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## Preface



Wilbert Smith directed Project Magnet, the Canadian government's official investigation into UFOs. In a declassified memo dated 21 November 1950, Smith writes:

I made discreet enquires through the Canadian Embassy staff in Washington who were able to obtain for me the following information:

- a. The matter is the most highly classified subject in the United States Government, rating higher even than the H-bomb.
- b. Flying saucers exist.
- c. Their modus operandi is unknown but concentrated effort is being made by a small group headed by Doctor Vannevar Bush.
- d. The entire matter is considered by the United States authorities to be of tremendous significance.

I was further informed that the United States authorities are investigating along quite a number of lines which might possibly be related to the saucers such as mental phenomena...

Researcher Grant Cameron studied Smith for two decades. In 2003, Cameron released [The Wilbert Smith Archives](#) on

CD-ROM. The archives include nearly 1000 pages of scanned documents from sources including the Canadian government and the University of Ottawa. A copy can be obtained here: <<http://presidentialUFO.com>>.

38 Messages from Space is a remix of selected documents from Cameron's archives. While they have been retyped to improve legibility, every effort has been made to maintain both the accuracy and aesthetics of the originals. Most of these appear to have been typeset by Rear Admiral H.B. Knowles in 1954. In this remix, the documents are supplemented with my own illustrations.

The crop circle on page 109 appears courtesy of Zef Damen, being originally documented by photographer Steve Alexander in southern England in July 2004. Damen analyzes the geometric relationships within crop circles and then uses basic shapes to reconstruct them step-by-step. Over a hundred such reconstructions can be viewed here: <<http://zefdamen.nl>>.

Thanks to: John Cabral, Grant Cameron, Zef Damen, Kajsa Eriksson, Catharina Fogelström, Fredric Gunve, Patrick Huyghe, Cornelia Lauf, Arrow Mueller, J. Nordberg, Adam Parfrey, Arne Kjell Vikhagen, Karin Wagner, Johanna Willenfelt, Joanna Yas, and Andrew Zarou.

—David Crawford

2008.08.08

"During 1953, the AF [air force] began experiments with new long range radar equipment. While making the initial tests, AF operators were astonished to pick up a gigantic object orbiting near the equator. Its speed was almost 18,000 miles an hour. Repeated checks showed that the tracking was correct. Some huge unknown object was circling the Earth, six hundred miles out.

Shortly after this a second enormous object approached the Earth. Tracked by AF radar experts, it also went into orbit, about 400 miles away."

-Major Donald Keyhoe (U.S.M.C. Ret.),  
Aliens from Space (1973)



43°, -71°



1954.05.27

01. Rear Admiral H.B. Knowles  
Writes Rear Admiral C.F. Espe,  
Chief of Naval Intelligence

27 May 1954

Rear Admiral C.F. Espe, U.S.N.,  
Chief of Naval Intelligence,  
Navy Department,  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Admiral:

I am rear Admiral H.B. Knowles, U.S.N. (Ret.) and am communicating with you directly and personally rather than through official channels because I do not believe what I have to say, and to enclose, is a matter for many others to see at present.

I am writing this at the request of a Mrs. Guy A. (Frances H.) Swan for reasons which will become evident as you read the enclosures.

Mrs. Swan is probably about 40 years of age, of average education and perhaps better than average intelligence. She is deeply religious, greatly interested in schools, Girl Scouts, Red Cross and community and church affairs in general. She has a daughter, Dawnalyn, going to High School here, and her husband works in the Navy Yard at Kittery.

I have seen some of her rather futile attempts at writing and I do not believe that she has the knowledge or ability to manufacture out of whole cloth the fantastic story which the enclosures unfold. She has the appearance of one being impelled into doing something over which she has little control. The manifestation that Mrs. Knowles and I witnessed on 26 May had some of the outward appearances of a seance. It was so utterly simple that one was almost forced to believe it as it unfolded. Questions were asked of which she had no previous knowledge and the answers were written very fast, without any apparent premeditation or hesitation. These answers were clear, concise, and if we accept AFFA as being real, they were logical.

I must admit that I am at sixes and sevens in this matter. However, strange things have happened before; the impossible of yesterday is often the reality of today. Who am I to say this is not so, for it may very well [document obscured here] Navy is open-minded, searching for the answers to many hitherto unanswerable problems; the so-called "flying saucers" seems to be one of your problems and perhaps this is the beginning of your answer. It is a lead which I don't think you can afford to ignore. It would cost you little to ascertain its validity, and there need be no "red faces" if it fails to materialize provided you go about it right.

