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1955 DEFENCE RESEARCH

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*Defence Research*

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WHITEHALL,  
LONDON, S.W. 1

*273*

22nd March, 1955.

*R 22/2.*

*Dear Montague Browne,*

Thank you for your letter  
of March 14th.

I am indeed much interested  
in the article from the "Air  
Ministry Secret Intelligence  
Summary" about flying saucers,  
and am most grateful to you  
for thinking of sending it  
to me.

*Sincerely*

*Buncan Sandys*

Anthony Montague Browne, Esq.,  
D.F.C.,

Defence (Research)

3

March 14, 1955.

**RESTRICTED**

Dear Mr. Sandys

I remember your talking about flying saucers when we were at Chequers some time ago. I enclose an article from the "Air Ministry Secret Intelligence Summary" which may be of interest to you though I doubt whether there is anything in it which you do not know already.

..✓

Volume 10  
No. 3.

Yours sincerely  
AMB.

The Right Hon. Duncan Sandys, M.P.

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G.R.

Defence (Research)

AIR MINISTRY, 4  
WHITEHALL,  
S.W.1.

PRIME MINISTER

The various reports about unidentified flying objects, described by the Press as "flying saucers", were the subject of a full Intelligence study in 1951. The conclusions reached (based upon William of Occam's Razor) were that all the incidents reported could be explained by one or other of the following causes:-

- (a) Known astronomical or meteorological phenomena
- (b) Mistaken identification of conventional aircraft, balloons, birds, etc.
- (c) Optical illusions and psychological delusions
- (d) Deliberate hoaxes.

2. The Americans, who carried out a similar investigation in 1948/9, reached a similar conclusion.

3. Nothing has happened since 1951 to make the Air Staff change their opinion, and, to judge from recent Press statements, the same is true in America.

4. I am sending a copy of this to Lord Cherwell.

S.L.B.

9<sup>th</sup> August, 1952.

Put by

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Subject file B.7.6.8.52

Separate (Research)

PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MINUTE

5

SERIAL No. M.412/52

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR AIR

LORD CHERWELL

What does all this stuff about flying saucers amount to? What can it mean? What is the truth. Let me have a report at your convenience.

W.S.C.

28 July 1952

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DEFENCE (Research).



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END

Prime Minister

I have seen the Secretary of State's  
minute to you on flying saucers and agree  
entirely with his conclusions.

*Cherwell.*

R 14th August, 1952

*WJ*  
*15. WJ*

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**END**