

President Lyndon Johnson

Written by Grant Cameron

Saturday, 01 August 2009 03:58 - Last Updated Saturday, 01 August 2009 05:06

President Lyndon B. Johnson

36th President

November 22, 1963 - January 20, 1969

NICAP has been informed by a high-level Government source that very important UFO information is classified ABOVE "Top Secret." According to this unimpeachable Source, this information is unavailable even to top ranking officers and officials who do not have a high priority "Need To Know."

***The UFO Investigator*, published by the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena - June-September 1963**

You know this was a damn mistake back then (around the time he was running for President) the way this was managed, and it's a damn mistake now. And it's time for this nonsense to stop.

1964 Republican Presidential Candidate Barry Goldwater speaking late in his life of the Secret government UFO program in the early years

The new adventures in space that lie ahead will bring with them excitement and new accomplishments as great as anything we have witnessed in the epic period just past, when we proved ourselves once more to be the sons of pioneers who tamed a broad continent and built the mightiest nation in the history of the world.

President Johnson writing in his memoirs

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Of all the presidents, no president had a longer and more sustained interest in space than did Lyndon Johnson. His interest began as a Senator as he watched Sputnik 1 fly over on the day of its launch, as he stood along the banks of the Pedernales River that ran through his ranch.

Johnson clearly understood the importance of controlling technology involving outer space in light of the Sputnik launch. On January 7, 1958, as Senate Majority Leader, Johnson made a key political speech on the subject.

First, it is obvious that the Soviet valuation on the significance of control in outer space has exceeded that of our officials.

The sputniks now orbiting the earth are not military weapons, but have military potential.

Control of space means control of the world, far more certainly, far more totally than any control that has ever or could ever be achieved by weapons, or by troops of occupation.

The race we are in- or which we must enter- is not the race to perfect long-range ballistic missiles. There is something more important than any ultimate weapon. That is the ultimate position- the position of total control over earth lies somewhere out in space.

This is the future, the distant future, though not so distant as we may have thought. Whoever gains that ultimate position gains control, total control, over the earth for purposes of tyranny or for the service of freedom. [\[1\]](#)

While a Majority leader in the Senate Johnson sat on three space committees

- The Investigating Subcommittee of the Committee on the Armed Services.
- The Special Committee on Space and Astronautics.
- The Senate Committee on Aeronautical and Space Sciences.

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Once he became the vice-president, Kennedy appointed him as the first vice-president chairman of the National Aeronautics and Space Council. This appointment came at a critical time for the space program in the race to put a man on the moon. The first rockets had just been launched, and now there was a race to the moon.

President Nixon ended up being the president in office when man finally walked on the moon. He was able to bring the Apollo astronauts to the White House for the important public relations spin-offs. Kennedy was the President who got credit for the decision to go to the moon. Johnson, on the other had, was written up as the president of the most unsuccessful war in American history.

Even though Kennedy and Nixon got all the credit for the moon landing, there is no doubt, however, that Johnson as vice-president and then president was the essential White House force in putting a man on the moon. For a good portion on the sixties NASA was the “number one government agency.” Today it wouldn’t even be in the top ten.

Johnson as Congressman

Prior to becoming President Lyndon Johnson was a proponent of getting the true UFO story out to the public. At least that was the image he put out into the public. This would have put him in a position where the “officials” controlling the UFO secret would have great reservations about telling him the UFO secrets once he became president, lest he tell someone else.

Johnson as President

Based on the available UFO documents that have been made public it would appear that the Kennedy administration was cut of out any involvement in the management of the UFO problem. This would mean Johnson probably didn’t have much more involvement with his follow-up Democratic administration. After all most of the Kennedy people were held over by the Johnson administration. It was basically the same administration with a different figurehead.

Take for example, the actions of Johnson’s vice-president Hubert Humphrey, on the UFO

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situation. He received a letter from a NICAP questioning statements being made by Project Blue Book. Vice-president Humphrey queried the Air Force on the citizen's behalf, and received a letter back from the Air Force stating incorrectly "that no UFO reports remained unsolved." Humphrey, not knowing the difference, simply forwarded the letter to the citizen thinking the query had been handled.

Another strike working against Johnson once he became president there was only 15 months till the next election making him a lame-duck president. Further, Johnson was handcuffed with the war in Vietnam, which limited his ability to deal with such esoteric items such as UFOs.

Congressional Hearings

The Johnson presidency was a time when there was a great deal of pressure being exerted on Congress to hold congressional hearing on UFOs. One set of brief hearings was actually held. There were a great number of UFOs being sighted and reported to the press. The public Project Blue Book people were being inundated with mail.

In 1967 and 1968, for example, they sent out 40,000 Project Blue Book Booklets to citizens writing to report sightings, or ask for an explanation. The few members in the Blue Book office were handling an average of 1,500 UFO letters a month.

Col. Hector Quintanilla, who headed the U.S.A.F. Project Blue Book in the late sixties, was personally receiving 30 letters that he had to personally answer from congressmen and American citizens. He spoke of the pressure being placed on the Air Force during the Johnson years.