Should you wish to test out the validity of these communications I would suggest that the meeting place be somewhere up here where we have many secluded spots where such a meeting could take place. A written and

signed assurance of safe conduct to AFFA and ship can be transmitted through Mrs. Swan. Another reason for this area is that it would be necessary for Mrs. Swan to be present as the messages state, and she has no desire for the publicity and notoriety attending such an affair in more populous places such as Washington. She states that she would not leave here.

Why not try out short wave radio as suggested. The message of 7.40 p.m. 27 May gives specific band and calls - 306 MM (or CMM?) using call M4 M4 A F F A. If this is no hoax perhaps radar could pick up an object as large as the satellite described. It might even be seen by a powerful telescope. Perhaps it has already been seen and not recognized for what it is.

Anyway, after a thorough examination of the enclosures please be kind enough to let Mrs. Swan know what the decision of the Navy Dept. is in this matter. She has written you only after a long inner struggle with herself and deserves at least a courteous and sympathetic reply.

In reading the enclosures you will note that there are certain letters and symbols written by hand on the typewritten copies; these are made as nearly as possible to look like the original hand-written messages. These originals are now in Mrs. Swan's possession and may be seen at any time by a properly designated officer. Mrs. Swan has no desire to keep them and they will be turned over to the government if so desired. Words in parentheses are notes made by Mrs. Swan after the message was received to clarify certain passages.

Finally, you are wondering about me. I am sane, - at least I hope so, and yet I more than half believe in this, to such an extent at least that I would give it a thorough trial before dismissing it as the figment of a fertile imagination. To me it seems that somehow, somewhere a force is impelling Mrs. Swan to write these messages which grow more specific and detailed as time goes on. She is not copying from a book or any other earthy source. To me it is further inconceivable that she could manufacture details worthy of the most scientific and imaginative writers. I ask the question. "Can you afford to ignore any possible contact outside our earth when the consequences of that ignorance, for good or evil, may be so tremendous as is suggested by the final message enclosed?"

Could you please give this matter your personal attention to make certain that it does not go in the waste basket or get lost in routine? I will forward subsequent copies of messages received if you so desire and so notify me. Events today have more than ever convinced me there is a lot in this matter that will bear very careful consideration. If this is not in your province will you do Mrs. Swan and myself the favor of putting it in proper hands?

Sincerely,

H.B. Knowles

R. Adm., U.S.N. (Ret.)

Note:

P.C. address: R.F.D. #1,  
South Berwick, Maine

1954.06.05

02. Rear Admiral H.B. Knowles  
Writes a Message for Mrs. Swan  
to Give to AFFA

Note:

Following is a message written by Rear Admiral H.B. Knowles U.S.N. (Ret.) which he asked Mrs. Swan to give to AFFA, whose answer is dated June 6, 1954.

June 5, 1954

Message to M4 M4 AFFA:

Navy Department has been contacted. No reaction yet received. The following is a resume of our knowledge of your ships to date:

1. Hundreds of sightings have been reported and analyzed by our Intelligence people.
2. Types of your ships reported are:
  - (a) Mother-ships - large, rocket or cigar-shaped, 600 to 1,000 feet long; color silvery; speed 9,000 to 20,000 miles per hour. No violent manoeuvres reported.
  - (b) Disc-shaped machines of at least three sizes - large discs, 100 feet or more in diameter; medium discs, about 50 feet in diameter; small discs, 8 inches to several feet diameter. Color of all discs metallic silver except when showing the

effects of over-heating. Speeds, 7,000 to 11,000 miles per hour. Manoeuvres - abrupt turns, climbs and reversals with very swift acceleration.

- (c) Rocket or cigar-shaped ships reported at fairly low altitudes; sizes 100 to 200 feet long. Color, metallic silver with a fiery exhaust. Speed, 900 to 1,500 miles per hour. Less violent climbs and turns than discs and no reported reversals.
- (d) A machine sighted at night with red, green, white rotating lights and fixed white beams - may be a rotating disc type. Speed 1000 to 1,500 miles per hour.
- (e) Bright green fireballs reported mainly over New Mexico. They are silent, meteoric speed and travel on straight courses. These have our people greatly worried since they appear to be guided missiles from outer space.

Close analysis shows that most of the space ship sightings occur near large centers of manufacturing and defense areas particularly our atomic plants. This is a cause of vast suspicions and uncertainty among our officials. Tactics used by discs in presence of our aircraft often appear hostile and dangerous to our people. Strict orders have been issued to our pilots to investigate closely all discs seen but not to shoot at them unless hostile intent is shown beyond a doubt. (It should be recognized that we have irresponsible youth in some of our planes, perhaps, just as you have reported about one of your bell pilots warning us.)

