

MINNESOTA MUFON

Newsletter

Issue # 38 November 1992

From the State Director

Those of you who were present at the beginning of the November Minnesota MUFON meeting heard my announcement that I have accepted a position as a Design Engineer at a company called M-tron in Yankton, South Dakota. I am to start there before the first of the year. I was gratified by the chorus of "Oooh"s that greeted that announcement. I have mixed feelings: feelings of regret at having to leave Minnesota MUFON and the Twin City area, but good feelings about having landed what I expect to be an excellent position at M-tron. Another regret is that I feel I should give up the State Directorship of Minnesota MUFON. I believe that you need someone on the scene as Director. The duties of that position as I see them include the following:

1. Set times and places for the meetings.
2. Direct investigations of UFO reports and suspected abduction experiences.
3. Attempt to provide support for individuals who have been personally impacted by UFO-related experiences.
4. Appoint state officers such as State Section Directors, Director of Abductee Support Group.

In November I phoned MUFON International Director Walt Andrus and told him I was expecting to step down as State Director, and asked him what the procedure is for choosing a new Director. He said that I should decide who I thought would be a good Director, ask this person if they were willing to serve, and if the answer was affirmative, Walt would appoint this person to the position.

Accordingly, I came up with a list of four people I felt would make good Directors and discussed this with each. The four people, in alphabetical order, were Buddy Bauerlein, John Dingley, Dick Moss and John Sawicke. The result was that three of them expressed the opinion that Dick Moss should be the new Director, and Dick expressed his willingness to serve. I heartily concur with this choice, and will be recommending his appointment to Walt Andrus.

In a related development, Wally Moe has expressed a desire to resign as Assistant State Director, and instead to chair a group to study the paranormal. Accordingly, I have accepted his resignation and have appointed him Director, Paranormal Study Group.

William I. McNeff
State Director

Editors Note: Although we are reluctant to say good-bye to Bill, our Director and friend, we wish him success in his new position and wish both him and Mrs. McNeff a smooth transition to their new home.

Dr. John Salter speaks to group

An account by William McNeff

The November 14th meeting of Minnesota MUFON was privileged to hear **Dr. John Salter, Head of the Department of Indian Studies of the University of North Dakota**, give an account of the close encounters he and his son experienced in 1988. About 50 people were in attendance – and in rapt attention.

Dr. Salter believes he's had four encounters, the first when he was a young boy in 1941, the others in 1952, 1957 and 1988. In the first, he was playing by a river in Kansas when he saw a rectangular UFO at close range. He has since discovered a sketch he made following that incident, showing a struggling boy being given an injections by a "man", which he believes is connected with that incident.

The experience which his son, shared occurred in March 1988. They were proceeding south, driving a pickup truck. When leaving a filling station in Wisconsin, they noted a strange little man wearing an overcoat, dark glasses and a "Greek fisherman" hat, rushing to leave the station at the same time. The son, John Salter III, who was studying English in college at the time, wondered aloud about the little man. Dr. Salter, apparently in a humorous dig at his son, said the little man looked like a "[screwed up] English professor!" Dr. Salter said he could feel the little man's eyes, even behind the dark glasses. As they drove off, the man followed them in a Volkswagen beetle. Salter began to slow down, but the little man stayed behind even though he slowed to 35mph!

Although the gas station stop was made in mid afternoon, Salter and his son found themselves far off course at 6:25 pm, with no memory of what had intervened. The next day while they were driving, a disc-shaped craft made a pass at them which they felt was a greeting, and was also connected with the strange events of the previous day.

Over the next few months, their memories slowly returned and they recalled meeting a group of short, gray beings along with a taller, more human-appearing being at the end of a very rough side road. They were escorted to a disc-shaped craft, given physical exams and

injections in the thyroid and thymus glands. There was a friendly, emotional parting, and the taller being let them know they would meet again. All communication was by telepathy; communication from the taller being sounded in their minds like mainline American English.

Since the encounter, Dr. Salter has experienced no flu or colds nor has he had the need of a doctor. He's experienced 24 physical changes, including growing one third of an inch in his mid 50's. His son has also experienced changes although not to the same degree.

Said Dr. Salter of the encounter with the aliens, *"We see this all as very friendly! I don't buy the gloom and doom stuff. I have talked to many people; the majority see this as positive." There is a strong correlations with social justice and ecological concerns,"* he said.

