



26 January 2023

[Redacted]
[Redacted]

Ref: OIA-2022/23-0425

Dear [Redacted]

Official Information Act request about to UFO or UFP events since 1901

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request of 13 December 2022.

You have requested:

"I hereby request, under the provisions of the Official Information Act (1982), to be provided with any information that is held, or has been held in the past, by your organisation relating to UFO (unidentified flying objects) or UFP (unidentified flying phenomena) events in New Zealand since 01/01/1901 up to and including today. I am requesting all types of information regarding these events that have been collected by your department over this period"

Please find enclosed copies of documents within scope of your request.

Some information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act, to protect the privacy of individuals. In making my decision, I have taken the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the Act into account.

Further, the New Zealand Defence Force has advised that relevant information (dating from 1952 - 2009) on this subject were made available to the following public libraries: Dunedin Public Library; Hamilton Public Library; the Marlborough District Libraries; the Alexander Turnbull Library; and Infofind (the Radio New Zealand library). These can all be accessed through the interloan capability via the National Library as well.

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision under section 28(3) of the Act.

This response may be published on the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet's website during our regular publication cycle. Typically, information is released monthly, or as otherwise determined. Your personal information including name and contact details will be removed for publication.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted Signature]

Tony Lynch
Deputy Chief Executive, National Security Group

AIRMINUTE

FILE		
8	7	2.
AREA	SUBJECT	S/S
XREF		WEED

Air 02075/2/3

Air Staff

ADDI-2

UFO SIGHTING

Reference:

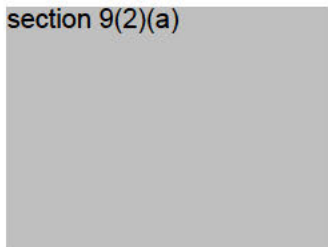
A. Defence Duty Officer report dated 14 May 89

B. Def 2052/2/DDI dated 12 Dec 86

1. Para 9 of reference B states that DDI would have an interest in interviewing members of the public sighting unusual phenomena.

2. Attached for your information and possible action is a minute from the Defence Duty Officer reporting such a sighting.

section 9(2)(a)



17 May 89

1. Copy sent to EIB (Responsible for investigating UFOs).

Section 9(2)(a)

2. [Redacted] advised by phone.

Section 9(2)(a)

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

MEMORANDUM

UFO REPORT

section 9(2)(a)

The following information was received from the Weymouth
Corderly Officer regarding a UFO sighting 16 MAY 89.

Location : north of Ashburton

Time : 1820 hrs.

Description : Big blue ball with trail descending
vertically which disappeared then
reappeared.

Reported by :

s9(2)(a)

contact Ashburton

Section 9(2)(a)

also witnessed by another person with Mr

section 9(2)(a)

Comments

Corderly officer
caller genuine

Section 9(2)(a)

considered

s9(2)(a)

14 MAY 89.

Venus is currently low on the
eastern horizon in the
early evening. May have
been that.

s9(2)(a)

EI 8/7/2

1 ORIGINATOR'S INITIALS		
2 FOR SIGNATURE	by	
3 DISPATCH	Date	Initials
	30-3-84	Y
4 BRING UP	on	to

30 March 1984

s9(2)(a)

Radio Hauraki,
PO Box 1480,
AUCKLAND

Dear Sirs,

We are replying to your letter of 20 March requesting information on our files about any "extra-terrestrial spacecraft and/or occupants that have landed or have been sighted in New Zealand territory". We have not systematically collected information about reported sightings of spacecraft or their occupants supposedly originating from places other than Earth and thus do not have much information on this subject.

2. The External Intelligence Bureau, has played a coordinating role in studying space objects that have either landed in New Zealand or (in the case of artificial satellites) that could conceivably deorbit over this country. In the former category, which most closely matches your requirements, there have been two instances in which we have been involved. On 3 April 1972 debris from what was concluded to be a Soviet satellite fell to Earth and was later recovered from a number of places in South Canterbury. Its re-entry was seen by many people and was well publicised. A report on this incident is enclosed together with a press release. In October 1978 two objects which at first appeared to have been space debris were recovered from the same area, but this was subsequently found to be a hoax.

3. On 23 December 1974, the Union Steam Ship Company sent us a report of a sighting the previous day from the "Rangatira". A copy of this report is also enclosed. We suggest that if you wish to make use of it in any programme of your own that it would be courteous first to request permission of the Union Steam Ship Company.