The pressure was on Congress and every week I'd hear rumblings and rumors that a congressional investigation was imminent. Most of these rumors were circulated by NICAP members, but they were taking their toll. My staff was overworked and I was near a nervous breakdown from worrying about the politics of the program. [\[ii\]](#)

The heavy influx of mail began in 1964 shortly after the Socorro sighting. [\[iii\]](#) An internal Air

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Force memo stated that inquiries into the dramatic New Mexico sighting included an inquiry from congressmen and President Johnson office, even though there is no record of such an inquiry in the Johnson files.

[\[iv\]](#)

Quintanilla however blamed Major Donald Keyhoe for hyping the Sorocco case, and for the influx of mail that arrived in his office and in the office of the President.

Keyhoe decided to dislike the Air Force and he has been on their back ever since. He has used his organization to harass the Air Force, the Congress, Blue Book, and SAFOI...In 1964, after the Sorocco sighting they began a drive for a congressional hearing. [\[v\]](#)

The Keyhoe planned to create public call for a congressional investigation. In 1964 Keyhoe approached both the Committee on Science and Astronautics, and the House Armed Services Committee. President Johnson had sat on both prior to becoming vice-president. Both committees turned Keyhoe and NICAP down. Carl Vinson, the chairman of the Armed services Committee wrote:

In view of the continued and thorough investigation made by the Department of the Air Force of all reliable reports of Unidentified Flying Objects, I believe that the matter is adequately being studied by the Department and there is no reason for a congressional investigation of this matter. [\[vi\]](#)

Meetings On Alien Intelligence

In 1964, according to the CIA, high-level meetings occurred in the White House “on what to do if an alien intelligence was discovered in space, and there was a new outbreak of reports and sightings” The meetings may have been initiated by the Socorro sighting which generated massive media coverage. It is not known yet what level of participation Johnson had in the discussion.

In support of these discussions the CIA was called in. Johnson’s DCI John McCone “asked for

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an updated evaluation of UFOs.” Richard Hall, acting director at NICAP, was approached to provide samples from the NICAP database. Hall was given a direct phone line to an agent inside the CIA. As researchers Barry Greenwood and Lawrence Fawcett later wrote the CIA action to gather UFO sightings showed “an inordinate amount of interest in (NICAP), considering the CIA’s function is foreign intelligence.” Furthermore, the CIA had long maintained its only involvement in UFO research was the 1953 Robertson panel.

Later in the 1980s Hall filed a FOIA to obtain the documents related to his CIA involvement. He was given some of the documents, but was denied the paper trail, and some of the material related to a background check that the CIA had performed on him.

The Hot Line

One of the stories that surround President Johnson is that he took a call on the hot line at the time of the Kecksburg UFO crash in Kecksburg, Pennsylvania on December 9, 1965. At the time of the crash Johnson was at his ranch in Texas on a working vacation.

Records of the president’s daily activity do not show any direct call coming in at the time of the crash that would indicate he had been immediately notified. The hot line was never mentioned, and records of the hot line show no call to the president outside the standard political situations in Washington. In fact, presidential official records show that the ‘hot line’ was installed on August 8, 1963, but it was not used (other than testing) until the June 1967 Middle East crisis. Furthermore, the U.S. terminal had Fax/Teletype capabilities, but no voice capabilities.

The only thing that might indicate some involvement related to the crash by Johnson was the appearance the next morning at the ranch by the entire Joint Chiefs of Staff, and nine cabinet secretaries. There was no indication of what was discussed except the 1966 military budget and Vietnam.

The hotline was a direct phone connection that was installed between Washington and Moscow. It has always been a rumor in the UFO community that one of the reasons it was put in was to protect both sides in the cold war from misinterpreting a UFO for an incoming missile from the other side, and starting a nuclear war.

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Major Donald Keyhoe, in his UFO writing indicated that the threat of misinterpreting UFOs for missiles was a real threat that had already occurred during the Eisenhower Administration.

“In 1958, the Air Force admitted that Strategic Air Command bombers more than once had been launched against Russia when defense radar tracked mysterious objects in seeming formation which never have been identified. The errors were caught...the admission was given to the president of United Press, Frank Bartholomew, after a top-level conference at SAC headquarters. It was cleared by the AF, at the Pentagon. The original purpose was to inform the Soviets, through the approved UP statements, that we had a powerful Early warning system that would detect any sign of an attack and cause quick retaliation. Why the disclosure about UFOs was included has never been explained.” [\[vii\]](#)

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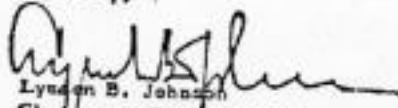
Dear Major Keyhoe:

Thank you for your recent communication enclosing the Digest of Documented Evidence on Unidentified Flying Objects recently prepared by the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena.

I have referred your interesting material to the staff of the Preparedness Investigating Subcommittee which, at my direction as you know, is keeping a close watch over new developments in this field with standing instructions to report to me any recent significant sightings of unidentified flying objects along with an analysis of the conduct and conclusions of the Air Force investigation of each such sighting.

I certainly appreciate your thoughtfulness and consideration in forwarding this type of information to me from time to time as it becomes available.

Sincerely,


Lyndon B. Johnson
Chairman, Preparedness
Investigating Subcommittee

Major Donald E. Keyhoe
Executive Director of NICAP
1515 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Washington 6, D. C.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 09/20/1996 BY [redacted]