Following Dr. Salter's talk there was a question/answer period. One person asked why the CBS Special, "Intruders" (aired this spring) was shown, apparently wondering about a government role in this. Dr. Salter said he had not followed the government's role and has not personally experienced any interference or surveillance in regard to his MUFON role. In contrast, in 1956, as a result of his civil rights activities, the FBI put him on their Section A list of agitators. He was able to get the FBI to release 4000 pages contained in his file, not including parts withheld on grounds of national security!

There were questions about the ETs: Where did they come from, what is the climate on their planet like? Dr. Salter said they come from the Zeta Reticuli group and not all ETs look alike. The taller ET explained their differences as being due to migrations from planet to planet. *The ETs are one race with variants.* Light on these planets is very dim which perhaps explains the large eyes. The Zeta group is one billion years older than our solar system.

Dr. Salter gave an analogy between the ETs and we earthlings: *Imagine that you have a nice house in a nice area of town. On the other end of the block is a disorderly family with young children who begin coming down to your end of the block, using bad language, breaking pop bottles on the sidewalk, etc. You could blast them, but that's against your ethics. Rather, you "play social worker" and bring the family up to*

your level. In other words, humanity are being slowly educated.

What else are the ETs up to? "A group of half-breeds are being created. Any time races have come together, half-breeds have served as go-betweens."

Someone asked if Dr. Salter had taken any tests. "I haven't had blood or tissue tests taken. If I do, it will be under very strict security precautions. A scientist who is studying these changes has met with me over 50 times."

John Dingley asked "Can we or should we trust the ETs? Shouldn't we try to find out what they are really up to?" Salter's answer implied that we should trust them, that he believes the ETs have gone through some very tough times themselves, and can teach us much. He believes they have worked out a sensible balance between the individual and society.

Someone asked if the ETs believed in God. Dr. Salter said "I wouldn't ask the God question. All religions believe in one high God. ET's beliefs seem to be similar." When asked if he thought ETs might be demonic or angelic, Dr. Salter emphatically said they were neither -- they are a race of intelligent beings.

(This account is based on my notes. If I have made any serious errors, I would appreciate corrections from Dr. Salter. -- W.I.M.)



Expanding horizons...

Among some of the changes occurring after his encounter with ETs, Dr. John Salter reports that his "psychic sensitivities sharpened" and that there are "increased telekinetic episodes especially around electrical equipment." This is not surprising! Many UFO witnesses claim that they have also seen ghosts, experienced precognition, out-of-body sensations (OBEs) and other paranormal phenomenon. Wally Moe believes we're missing an important part of the picture by concentrating solely on UFO sightings and encounters *without learning and understanding the paranormal aspects surrounding the ETs*. Wally has offered to chair a special group to study the paranormal, and suggests that we set aside time at the regular meeting or conduct separate meetings for this purpose. You'll be asked to indicate your

interest and time/location preference at the December 12 meeting. If you *cannot attend the meeting but are interested in joining the study group*, write to the Editor at the address indicated on this Newsletter, or contact her at (612) 645-9576.

Wally has a great deal of interesting material on the subject matter and we look forward to some very intriguing discussions!

Minnesota MUFON Meeting

Saturday, December 12, 1992

The Irish Well

(Downstairs)

1975 University Ave. (at Prior) St. Paul

1:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Three new books have been added to our library thanks to an "angel" who prefers to remain anonymous! Readers will be pleased to be able to "check out" the following:

Silent Invasion by Ellen Crystal

Out There by Howard Blum

The Watchers by Raymon Fowler



Investigator sees UFO (This report came from Barbara Becker of the UFO Research Network in St. Louis and included in the UFO Intelligence Newsletter.)

Last May 15, 1992 around 5:30 p.m. (CSDT), Becker and her husband were watching the news on TV. From the position they were sitting, they were able to see both the TV and the sky through the nearby window. About the same time, both noticed a black object enter their field of view. It was coming through the clouds, against the wind, and toward them. Was it a bird? Was it a plane? Nope! And it wasn't Superman, either! It had no wings and the Beckers wondered if they were looking at box kite or a "bunch of balloons." When it came closer, it appeared to be a flat, black rectangle which seemed to waiver as it moved. They jumped out of their chairs to get a better look,

but when Barbara Becker ran outside, she *couldn't see the object at all*. Inside the house, Mr. Becker (who heard the door slam when she ran out) *still had the object in sight*. Mrs. Becker checked with a local TV station and found out the ceiling that day was 7000' -- she estimated the was about 500' from them and appeared to be about an inch long at arm's length at its closest point.