2.

4. We hold a report of a sighting in 1980 but the private citizen who sent it to us made it clear that he did not wish the report to be publicised. We do not therefore consider that this should be released. We also have a file note of someone reporting orally in May 1975, of a UFO sighting some years previously. Our file note indicates that section 9(2)(a) We do not think it would be helpful or appropriate to make this available.

5. Finally we have a report of a sighting by Wellington Air Traffic Control on 13 March 1977 which was referred to us by Civil Aviation Division. We understand that you have already been in touch with the Ministry of Transport and that they will be making material available to you.

6. We are sending a copy of your letter to the Police Department in case they are able to help you.

7. With respect to paragraph 4 above, we draw your attention to your right by way of complaint under the Official Information Act 1982 to an Ombudsman to seek an investigation and review of a department's refusal to make available specified official information.

Yours faithfully

s9(2)(a)

Encls.

EI 8/7/1

1 ORIGINATOR'S INITIALS		
2 FOR SIGNATURE	by	
3 DISPATCH	Date	Initials
	9/10/78	MB
4 DRING UP	cc	to

9 November 1978

Political Attache
US Embassy
WELLINGTON

SPACE DEBRIS

The apparent space debris which was the subject of my memorandum of 7 November is now believed to have been a hoax.

It would be appreciated if you would cancel the message to your Headquarters and offer our apologies for the inconvenience caused.

s9(2)(a)

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

EI 8/7/1

1 ORIGINATOR'S INITIALS	
2 FOR SIGNATURE	by <i>[Signature]</i>
3 DISPATCH	Date <i>7/11/78</i> Initials <i>MPB</i>
4 BRING UP	on _____ to _____

7 November 1978

SU

Would you please transmit the following to your Headquarters.

From EIB

Subject : SPACE DEBRIS

Probable space debris has been discovered in New Zealand close to the site where COSMOS 482 launcher debris landed on 3 April 1972. It would be appreciated if any information could be given concerning its likely origin. No damage was caused but there is considerable public discussion.

2. The debris consists of two spheres which landed some 240 metres apart. The first was discovered on 24 October and the second on 5 November. Both probably landed within a few days of the former date and a witness describes a possible falling object at 1400 on 23 October GMT. (2am local time) The location was $171^{\circ}44'E/44^{\circ}04'S$ which is 20 km south of Ashburton in the South Island, and one mile from the coast.

3. Only the first object has so far been examined, physical description as follows:

Sphere, weight 882 grams but originally about 10% more.
Welded around equator
Diameter at equator 180 mm
Diameter through poles 165 mm
Thickness 3 mm.
18 holes melted through surface including large holes at the poles, one of 20 mm diameter and the other 110 x 20 mm roughly rectangular.
Surface spattered with magnetic globules up to 3 mm diameter, probably molten steel.
Preliminary analysis 11.1%Si, 0.7%Fe, 0.02%Mg, 0.02%Cu, remainder Al.
No identifying marks or attachments.
Not radioactive.

Released Under the Information Act 1982

2.

4. EID Comment. At least the first object appeared too early to be part of the Progress-4 Soviet spacecraft. It was too clean inside and out to have been lying unobserved for long. A small impression 3 cm deep possibly caused by impact, was reported in stony ground close to second object. Considering the relatively low melting point of the alloy (about 570°C) it is surprising that complete destruction did not occur. This suggests that the objects were enclosed in a steel structure which protected them from air friction until a late stage in their descent.

s9(2)(a)

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

All correspondence should be addressed to:
THE SECRETARY OF DEFENCE,
PRIVATE BAG, WELLINGTON, N.Z.
Telephone 726 499



DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS
WELLINGTON, N.Z.

8/7/80
Copy...
In reply please quote:

Directorate of Defence
Intelligence

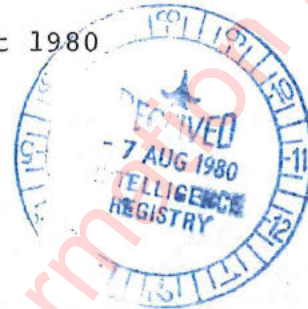
s9(2)(a)

REPORT
SEE U.F.
CO/406

Def 2052/2/DDI

6 August 1980

Director
EIB



UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT SIGHTING:
14 JULY 1980

uF/CO/406

- ... 1. Enclosed is a police report on a UFO sighting, at Waipukurau, on 14 July 1980.
- 2. As Defence Headquarters no longer has responsibility for action on these sightings, the report is forwarded for your appropriate action.

