



PERCEPTIONS

By Stanton T. Friedman

Frequently-Asked Questions

I was very busy at the MUFON 2003 Symposium in Dearborn, MI, July 4-6. Mostly I was answering questions after my lecture "Critiquing the Roswell Critics," during my workshop on "UFOs: The Cosmic Watergate," during the speakers' panel, and while manning my vendor table behind my various books, videos, and papers.

Mostly the questioners were looking for answers to why, rather than dealing with specific facts.

Facts are generally the focus of my presentations, but people still want to know why. Or How come? I thought it might be useful for me to deal with a number of these.

One unexpected problem that developed was that rather than my workshop consisting of a small informal group of people in a small room, it was held for a few hundred in the main speaker's hall.

I had planned to avoid using slides and to make good use of my paper, "The Cosmic Watergate," which includes a number of quotes helping to establish that there is a coverup by US government agencies of UFO data, and to show the blacked out and whited out UFO documents issued by the CIA, NSA, etc.

Why the coverup?

Of course, when I answered the inevitable question, "Why the coverup?" I had to preface my remarks with the obvious caveat that I do NOT speak for the US government, but here are the reasons which I think have kept all governments from wanting to release the best data—from crashes, the best multiple witness radar visual cases, physical trace cases, etc:

1. They want to figure out the method of propulsion and the method of manufacture of the high-strength, lightweight materials used in constructing them, along with electronics and other unique devices.

Flying saucers do make wonderful weapons delivery and defense systems.

Even though the cold war is over, there is no shortage of governments trying to find more efficient ways of killing their enemies, better ways of delivering nuclear and other Weapons of Mass Destruction, and keeping enemies from delivering theirs.

Rule number 1 for security: one can't tell one's friends without telling one's enemies.

2. What if "The other guy" figures out how they work before we do; how do we defend? We don't want them to know we know that they know.

3. What if an announcement were made by two individuals highly trusted around the world that some UFOs are ET spacecraft (we could have a competition to figure out an appropriate pair. Maybe the Queen and the Pope?)

What would happen? Church attendance and mental hospital admissions would go up, stock markets would go down, and the younger generation would push for an earthling orientation rather than the nationalistic or religious ones insisted upon by governments.

I know of no governing body that wants its citizens to owe their primary allegiance to the Planet rather than to that body. Those in power want to stay in power.

4. Pat Robertson and Jerry Falwell have loudly proclaimed UFOs are the work of the devil, and that we are the only intelligent beings in the universe. They would be up a religious creek without a paddle if an announcement were made. The votes of their followers are very important.

5. If an announcement about peaceful alien visitors were made, many would expect that, since they are obviously technologically superior, soon there would be new methods of energy production, ground and air transport, computers, and communications.

Economic chaos would ensue, such as happened when Eastern Europe accepted freedom, democracy, elections, and capitalism. They haven't benefited much. We are not good at large-scale economic transitions.

6. What if the government were to admit that many pilots had been lost chasing and trying to shoot down saucers? I have heard half a dozen cases of several planes going up and fewer coming down. Both the USSR and the USA shot down "enemy" planes doing reconnaissance

too close to their borders. Neither side said a word for decades. Families were lied to, too.

Why Come Here?

Often the next question would be, but why would any aliens want to come here from hundreds or thousands of light years away? I have to point out that within only 54 light years there are 1000 stars, of which 46 are similar to the sun and probably have planets and life.

One pair, Zeta 1 and Zeta 2 Reticuli, are, after all, only 1/8th of a light year apart from each other, only 39 light years away from us, and a billion years older than the sun. So why worry about distant stars and ignore those in our own backyard?

Then I go into a quick list of reasons for coming here (26 are in my 1975 MUFON paper). But I finish by saying I think they are here primarily to quarantine us, because we are such a primitive society whose major activity is obviously tribal warfare.

At the end of WW II, during which we Earthlings killed 50 million of our own kind and destroyed 1700 cities, it would have been perfectly obvious to alien observers that soon we would be moving out, based upon the obvious development of nuclear weapons, large rockets, and radar (electronics).

Southeastern New Mexico was the only site on Earth where all three of these new technologies could be studied.

Surely it is not a coincidence that Roswell and White Sands Missile Range were in that area where the first nuclear bomb was exploded, where the captured German V-2 rockets were being tested, and where we had our best tracking radar following the often errant missiles.

But wouldn't you expect them to make official contact with us? In the first place we don't know that they haven't. In the second place, why? They hold the cards.

Certainly nothing any aliens have done to Earthlings can match what other Earthlings have done to Earthlings. They may well be being kind to dumb animals.

But Isaac Asimov and others have suggested if they neither make themselves publicly obvious (land in the middle of the World Soccer Cup?) nor don't hide from us, they must not be coming here!

Of course we all know that science fiction writers are experts on the behavior of aliens, even if they totally ignore the



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