

sis of government deception (e.g., sightings in Texas in 1897, the disappearance of a U. S. destroyer in 1944, a shadowy English will purporting to make an inheritance available to organizations that attempt to contact extraterrestrials).

Occasionally Vallee gets quite careless. For instance, after giving the declination and right ascension of IUMMA (star of the planet UMMO, noted above) about 15 light years away, he writes, "this would place it squarely in a region of great transparency, near the Galactic North Pole, which is free from hydrogen clouds. *Therefore*, IUMMA should be visible to us as a fifth magnitude star, easily seen with the naked eye" (p. 99; emphasis added). Vallee gives no optical luminosity for the star, however, and it is impossible to conclude that it would be of the fifth magnitude without that information.

This is called the third book (see Vallee, 1988, 1990) of his Alien Contact trilogy (an odd title for books written by one so doubtful of UFO's extraterrestrial origin), but there is little continuity between the three books. In fact, they did not all have the same publisher and it was not until after the second book's appearance that it was even labelled a trilogy. By training and familiarity, Vallee has much to offer in the formidable task of making some sense of the UFO phenomenon, but *Revelations* is in that respect a disappointment.

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RESPONSE

Vallee's Response to Canon

The need to carefully separate spurious data from valuable observation is crucial in any science. This is especially true in the development of fragile frontier areas where no consensus yet exists on the corpus of evidence to be analyzed. In writing *Revelations*, my purpose was to call the attention of my

fellow researchers to the fact that several highly visible UFO cases I had studied seemed to be tainted by human manipulation and in some cases by government deception.

When Bradley Canon's friend asked, "why on earth would the government go to all that trouble?" (Canon, 1993) she expressed a puzzlement which is in the mind of every student of the field. It is true that I only have speculations to offer in response. These speculations, however, have received further validation since the book's publication. Revelations made clear not only the security motivations but also the actual chain of command in the case of the "low observable" objects glimpsed in Nevada and elsewhere. Continuing sightings of bizarre objects in Belgium and in Germany and in the vicinity of Edwards Air Force Base seem to fall under the same rubric. In a related development, a sensational pattern in abduction reports involving the Linda Napolitano case in Manhattan and the "Wendy" case of a self-proclaimed hybrid woman in San Francisco has now given us further examples of human manipulation.

As for the contention that people involved in deception "would have spilled the beans a long time ago," it betrays superficial acquaintance with the nature and structure of such operations. To take only one example among a vast and complex field, how much has Mr. Canon's friend found out about the MK-Ultra mind control projects conducted since the fifties? Compensation of the victims of one particular series of CIA-sponsored experiments conducted secretly at Montreal's Allan Memorial Institute by prominent psychiatrist Ewen Cameron between 1950 and 1965 has only been announced last November (Reuters, 1992). In all that time none of the perpetrators came forward voluntarily to talk about it.

It is noteworthy that the settlement in this case arose from a lawsuit in which 55-year old Linda Macdonald, who had been referred to the institute suffering from depression, claimed she was drugged, kept asleep for eighty-six days and given more than one hundred electroshocks. Released after five months, she did not remember her husband, children or the first twenty-six years of her life. Is it necessarily absurd to see a parallel between such outlandish, highly classified projects and some of the more bizarre abduction reports that are now surfacing? Will the reviewer's friend ask "why on earth" two governments conspired to subject this poor woman to psychic driving to wipe her brain clear?

It is indeed regrettable that in a few cases I was not in a position to publish all my sources by name. However I have gone much farther than the general literature of the field in this regard, so much so that two separate groups threatened legal action in an attempt to silence me and to censor some of the information in the book. I remain confident that the text contains enough specific information to encourage further investigation into those incidents that I have exposed as hoaxes or examples of manipulation.

My reference to JSE as "the only refereed publication in the field" is justifiably challenged by the reviewer. The politics of ufology being what they are, I

should have qualified JSE as "the only refereed publication in the field *which is not linked to a particular UFO group.*" I never implied that articles published in other journals (to which I have occasionally collaborated) were necessarily worse or better than those in JSE, and my remarks were not intended as a slight to their editors.

Aside from these misunderstandings, Bradley Canon's review also contains a number of plainly inaccurate statements that demand to be corrected. In particular, neither I nor Dr. Hynek ever served as investigators for the Condon Committee and I am at a loss to imagine where such a notion could have originated. Both Hynek and I were convinced of the reality of the UFO phenomenon long before the Condon committee came into existence, as the reader of my recently-published diaries will plainly realize (Vallee, 1992).

Revelations is indeed the third book in a trilogy. The continuity is obvious since the first volume, *Dimensions* deals with the historical and mythological perspective of the UFO problem, while the second one, *Confrontations* is devoted to a review of new empirical evidence based on my recent field investigations. It is true (but hardly important) that for reasons that had to do with my relationship to various companies the hard cover version of *Dimensions* was brought out by one firm and the subsequent volumes by another. All three works have now been reprinted in mass paperback format by Ballantine, including a revised version of *Revelations* which corrects some inaccuracies and clarifies some of the points that were obscure in the hard cover edition.

I fail to see why the trilogy should not be called *Alien Contact*. As Bradley Canon rightly observes, I believe that UFOs are "associated with a form of nonhuman consciousness." Contrary to a notion that has clouded the ufological debate far too long, such a form of consciousness doesn't have to be extraterrestrial in order to be alien.

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