s9(2)(a)

Enclosure: 1. Report dated 31 July 1980

section 9(2)(a)

EE 8/7/1

3 November 1978

1 SIGNATURES INITIALED		
2 FOR SIGNATURE	by	
	Date	Initials
3 DISPATCH	on	at
4 BRING UP		

Section 9(2)(a)

Permanent Head,
Prime Minister's Department


ASHBURTON SPACE BALL

1. The object discovered by Mr **Section 9(2)(a)** on his farm 20 km south of Ashburton on 24 October has been examined and is now at the Chemistry Division, DSIR in Gracefield for analysis.

2. It is unlike the 1972 objects in size, appearance and composition. Constructed of an aluminium-silicon alloy commonly used for castings, the object has been partially melted and spattered with globules of molten steel. It is clean inside and out, showing no sign of the contamination that would be expected if it had lain on the ground unnoticed for a long period. Its country of origin has not been identified so far.

3. Once the full witnesses' reports have been received from the Police, we will attempt to establish whether it is, as we now think possible, one of the many thousands of pieces of "space junk" which orbit the earth and occasionally re-enter the atmosphere.

s9(2)(a)



Released under the Official Information Act 1982

~~65/30/14~~ DDI

FLE. →

8/7/2 E15

Directorate of Defence Intelligence

17 March 1977

s9(2)(a)

Civil Aviation Division,
Ministry of Transport,
Private Bag,
Wellington

881049

40
721253

4 no 5...

UFO SIGHTING

1. Our telecon 17 March 1977 refers.
2. Enclosed is a copy of a report on a UFO sighting forwarded to us by the NZ Meteorological Service.
3. DDI would be grateful for any additional comments available.

s9(2)(a)



Wing Commander
for Secretary of Defence

Enc:

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

Attention:

s9(2)(a)

① ADDI (F)

② File. → 66/30/17 DSI 8/7/2 1977



REPORT ON U.F.O. SIGHTING

s9(2)(a)

Research Division,

N.Z. Meteorological Service.

DETAILS OF SIGHTING

NAME AND ADDRESS OF SIGHTER: Wellington Air traffic Control, Wgtn Airport.

TIME AND PLACE OF SIGHTING: 2010 M Sunday 13 March 1977. Wgtn Airport.

NATURE OF SIGHTING

Object picked up visually and also on Radar between 1950 and 2010 M travelling between Port Underwood & Hawkins Hill. Possibly higher than 15000ft & appeared to have two white navigation lights. Was

COMMENTS ON SIGHTING BY INVESTIGATOR

apparently (seen by a pilot & one of his passengers.)

Report received through Wgtn Airport Met. Office. ~~Suggest~~ for. No meteorological balloons released near this time.

FURTHER ACTION TAKEN

FURTHER ACTION RECOMMENDED

Suggest further enquiries be directed to Air Traffic Control, section 9(2)(a)

When action completed pass this form to I.P.O.(Air), Directorate of Service Intelligence, Ministry of Defence, for recording purposes.

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

1. DISPATCH CONTROL		
2. PER SIGNATURE	by	
	Date	Initials
3. DISPATCH	14/76	MB
	on	to
4. BRING UP		

1 April 1976

s9(2)(a)

United Nations Division,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
Wellington

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

(Ref. your telephone enquiry of 31 March 1976)

The situation is that several Departments have received reports on UFO sightings and have carried out limited investigations from time to time, but there is no coordinated Government policy on the subject.

2. In April 1968 and again in January 1970 meetings were held attended by representatives of:

DSIR
Carter Observatory
Air Traffic Control Operations, Ministry of Transport
NZ Meteorological Service
RNZAF Directorate of Operations
Directorate of Service Intelligence.

3. It was decided that sightings would be recorded on a special form and filed in the Directorate of Service Intelligence.

4. In June 1972 this responsibility was transferred to the Joint Intelligence Bureau (myself) but there have been no further meetings and few reports.


5. The Director EIB has recently dissociated the Bureau from the UFO scene except that I am to be available if required as a "consultant".

6. In effect, there is no coordination between the Departments represented at the meetings each of which may receive and investigate a sighting or consult one another if they think it worthwhile. The Ministry of Defence does not provide any resources for investigating UFO sightings and does not consider them to be a threat.

2.