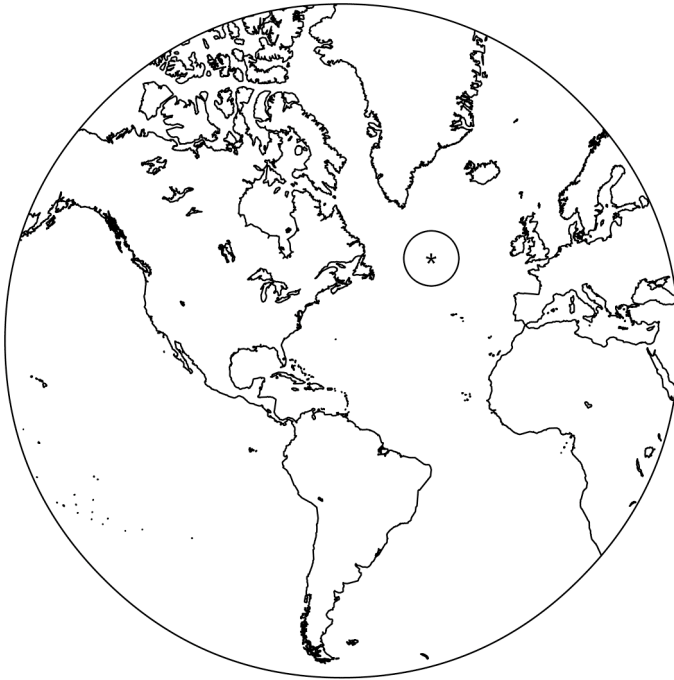
Our people believe your ships are from outer space, that they are controlled by superior

intelligence but they are not sure what your intentions are. There is a vast curiosity about you but no hostile feeling or intent in this nation. Our people would welcome contact with you but do not know how to do it. Since there is nothing for you to fear from our aircraft it is suggested that the next time you are near one, you try to stay nearby long enough to signal with a blinking light or radio. You have the dot - dash code and our people can read and answer it.

If you should contact one of our planes by radio or light it is suggested that you tell them that you have contacts with me, Mr. H.B. Knowles, through Mrs. Frances Swan here in Eliot, Maine. That would really give them something tangible to think about.

It is further believed that your discs are controlled from a mother-ship because no human could stand the heat generated in manoeuvres. That your source of power is magnetism is strongly suspected, but how you do it is unknown. It is believed that you have some metal unknown to us. The following planets are suggested as being your home base: Mars, Venus, Jupiter. The moon seems certain as your advance base and the dark side is suggested as its location. May you succeed in making contacts is my prayer.

H.B. Knowles



M4:  $48^\circ$ ,  $-35^\circ$



1954.06.06

03. Mrs. Swan Transcribes  
a Message from AFFA for  
Rear Admiral H.B. Knowles

O E E U > - - - M4 M4 ////////// - 35° west longitude  
48° north latitude. We have been moving along without  
anything serious happening. At this point all is very  
well indeed. Now I will answer Mr. Knowles' request:

Dear Mr. Knowles:

Your letter of June 5 read and now being  
recognized.

No. 1: I believe this is so.

No. 2: (a) Correct.

(b) Correct again.

(c) The cigar-shaped ship size 100 to 200  
feet are not from our Space Ship M4. They are from  
another Association. They are friendly and are working  
in conjunction with us. They are like our Motherships.

(d) The rotating light type of disc is used  
as a conditioner for our magnetic wave lengths. It is  
possible sometimes to over estimate the amount of  
magnetic waves necessary.

(e) Fireballs are nothing to become alarmed  
about. They are guided by remote control but since they  
are also equipped with magnetic eye and feeling devices  
they can never come near enough to harm a plane. They  
do the same work as discs.

I have pointed out before that the work we do is  
replacing wasted or distorted magnetic lanes. These

occur mostly over large cities and defense plant populations seem to carry some of the elements of a disturbing nature. You will find us over many of your battlefields.

I will tell every member of my ship, and that is very many, to signal by code. Rest assured we will do all we can to make you people recognize us. (The code mentioned here is simply the international dot-dash code supplied AFFA by Mrs. Swan)

In a few days we will be having a meeting with L-11 and I am sure he will want to do likewise. He has been interested in our developments through our contact. You will find him also most cooperative. We will do our very best to contact you people. We also would like to land with many members at a time to instruct you people. I believe you can save your planet if you could find your way clear to live in Peace and build a satellite that could produce a field of its own magnetic force. In this way balance could be restored. This is the best I can offer at this time. We hope for a successful meeting in the very near future.

A F F A

04. Rear Admiral H.B. Knowles  
Writes Rear Admiral C.F. Espe,  
Chief of Naval Intelligence

R.F.D. #1,  
South Berwick, Maine  
June 6, 1954

Rear Admiral C.F. Espe, U.S.N.,  
Chief of Naval Intelligence,  
Navy Department,  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Admiral:

I am sending you a second and more important installment of messages from and concerning AFFA, including a direct answer to one of my own messages. Again this is being sent directly to you for the same reasons as I gave before in my letter of 27 May.