Case closed? Not quite! On July 18, while she was sitting outside about 7:30 p.m., Barbara began thinking about the black rectangle when suddenly it appeared again! It was moving NW to SE and had come through swirling clouds showing a wind direction out of the East, so it was definitely not following the air flow. After about 40 seconds, it passed directly overhead and disappeared in the South. Again, she saw movement from the outside of the rectangle toward the inside... like a *ripple*. This time, however, it was moving with the long end of the rectangle cutting the air.

According to the Editor Frances L. Ridge, identical sightings have been reported by others. One incident occurred in Belgium, another in Indianapolis.

Also reported in UFO Intelligence

Newsletter: Implant studied. "I regard the best physical evidence" yet produced in support of the claims of alien abduction "as being totally inconclusive," said MIT physicist David Pritchard. Pritchard, along with John Mack, organized a conference on the subject at MIT in June. In an interview (printed in *GLOBE*, Boston, MA, June 22, 1992) Pritchard stated he had studied one of the few pieces of purported physical evidence for the phenomenon: a tiny "implant" that UFO abductee Richard Price of Latham, NY says was placed in his abdomen by aliens and later worked its way out. Pritchard says the object provides "absolutely no proof of anything, but I wasn't able to explain it in some obvious way." Writer of the article, David Chandler, stated: "Some investigators suggest that while individual MRI scans don't mean much, a large number of similar images might be more convincing, especially if spots seen in them correspond to where the abductees say their implants were placed. Many of these investigators have said they find amazing similarities among account given by people who have had no contact with each other, but others

say the similarities could be caused by subtle leading of the witnesses by the investigators. If significant similarities showed up in accounts collected by different investigators, therefore, it might make a more compelling case."

Star Wars Test? Columbus, OH, Channel 14 TV news reported an unusual sighting on their 11 p.m. newscast on June 5, 1992 and showed a film of the happening. The footage was taken from the space shuttle while in orbit and showed two different objects flying nearby. One seemed to be firing at the other. No explanation given but the film must have been released by NASA. (Source: Roundtown, UFO Society, July/August).

Due to time constraints, material relating to the ongoing exchange between George P. Hansen/Jerome Clark regarding the alleged kidnapping and attempted murder of Linda Napolitano is presented "as is."

You already know UFO historian Jerome Clark as the Vice President, Center for UFO Studies, Editor of *International UFO Reporter*, author of various books and the recipient of the 1992 Isabel Davis Award. You are probably less familiar with George Hansen. I contacted Mr. Hansen by phone, and he very graciously overlooked my awkward attempt to ask for his "credentials" and provided the following.

George P. Hansen is an engineer by trade, has long been involved in parapsychological research, published a paper entitled "*CSICOP and the Skeptics*" and is currently working on a thorough report of the Linda Napolitano case. In fact, we caught Mr. Hansen in mid-sentence on his computer! The man Mr. Clark refers to as "Torquemada" was very friendly and agreeable, quite unlike his tagged namesake! Incidentally, if you are confused by the name "Torquemada," we can save you a trip to the encyclopedia! Torquemada was a Dominican monk and the first Grand Inquisitor of the Spanish Inquisition.

(We confess -- we had to look it up!)

"TORQUEMADA" RESPONDS TO JEROME CLARK

George P. Hansen

ABSTRACT: Jerome Clark is thanked for correcting a misinterpretation of his position reported in the paper "Attempted Murder vs. The Politics of Ufology." Clark has now provided, in writing, his reasons for opposing a federal investigation of the purported kidnapping and attempted murder of Linda Napolitano. This rationale and other writings of Clark are examined in order to gain insight into his thought processes.

This paper primarily discusses psychological factors influencing the investigation and interpretation of the Napolitano case. A paper is in preparation devoted to the substance and evaluation of the claims. This affair provides a wealth of material for those attempting to understand the field of ufology from a psycho-social perspective. In the long run, the actions and beliefs of the leaders of ufology may be far more important than Linda Napolitano's UFO abduction claim. As such, this may yet prove to be "The Case of the Century."

My article "Attempted Murder vs. The Politics of Ufology: A Question of Priorities in the Linda Napolitano Case" has been published in a number of newsletters and posted on electronic bulletin boards. In that piece I reported that Budd Hopkins, Walter Andrus, and Jerome Clark had urged that the reported attempted murder of Linda Napolitano not be communicated to law enforcement authorities because such could be damaging to ufology. Clark has recently issued a response correcting my interpretation of his remarks,¹ and I am grateful to him for now doing so. I should mention that I had sent Clark an earlier draft of my article and invited his comments before publishing it.²

The comments and reasoning of Clark should be of special interest to the UFO research community. He is vice-president of the Center for UFO Studies and editor of its magazine *International UFO Reporter*. He writes a monthly column for *Fate* magazine, has written books and even an encyclopedia on UFOs. The Fund for UFO Research gave him the prestigious Isabel Davis Award for 1992. Clark has placed himself in a prominent, public role and is now in a position to determine what many persons will chance to read about the topic.