7. I understand the Chief of Air Staff is at present considering the question of RNZAF policy on UFO sightings and it may therefore be timely to refer the question to him. There might be a change from the standard reply that there is "no policy" on the subject.

s9(2)(a)

A large rectangular grey box redacting the text in this section.

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

RESTRICTED

file E1 8/7/2

s9(2)(a)

[Redacted]

Esps

Sgt Lt Col

section 9(2)(a)

assured

me that you were the intelligence community's officer who deals with UFOs.

On 7 May Mr

section 9(2)(a)

of

section 9(2)(a)

section 9(2)(a)

[Redacted]

, LEVIN (no telephone)

came in to report:

- a. a sighting of a UFO some years ago.
- b. his mental reception of beams from outer space which carried voice communications.
- c. his mental reception of films in this way.

Mr section 9(2)(a) was concerned that the agency directing

these beams would gain access to our intelligence thereby

section 9(2)(a)

[Redacted]

section 9(2)(a)

[Redacted]

I told him that his report

would be noted.

section 9(2)(a)

[Redacted]

8 May 75

RESTRICTED

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

8/7/1

FOR SIGNATURE	by	
DATE	Date	1. 11/15
CLASSIFICATION	cn	1100

24 January 1975

The Master
T.E.V. Rangatira
WELLINGTON

Dear Sir,


Thank you for your letter of 23 December 1974 reporting the observation of an unidentified object at 0420 on 22 December.

2. We are unable to throw any light on this incident as we do not have the resources to investigate such reports in detail.

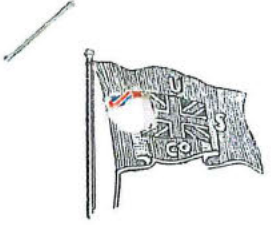
3. From the information in your letter (and you did not say how long the object remained in sight) we would agree that it is unlikely to have been a satellite, although the re-entry into the earth's atmosphere of space debris is a possibility. Some thousands of objects are regularly tracked and predictions of their re-entry and burn up in the atmosphere are published by the US National Aeronautical and Space Administration.

Yours faithfully

s9(2)(a)



Released under the Official Information Act 1982



UNION STEAM SHIP COMPANY OF NEW ZEALAND, LIMITED
(INCORPORATED IN NEW ZEALAND)

8/17/2
4-9-74
Copy 1/1/

t.e.v. 'Rangatira'
WELLINGTON.



23rd December, 1974.

Section 9(2)(a)

YOUR REF.....
OUR REF.....

The Director.
Joint Intelligence Bureau.
Departmental Building.
Stout Street 1.
WELLINGTON.

Dear Sir,

Please find enclosed Second Officers report concerning an object sighted in the sky off Motanau Island.

Yours faithfully,
Section 9(2)(a)
MASTER.

was sighted forward of the beam travelling from South to North at a rate that would have covered the 180° of sky in approximately 5 minutes.

On investigation no flashing lights were visible so we assume it wasn't an aircraft. Having witnessed satellites before it was travelling much faster than any previously seen, therefore we wonder if you could offer any explanation as to what this object was.

The observers were:-

s9(2)(a)

Yours faithfully,
s9(2)(a)

Released under the Official Information Act 1982



ESTABLISHED
1875

IN ANY FURTHER
CORRESPONDENCE ON THIS
SUBJECT PLEASE QUOTE
REFERENCE HEREUNDER

YOUR REF.

OUR REF.

UNION STEAM SHIP CO. OF N.Z. LTD.

SHIPOWNERS AND OPERATORS • TOUR OPERATORS • WORLD-WIDE TRAVEL AGENTS • BOOKING AGENTS FOR ALL MAJOR SEA AIR AND LAND SERVICES

J.I.	4/7/71
Copy	8/7/1



t.e.v. 'Rangatira'
WELLINGTON.

23rd December, 1971

Section 9(2)(a)

The Master.
t.e.v. 'Rangatira'
WELLINGTON.

Dear Sir,

On Sunday 22nd December at approx. 0420 when vessel was in a position Motanau Island Bearing 307(T) 10miles an object about the magnitude of Venus was sighted forward of the beam travelling from South to North at a rate that would have covered the 180° of sky in approximately 5 minutes.

On investigation no flashing lights were visible so we assume it wasn't an aircraft. Having witnessed satellites before it was travelling much faster than any previously seen, therefore we wonder if you could offer any explanation as to what this object was.

The observers were:--

s9(2)(a)

Yours faithfully,

s9(2)(a)

Released under the Official Information Act 1982