

Lewis Research Center
Cleveland, Ohio
44135

Reply to Attn of: 0110

October 4, 1990

Dr. Gary P. Posner
Tampa Bay Skeptics
6219 Palma Boulevard, #210
St. Petersburg, FL 33715

Dear Dr. Posner:

I received your letter dated September 18, 1990, with a series of questions regarding Richard Hoagland's visits to the Lewis Research Center. I will do my best to respond.

(1) Dr. John Klineberg was the Director of the Lewis Research Center until July 1 of this year. He is now the Director of the Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, Maryland 20771, and can be reached by telephone at (301) 286-5121. Dr. Klineberg introduced Mr. Hoagland for the ALERT presentation in March where about 500 employees were in attendance. His introductory remarks included the following: "...He's managed to convince the President to state the return to Mars as one of our major goals...." I understand that this statement was made with tongue in cheek, but you would have to contact Dr. Klineberg directly to determine his intent.

(2) The Annual Conference for the NASA/OSU Aerospace Education Services Program was held at Lewis on September 4-11, 1990. This conference was attended by about 50 people, some of them are teachers, some may be scientists, some may be engineers, and I would say they are all educators by nature of their work. To say that this was a "major national NASA education conference" and that "the auditorium was full" would be stretching it a bit.

The purpose of the conference was to bring together all of the people associated with the NASA/Oklahoma State University Aerospace Education Services Project (AESP), a national program of free services to teachers, students, and the general public. AESP provides the professional services of aerospace education specialists who are qualified educators and are knowledgeable in aeronautics and the space sciences. These specialists are able to communicate NASA's activities; past, present, and future. They conduct workshops and seminars to teachers; present lectures, demonstrations, and special classroom programs to students; and make presentations to civic clubs and professional groups.

(3) According to Dr. L. Bondurant, the organizer of the conference, Mr. Hoagland was invited to speak at this conference "to stretch the peoples' minds, give them an update on Hoagland's views, and give them something to think about." Mr. Hoagland was scheduled to speak on

September 11, from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m., but had to be cut off at 3 p.m. in order to have time for a conference wrap-up and to allow the attendees to make travel connections. Because of the time constraints, the attendees had a number of unanswered questions which raised their frustration level. They appeared to be interested in the presentation.

Dr. Eddie Anderson is Chief, Elementary and Secondary Education Branch in the Educational Affairs Division at NASA Headquarters. His comment to me when I asked him your question was that he was just being a genial host in expressing interest in Mr. Hoagland's findings. He made no comment as to their veracity.

(4) For a number of years Dr. Bondurant has interviewed guests that make presentations at Lewis. These interviews are videotaped and later prepared for a thirty-minute segment that is distributed by the Southern Educational Communications Association via the WESTAR IV satellite. Mr. Hoagland's interview and some portion of his presentation may be one of these segments.

(5) Mr. Hoagland presented a video describing the "N Machine." There was interest in the presentation, but again, many unanswered questions.

(6) To my knowledge, there is no "official" interest in any of Mr. Hoagland's claims.

I took the liberty of contacting some of the people that worked on the Viking Program. They were convinced that it was a combination of light and shadow that gave the illusion of the "face" on the "monuments on Mars." They also stated that it was an amusing artifact of nature, much like Eagle Rock or Camelback Mountain. I also contacted some of the people working on the proposed new mission to Mars, and they are not aware of any interest in Mr. Hoagland's claims. They plan a number of precursor missions to investigate Mars prior to selection of sites for landing.

I hope these answers are of some help to you.

Sincerely,

Americo F. Forestieri

Americo F. Forestieri
Director of External Affairs