meier's 700 or so photos showing beamcraft, and unable to find fault, were simply declared inept.

Second, at an early date William Spaulding of Ground Saucer Watch had been given 10 of the Meier photos to analyze by a West German UFO investigator. Spaulding decided they were fakes, and claimed that they involved suspended models, double exposures, and the double print method. (The implausibility that a hoaxist would use all three such diverse methods should have alerted more serious investigators to look into the

matter for themselves.) Kindel's book gives ample reason why Spaulding's conclusions regarding UFO photos should not be trusted. Another reason, however, is that Spaulding admitted in a letter to *Flying Saucer Review* (issue No. 5, 1985) that he believes the bona fide "saucers" are those constructed secretly by governments on earth.

Third, many times after Meier loaned out photos and film, what he received back were apparently copies. The specific generation of the print or internegative placed at the disposal of the investigator thus is not usually clear. This has discouraged examination of even those aspects which do not require the originals.

Fourth, Kal Korff, an 18-year-old youth at the time, discredited both Meier and Stevens in his 1981 book *The Meier Incident: The Most Infamous Hoax in Ufology*. Korff accepted Spaulding's conclusions and made heavy use of ridicule, while never once suggesting that Clarke's law should be kept in mind. In the *Abies alba* photo series already discussed, he implied that the later disappearance of the tree had not happened, further implying that a model tree had been used.

In the March 29, 1976, series two photos shown in the Elders' photo albums indicate that the craft was behind a limb of a deciduous tree. However, Korff claimed from one of the same photos in his book that it was instead in front of the tree. He then called it a model UFO. However, in a 1981 article in *Frontiers of Science* (March-April issue) he claimed that the same tree was a model tree. Yet we know from photos in the Elders' et al. photo album, *Vol. 1*, that the deciduous tree in question was not a model, since a photo of it a year and a half later by one of Stevens' investigative team showed the same tree, this time in leaf.

In Meier's close-up beamship photo, #6, the upper of three circumferential ribs girding the craft was described as uncannily resembling a (braided) rope. Korff implied that it may have been a cow-bell rope. However, close inspection of the "rope" where its cross-section appeared at opposite edges of the craft disclosed that it has rather square corners, unlik-

a rope.

Considerations such as these, plus Korff's prolific use of innuendo rather than unbiased observation, should have alerted other UFO investigators of the need for a comprehensive and objective study of the Meier case. Instead, the heads of the UFO organizations often referred to Korff's book as reason why they needed to take no interest in the case.

My own observations presented here might be declared biased by any who adhere to the view that ETI cannot be in our vicinity and cannot be strategically observing us. Admittedly, this review is written from the perspective that the in-proximity school of thought regarding ETI is more plausible than the radio astronomers' school or the mankind-is-unique school of thought.

### AMBIGUITIES

With the in-proximity school of thought, the ETIs, and most certainly those in charge of the "embargo" against Earth, give high priority to maintaining the embargo until our understanding of the situation has increased substantially. With the leaky-embargo hypothesis, equally high priority is presumed given to their supplying gradual leaks in the embargo (UFO sightings and contactees) that would help increase our understanding but without disrupting the embargo. This would mean that in a comprehensive case accompanied by extensive photographic evidence, at least some of the scenes might need to be partially staged in a manner that would introduce some ambiguity. Then skeptics who are mentally unprepared to acknowledge the plausibility of the in-proximity school of thought would not be "forced" into new thought patterns by the sheer weight of evidence.

They could instead cry "hoax" without undue embarrassment, directing attention to suspicious looking scenes while ignoring the others. This neutral level of ethical behavior on the part of the ETIs carrying out the embargo would be consistent with likely ethical reasons for their maintaining an embargo in the first place. It would also help maintain the

embargo in the presence of leaks. The absence of undisputed hard evidence from UFO sightings in general after forty years would fall into the same category of explanation.

The abductee phenomenon would appear not to be part of a planned leaky-embargo strategy. It would instead seem to represent independent ETI behavior deemed sufficiently innocuous by ETIs in charge of the embargo as to require their taking no corrective action, as long as the abductions do not cause any abrupt rupture in the embargo.

One of Meier's 8-mm movie-film segments (18 March, 1975) is clearly a candidate for planned ambiguity on the part of the Pleiadeans. When some Japanese UFO investigators viewed this film, or a copy of it, at Meier's farmhouse, they saw the unknown object circling within a nearly horizontal plane, with its closest point of approach once bringing it just behind the upper tip of a fir tree. Each circle took only a few seconds. From the video views of this film now available, however, the viewer cannot be at all certain that it had actually passed behind the tree. If it had instead been a suspended model close to the camera, then the circular motion might be explained as simple harmonic motion induced by motion of a supporting pole above the view of the camera.

However, on one of the apparent passes of the object past the top of the tree, the tree's upper portion was seen to make a sudden swerve along the direction of travel of the craft, immediately followed by return to normalcy. This indicates some kind of action of the craft upon the tree which would rule out the model theory, as the tree was again no model. However, the motion of the tree seems incomprehensible, suggesting some action of occult ETI technology upon it. A biased skeptic might call this a "copy-out," and insist that photographic evidence be rejected which involves incomprehensible action of any object additional to the UFO.

The same cry for inadmissibility has been made regarding the series of photographs showing the beamcraft posing around various sides of the *Abies alba* tree because it later occultly

disappeared without trace. Such cries must obviously be resisted, since occultism is to be expected, as is an intelligent strategy on the part of any ETIs in our vicinity.

