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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Moore

DATE: 2/21/75

FROM : Mr. Heim

SUBJECT: PHILIP J. KASS
SENIOR AVIONICS EDITOR
AVIATION WEEK & SPACE TECHNOLOGY
CRITICISM OF FBI

Assoc. Dir. _____
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BACKGROUND:

Date in the afternoon of 2/19/75, captioned individual telephoned the Bureau and spoke with the Editor of the FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin (LEB). In strong terms laced with sarcasm, he derided our publication of the article by Dr. J. Allen Hynek, "The UFO Mystery," in the February, 1975, issue of the LEB. Klass suggested that by publishing this article, the FBI had given its endorsement to a hoax (that UFOs are extra-terrestrial in origin) and to a fraud (Dr. J. Allen Hynek). Klass went on to state that he had investigated UFO sightings "with the thoroughness of the FBI" over a period of many years and found not one shred of evidence that any such objects as UFOs existed, let alone that they were from beyond the earth's atmosphere. He also contended that his investigations have led to several books and many articles on the topic.

Mr. Klass was politely reminded that nowhere in Dr. Hynek's article appearing in the Bulletin, or in numerous other of his writings which were examined by us, does Hynek suggest that UFOs are extra-terrestrial in origin. Additionally, it was pointed out to Klass that the term "UFO (Unidentified Flying Object)" leaves room for all manner of phenomena both real and imagined.

Furthermore, Klass was informed that the only thing the FBI endorsed in the publication of Dr. Hynek's article was its clearly stated premise that "Regardless of the source of UFOs or their legitimacy, these sightings represented a real threat for law enforcement...." to whom persons would normally first report their observations.

As to the suggestion that the author is a fraud, Klass was informed that Hynek is a widely respected scientist, recognized by all creditable professionals in his field of expertise who is affiliated with a leading university (University of Wisconsin). This, Klass replied: "He won't be for long!"

1 - Mr. Moore
JHC:bhm (5)

DATE: 12-20-2005
CLASSIFIED BY: 60309/AUC/TAM/DCG/BN
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Klass would not elaborate on this statement, nor was he requested to do so.

Moreover, Klass contended that Hynek's bias toward the notion that UFOs are actually objects and creatures from outer space was demonstrated following his interview of the two men from Mississippi who reported they were held captive for a time by green, other worldly beings who arrived on earth and departed from it in a saucer-shaped spaceship. Klass stated that Hynek reportedly said, "There is no doubt these men have had a terrifying experience." Mr. Klass was told that many people would draw no such inference as he had from this remark.

The conversation was concluded when Klass suggested that we might be interested in publishing an article by a newly formed organization called the "Center for Unidentified Ghosts."

INFORMATION CONCERNING KLAS:

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Bufiles disclose that Klass has, from time to time, come to our attention by virtue of the fact that he has been in

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

(S) this Bureau [REDACTED] and
b1 not to be of assistance to his government."

Klass has been affiliated with Aviation Week & Space Technology magazine for at least the past 20 years. This periodical is published by McGraw-Hill, Inc., with offices in New York. However, Klass is based in Washington, D.C., and maintains an office in the Press Building on 14th Street, Northwest, and is listed in the D.C. telephone directory at 560 M Street, Southwest.

A book review concerning one of his published works entitled "UFOs -- Identified," published by Random House, credits him with a scientific approach to explaining the UFO phenomena, but specifically notes that he is in disagreement with Dr. Hynek and others prominent in this field.

Klass' attempts to discredit Hynek are totally without foundation. Hynek could scarcely have any better scientific cre-

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dentials. All of his writings and public statements that were examined prior to publication of his article in the Bulletin disclose a meticulously objective and scientific view of the UFO phenomenon.

OBSERVATIONS:

In view of Klass' intemperate criticism and often irrational statements he made to support it, we should be most circumspect in any future contacts with him.

RECOMMENDATION:

For information.

A. W. Moore
Heim
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