1. "The Politics of Torquemada; or, Earth Calling Hansen's Planet" by Jerome Clark; 612 North Oscar Avenue, Canby, MN 56220; October 24, 1992.

2. Clark did not avail himself of this opportunity and sent me a note only saying "George -- Please do not call or write me again."

Clark's explanation

I am pleased that Clark now acknowledges, in writing, that he did indeed urge UFO researchers to suppress evidence of a series of felonies. He apparently wishes to impede the process of justice. His rationale is even more intriguing than I had imagined, and I will quote his entire paragraph explaining his position:

I urged the critics to refrain, over the next six months, from pursuing the investigation, which they had indicated now consisted, or would soon consist, of knocking on the doors of government agencies looking for evidence of the elusive Richard and Dan. I stated that, if this story is true, it is not just a UFO case but a "politically sensitive" event because it supposedly involves a political figure of international stature and therefore has consequences far outside the tiny world of ufology. If that is indeed the case, we would never find Richard and Dan (if they exist as who they say they are) because banging on the wrong doors could alert the relevant agency that two of its agents were leaking a huge secret. They would then be effectively silenced, and we would never learn the truth.

(From page 1 of his paper "The Politics of Torquemada")

This is a candid, and remarkably revealing, explanation, especially because Clark told me that he accepts Linda's story of being harassed, kidnapped, sexually molested, and nearly drowned by government agents. Clark's statement provides insight into his mindset.

First, we are urged to stop investigating the case (even though the affair has been discussed in *Oz*, the *Wall Street Journal*, *Paris Match*, the *Mufon UFO Journal*, and the *New York Times*). The statement displays Clark's true belief about the appropriateness of internal review and criticism in ufology.

Second, though the critics should refrain from investigating, presumably Hopkins should continue. One can only surmise that Clark believes Hopkins to be qualified to investigate kidnapping and attempted murder. He urges all outsiders to remove themselves from the case, and Clark would allow Richard and Dan six more months of unobstructed opportunities for kidnapping and murder. But concerned citizens should remain silent. This has led some to question Clark's grasp on reality.

Third, Clark suggests that "banging on the wrong doors could alert the relevant agency that two of its agents were leaking a huge secret." Clark's suggestion about "alerting the relevant agency" is ludicrous. Hopkins himself had already visited a number of agencies and made inquiries. He had even sent a picture of one of the agents to the United Nations. Further, Hopkins had spoken publicly numerous times about the case, including presentations for BUFORA, New Jersey MUFON, New York MUFON, the Abduction Study Conference at Massachusetts Institute

of Technology, the 1992 MUFON symposium in Albuquerque, and even the television show *Inside Edition*. If there actually was a conspiracy, the perpetrators would be fully aware of Hopkins' investigation. One can only wonder how Clark could rationally offer his idea.

Fourth, and most revealing, Clark suggests that it is plausible that a conspiracy at the top levels of the world's governments is suppressing evidence about this UFO abduction and the subsequent kidnappings, sexual molestation, and attempted murder. Not only was the United Nations Secretary General reportedly involved, but during a meeting I attended on October 3, 1992, Hopkins' partisans made allusions to the involvement of other world figures, though they were not named. Hopkins and Clark seem to think that they possess secret, crucial knowledge of the international political situation regarding the UFO abduction phenomena. Clark, living an isolated existence in a small, remote town in Minnesota, seems to believe himself to be in a position to make important recommendations affecting public disclosures by governments, revelations that would have a profound impact on world affairs.

Clark's earlier writings on conspiracy theories

It is worth briefly reviewing some of Clark's earlier writings on conspiracies because they provide additional illumination of his thinking. For instance, he calls Jacque Vallee's book *Revelations* "the ultimate conspiracy book"³ and describes Vallee as having an "ability to detect connections invisible to the rest of us [and it] reaches its most bizarre extreme..."⁴ He attacks John Keel, saying "that his speculations were laced with paranoia."⁵ These writings suggest deep, visceral reactions. For Clark, notions of conspiracies have a high psychological charge, and he appears unable to grapple with such ideas in a dispassionate frame of mind.

