

39 AD

Section 40

Loose Minute

D/Sec(AS)12/2

14 September 1990

APS/US of S(AF)

Copy to:
 Head of Sec(AS)
 DD GE/AEW
 DDP(RAF)

UFO file.

PHOTOGRAPHS OF AN UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT - SCOTTISH DAILY RECORD

1. US of S(AF) may wish to be aware that the Scottish Daily Record may run a story regarding an alleged sighting of a UFO near Pitlochrie in early August. Such stories are not normally drawn to the attention of Ministers and the MoD press office invariably responds to questions along well-established lines emphasising our limited interest in the UFO phenomenon and explaining that we therefore do not have the resources to undertake any in-depth investigations into particular sightings. On this occasion however, the MoD has been provided with six photographic negatives of an alleged UFO by the Scottish Daily Record and has been asked for comments almost certainly for inclusion in a forthcoming story. For this reason it is felt that US of S(AF) should be made aware of the background and the line adopted by the DDP(RAF) in responding to the newspaper.
2. The photographs, which were received on 10 Sept, are alleged to have been taken near the A9 road at Clavine, north of Pitlochrie on the evening of 4 August. They show a large stationary, diamond-shaped object past which, it appears, a small jet aircraft is flying. The negatives have been considered by the relevant staffs who have established that the jet aircraft is a Harrier (and also identified a barely visible second aircraft, again probably a Harrier) but have reached no definite conclusion regarding the large object. It has also been confirmed that there is no record of Harriers operating in the area at the time at which the photographs are alleged to have been taken. The negatives have now been returned to the Scottish Daily Record.
3. In consultation with DDP(RAF) it has been agreed that the attached lines to take should be used in responding to the Scottish Daily Record. These are consistent with the position adopted in the replies to the many public and occasional parliamentary enquiries on the subject of UFOs.

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SCOTTISH DAILY RECORD - PHOTOGRAPHS OF UFO

DEFENSIVE LINES TO TAKE:

- Have looked at photographs, no definite conclusions reached regarding large diamond-shaped object.
- Confident that jet aircraft is a Harrier.
- Have no record of Harriers operating in location at stated time/date.
- No other reports received by MoD of unusual air activity or sightings at location/date/time.

IF PRESSED

Who in MoD studied pictures?

- All sighting reports (including on occasion photographs/drawings etc) received by MoD are referred to the staff in the departments which are responsible for air defence of UK who examine them as part of their normal duties.

Other reports of UFOs from Scotland?

- UFO reports from Scotland are rare.