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The federal government is suppressing UFO evidence

By Larry W. Bryant

Last fall, at a UFO research symposium sponsored by the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., a vocal anti-UFO writer exhorted the audience's pro-UFO contingent to put up or shut up.
What he meant was that he's tired of hearing that the UFO subject deserves serious attention on the part of academia and government. He feels that the intellectual noise pollution on the part of UFO advocates who refuse to bear the burden of proof is a disservice to science and to sanity. He wants them to submit their case to binding arbitration, as it were.
If they can't produce convincing (to him) evidence in a reasonable period of time — say, 12 months from the date of the Smithsonian event — then they ought to agree to abandon their cause.

Aside from the simplistic slant of the critic's proposal — it's impractical for the meager resources of privately funded UFO research to be focused on a single aspect of such a broad issue — the critic misses the point, for the verdict is already in. Over the past several years of its evolution, the verdict reached its high point this July with the 12th annual symposium of the Mutual UFO Network, held at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.
One of the featured speakers was New York attorney Peter A. Gersten, active in pursuing official UFO documentation via the U.S. Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). The symposium's theme — "UFO's: The Hidden Evidence" — was epitomized by Gersten's presentation. Marching through a chronicle of documentation thus far released through FOIA litigation, Gersten left no doubt in the audience's mind that this emerging body of testimony reveals a systematic effort by the

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federal government to suppress its hard-core evidence of UFO reality.
Indeed, mused Gersten, if the testimony were the substance of a criminal law case, the defendant (i.e., the government) would be in deep trouble. Proof to a lawyer need not be the same as proof demanded by a physical scientist.
Where goes Gersten from here?
Right now he's awaiting a federal appeals court decision in an FOIA case involving the UFO-related records of the U.S. Central Intel-

ligence Agency — records whose very existence was denied by the agency before advent of the act. The court's decision is important not only to UFO-oriented citizens; if it favors the agency, it will strengthen CIA efforts to achieve full exemption from provisions of the act.
Another suit for vital UFO documentation is also pending at the appeals level. The defendant: none other than the supersecret National Security Agency, which declines to release some 135 documents on the grounds that to do so would jeopardize national security. The NSA position contradicts the earlier, formal government pronouncement that the reported UFO's pose no threat to the nation's security.
In the meantime, Gersten is asking all reluctant participants in the 34-year-old "UFO coverup" to come forward with the final facts and figures. Of course, this isn't as easy as it seems — given the intelligence community's

hold on its members' past/present/future conduct, as guaranteed by their oaths of secrecy. But here's one way to get around that hold, for the purpose of the public's "right to know."
If you're a present or former principal in the coverup, merely write to President Reagan with the request that he free you from your secrecy oath as regards your hard-core UFO knowledge. Specify in your letter that no reply from him will be taken as a go-ahead to tell all. If the government means what it says about the declassified status of official UFO-related records, then you need fear no reprisal. Send a copy of your letter to us (anonymously, if you prefer), along with whatever reply you receive, and we'll discreetly proceed from there.
Help us let "the evidence speak for itself."
Larry W. Bryant is administrator for Citizens Against UFO Secrecy. He lives in Arlington.