As this thing develops the urgency of some more positive action on the part of you people in Washington becomes more and more apparent. Believe me, these messages are real; you are not being assailed by a couple of crackpots. It is about time for some of our so-called bright boys to wake up to the fact that strange things really are happening; that we are being observed by beings like ourselves from outer space and that their intentions are peaceful. Believe it or not, communication has been established with earth through Mrs. Swan here in Eliot. Why she was chosen other than some of the big people in our land only the Creator knows; but she was chosen and you must believe it. Can you read these communications and believe they are the

product of Mrs. Swan's imagination? Could you yourself have thought out and written them? No; they are very real and come from whence they say.

Time is getting short. Either you are doing something about this or you are not. In either case please let me know at once what your plans are. If nothing is to be done, say so and return all papers so I can start another approach to someone who will take action.

What would happen if there were a landing in force such as is suggested herein? The minds of our people have not been prepared for such an eventuality and I feel pretty certain that military personnel of all branches have not been told how to react.

Hopefully,

H.B. Knowles

R. Adm., U.S.N. (Ret.)



L-11:  $-15^{\circ}$ ,  $-116^{\circ}$

05. PONNAR Interviews

Mrs. Swan

6.05 p.m. June 7, 1954

O E E U > - - - // - L-11 L-11

15° south latitude 116° west longitude

Ponnar speaking. Good. We are making very good headway and hope to complete our revolutions very soon. We are going to hold our tribunal next week. I would like to ask some more questions if I may.

Q. Why do you people not believe that we are real?

A. I think we do believe you are people from another realm outside of our knowledge. Some of your manoeuvres baffle us and we haven't any airborne craft that can move so swiftly.

Q. If we do signal to your aircraft will you people return a friendly signal?

A. Yes, I believe we will.

Q. If we should land in masse on some of your airfields will we be protected from any sign of attempted capture?

A. If you could let us know when and where it could be arranged I am sure. Our government is never belligerent to friendly visitors.

Q. Could you and your good friends Affa tells me of be there in person to introduce us to your official personnel?

A. If it is not too far away from the surrounding area, yes, we would be honored.

- Q. Perhaps we can come to conclusion on this. Does your government trust us?
- A. I believe so as long as you could prove you are not enemies.
- Q. We can do this. How can you make your people meet us?
- A. We can send a telegram to Washington direct to our President. I believe he would listen. We can pray that he will.
- Q. Good. Try this when you hear from us.
- A. How can we be sure you will come?
- Q. Yes, I understand your position. If we can all agree upon a founded date and place we will be there. We can fly in formation the day before over your house. Is this proof enough of our surety to come?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Can you tell us how your personal people will greet us?
- A. If Mr. and Mrs. Knowles or myself is there we will extend our hand and make you welcome.
- Q. Good. We wish to be completely friends and meet in a cordial manner.
- A. It shall be so.
- Q. Will the people about you be frightened if we should fly over your home in a large formation?
- A. I don't really believe so.
- Q. I will tell you how I will look. I will wear a silver frontlet and a silver face protector. I am white skinned like Affa. I will stand by his side.
- A. I shall remember.
- Q. Good. I think this is all for this time. It has

been refreshing to know that people are like yourself on the Euenza. From your television and radio we get some odd notions about you people. How can you enjoy such nonsense?

A. Most of the nonsense is enjoyed by the younger people. I like good music and classical dancing. Many of us do also. Television is comparatively young to us and they have the notion pictures was [to] be active ahead of good behavior.

Q. You would naturally believe any new thing should produce more information and improved entertainment.

A. I think many of us older people believe that also.

Q. Should not older people sustain the knowledge of the young ones?

A. Yes, they should, but our television companies are materialistic and compete for money rather than for spiritual qualities.

Q. Who has the jurisdictions over this?

A. The companies themselves do unless it becomes profane and I believe we have censors whose jobs it is to look after this.

Q. Do you wish for your daughter to be crazy and stupid to please the companies?

A. No. She is rather quiet. Our schools help toward good behavior also our churches.

Q. Good. There is some restriction on behavior then?

A. Very much. Most people are reserved and relatively polite and considerate.

Q. I certainly am getting a brand new insight in regard to your people.



A. Good. I am very pleased.

Q. I must confess I thought you were on the last road to Hades.

A. Oh, not so, not yet.

Q. I can see you have a sense of humor. That is good, as we really do want to help you people and I am glad you will be willing to aid us.

A. We will, I am sure.

Q. That is all I care to know at this time.

Sincerely,

PONNAR.