One series of Meier's photos which has been ridiculed shows him, and in one instance the arm of an alleged Pleiadean (by the name of Alena) pointing a "ray gun" said to be a museum piece of one of the colleagues of Semjase. Meier was allowed to test the weapon on July 6, 1977, near his farmhouse during a contact when no one else was around. He burned a hole completely through the trunk of an apple tree, about 10 inches in diameter. This would not seem like unreasonable behavior for a contactee interested in guns, in alien technology, and on friendly terms with humanoid ETIs with whom he had become friends after 77 previous contacts since 1975. However, a skeptic who cannot tolerate ETIs having a strategy involving a primary contactee similarly cannot tolerate the possibility that such an event occurred.

Silly arguments have therefore been advanced why the gun depicted in the pictures must be a fake, notwithstanding the present existence of the hole in this tree, the photos Meier took of it soon afterwards showing charring around the hole but no wood dust, and the difficulty of drilling a hole of this length through a tree by a man with only one arm. Nevertheless, since the evidence is not compelling it instead seems incriminating to a biased skeptic. yet the entire episode would be consistent with an ETI strategy of occasionally supplying ambiguous evidence chiefly for the "benefit" of skeptics.

Ambiguities seem to have been built into the messages Meier received too, as if failure to do this might cause a premature rupture of the embargo against Earth. That is, parts of the messages relating to science and ancient history seem to involve absurdities, just as most alleged contactee messages seem to contain absurdities. An unknown fraction of the apparent absurdities, however, may instead constitute science or truths which will only become evident to our descendants of the distant future. In



In addition, there may be other motivation why ETIs interacting with Earth would not act in an entirely truthful manner. It would cause us to question all parts of any given message, accepting none of it on faith. This in turn would tend to cause those who appreciate the spiritual content of the message not to get carried away, and turn it into a new religion, nor to worship these ETIs as gods. According to Meier's contact notes, the Pleiadeans do not wish this to happen.

### SUMMARY AND PROGNOSIS

An entirely new attitude is needed for analysis of the Meier contactee case. It needs to be viewed from the outlook that ETIs in our proximity likely exist and likely possess a strategy for dealing with an emerging civilization. We must cease accusing experts who examine Meier's evidence and find no sign of a hoax of being incompetent on that account. Instead, we need to accept these findings as the basis for

much more extensive investigations, and for treating Meier as an honest reporter, unless it can be proven otherwise beyond reasonable doubt. We must learn to put ourselves in his shoes and ask what we would have done in his stead, (if we had been exposed since childhood to an appealing ETI philosophy and had agreed to publicly disseminate it.)

Because of the ambiguities apparently built into some of the Meier evidence, we must examine all the evidence, not just that fraction which may look suspicious to diehard skeptics. Haven't we learned by now to be skeptical of skeptics who claim, for example, that a low soaring object the size of a football field moving slowly along at dusk without making noise is just a tight formation of powered hang gliders whose pilots and airfield cannot be ascertained? We must be especially skeptical of skeptics who may have one or more non-scientific reasons for wishing a particular case to be a hoax.

At the least, we could examine all

the evidence and secondary witnesses carefully and form our best estimates of the odds that Meier and assumed accomplices could have successfully fabricated this evidence. We could inquire into what motivations he might have had for so doing, and for persisting to this day, if other than to disseminate an ETI spiritual message. We could examine his lengthy series of messages carefully to see what the most trustworthy essence of it seems to be.

I think we should do all these things and more. However, in final analysis it seems likely that if Meier represents a prime ETI contactee in a strategy designed (to maintain covertness) for a while, that strategy will continue to succeed. The Meier case, as a prime leak in the embargo, will not turn into a rupture of the embargo unless or until we learn for ourselves what our rightful place is as thinking beings within a galaxy and universe which may be heavily populated with other thinking beings.

## UCU MJ-12 MAGIC ACT

By Barry Greenwood

The following article is reprinted by permission of Barry Greenwood, editor of *Just Cause*, published by Citizens Against UFO Secrecy. A one-year subscription is available for \$10, from CAUS, Box 218, Coventry, Conn., 06238.

We can now report to you that, regrettably, the MJ-12 affair appears to be a grand deception and, consequently, a giant black eye on the surface of UFOlogy. This conclusion did not come lightly and was the result of extensive inquiries by CAUS. We did have high hopes that perhaps our initial doubts would have been allayed by additional releases and that a proper explanation would be found for the problems. It was not to be. The deeper we looked, the worse it became.

In dealing with government

documents it is vitally important that we know where information comes from. Otherwise, how can one possibly vouch for its authenticity? It is why CAUS regards cover letters from agency releases almost as important as the releases themselves.

In the case of MJ-12, Moore, Shandera and Friedman (herein referred to as MSF) have not provided this most basic element. The material, save for the 1954 Cutler memo, was sent to Jaime Shandera anonymously on undeveloped 35mm film which was later made into hardcopy. Who is the source? MSF doesn't say. Where did it come from? They don't say that either. This by itself should raise suspicions, but there is much more.

SHANDERA

Why did Shandera receive the film? He is not exactly a well-known person in UFOlogy. We have a situation where a "government source" finds it important to release very sensitive, still-classified documents on crashed discs, Roswell, and alien bodies, certainly the story of the century! To whom does he go? Walter Cronkite? Dan Rather? Carl Sagan? No, he goes to MSF who are clearly in the pro-Roswell camp already and need no convincing. And they do have much to gain from these "documents" being made public. It sounds pretty self-serving that someone should anonymously drop proof of Roswell into the laps of only its chief supporters and no one else who may have more influence in uncovering the "truth."

Why, at the MUFON Symposium in June, did Moore declare that the

