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31 August 1960

Mr. G. L. Cary

Deputy Assistant Director for Collection/OSI

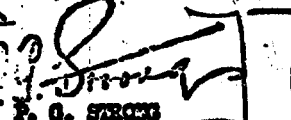
Reply to your Note Regarding Gordon E. Scherer

1. We have investigated this with the Air Force and find that Mrs. Golden telegraphed the Secretary of State along the same lines. She has been carrying on correspondence with the Air Force for quite some time on the general subject of UFO's. (Attached is their reply to Mrs. Golden.) The State Department referred the telegram to the Air Force who, in turn, answered Mrs. Golden to the effect that the U.S. Naval Attache evaluation indicates that the picture was false. The photo was taken by a free lance photographer noted for his trick photography. It was not, as Mrs. Golden states, developed in the presence of anyone.

2. I do not believe we should concern ourselves with questions in Mrs. Golden's letter that do not concern CIA; therefore, we have covered only those questions. The Air Force is responsible and is doing a very good job of public information in this field and it has been our past procedure to refer all matters to them when it does not implicate CIA.

3. I think our Naval attache's final comment on the whole affair sums it up very well: "It is the reporting officer's private opinion that a flying saucer sighting would be unlikely at the very barren island of Trinidad, as everyone knows Martians are extremely comfort loving creatures."

4. Attached is a draft reply for Congressman Scherer per your request.

  
F. G. SIROIS

BB

Approved for Release

2/20/00

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DRAFT  
31 August 1960

Mrs. Catherine Carter Golden  
334 Thrall Street  
Cincinnati 20, Ohio

Dear Mrs. Golden:

In regard to your letter of 15 August 1960, I have inquired of the CIA as to their interest in UFO's. The CIA is not responsible for these matters nor are they involved in any UFO investigations. When any such item does come to their attention, their policy is to refer the matter or the information to the Air Force for the latter's evaluation and reporting. They have never regarded such matters with secrecy.

By common agreement, in order to eliminate duplication and overlapping of effort, the Air Force has been singled out as the responsible component of the government for all matters pertaining to UFO's. CIA states, therefore, that they have never made any charge concerning UFO's to or about the head of any friendly government, inasmuch as they are not in a position to do so either from the standpoint of knowledgability or responsibility.

GORDON E. SCHERER