Unlike many vague conspiracy ideas, Clark's and Hopkins' are exceptionally specific. Hopkins claims to have a massive amount of evidence, and that material could be used to identify and convict the culprits. Times, dates, and places of the purported crimes are known as well as the license plate numbers of cars involved. But Hopkins and Clark refuse to divulge information. In any event, their conspiratorial notions are having a dramatic impact on the investigation of this case. We now have a stark instance of some of the most prominent leaders in ufology actively attempting to impede the enforcement of criminal laws they believe to have been violated. Their actions are guided by a belief in the existence of a powerful international government conspiracy.

3. *International UFO Reporter*, September/October, 1991, p. 3

4. *International UFO Reporter*, January/February, 1990, p. 8

5. *UFOs in the 1980s* by Jerome Clark, Detroit: Apogee, 1990, p. 175

By any measure, Clark's own suggestions are far more extreme than those of Vallee or Keel, but because of Clark's prior vehement denunciation of conspiratorial thinking, I failed to grasp his present views on the Hopkins-Napolitano case. This was the reason for my misunderstanding.

Summary

One of the unexpected benefits of the Napolitano case is that it provides remarkable illumination of the mentality of a prominent authority on UFOs. Because of his influence and control over a significant amount of popular UFO literature, this is of particular consequence.

If we accept Linda's claim, Richard and Dan are menaces not only to Linda but to society at large. Yet Clark vigorously opposes reporting them to the authorities. He seems to believe that he has special insight into the world political situation that justifies his position.

Neither Clark nor Hopkins has provided even minimal evidence for such a notion. That being the case, there may be a plausible explanation for their behavior. They imply that they possess secret knowledge of a conspiracy within the highest levels of the world's governments; such thinking can be termed "grandiose"; the word "paranoid" might even apply. Ironically, Clark's previous writings display a loathing of and revulsion toward much tamer conspiratorial speculations. Clark's "Torquemada" article is again emotional and self-laudatory, and I urge those interested to obtain a copy in order to verify that. After such a review, the reader will be in a better position to assess Clark's mental state and deduce the plausible cause of his behavior.

23 November 1992

Wasting Away in Torquemadaville

1.

"You mean all of this happened just because you went to a meeting?"

An old friend, not a ufologist, asked this question in an incredulous tone a moment before breaking into prolonged laughter. I had just spent 15 minutes trying to explain how it came to be that an obsessed fanatic elected to make me the focus of his rage. I was unable to tell him, however, precisely why the zealot some call Torquemada has chosen me for particular vilification -- a secret one presumes to be locked deeply in the psyche of this strange and troubled relic from the fifteenth century.

First, to put matters into perspective, lest somehow you have the impression that I'm an actor of consequence in the Linda drama:

I have not published a single word on the case. I have delivered no lectures on the subject. Except -- if this counts -- for a short phone conversation initiated by Jim Moseley, who quotes me briefly (and attributes to me words I was quoting from someone else) in *Saucer Smear*, I have not spoken to press, radio, or television about it. I have not investigated it. I am not a proponent of it. I have no stake in its outcome. What I did, ladies and gentlemen, was attend a meeting, at the request and expense of my close friend Budd Hopkins. Later, when friends and colleagues privately asked my view of the case, I expressed a number of serious reservations; I also observed that certain complex and ambiguous elements thus far defy satisfactory resolution, and I said future investigation and analysis must take these into consideration.

How this amounts to a wildly irresponsible statement, or why this should necessitate the thousands of words of vilification Torquemada so far has heaped on me, with heaven knows how many more to come, beats hell out of me. I suspect it does you, too. If I may judge from the mail that arrived in the wake of my previous communication (*The Politics of Torquemada*, October 24), mine struck most people as a cautious and sensible reading, and one that is, I gather, widely shared. Such notables as Eddie Bullard and David Gotlib, for example, wrote to endorse my sentiments. CUFOS scientific director Mark Rodeghier, with whom I have discussed the incident at greatest length and who has met personally with most of the leading critics, agrees with my estimate of the situation.

At the New York meeting, as I listened to the two sides speak past each other, I thought I might suggest a compromise, in the -- as we now know -- vain hope that I could avert a pointless personality conflict -- such as the one I now find myself in. I proposed that Hopkins be given a little more time to wrap up his investigation before the critics resumed their search for the elusive Richard and Dan. Whether a good idea or a bad idea (I suspect, frankly, that just about anybody in my position would have suggested at least some variation of it) others may decide. But to my immediate point: I made the offer in good faith as everyone there, save Torquemada, understood. Since then Torquemada has misrepresented my views and intentions and crafted a ludicrous caricature which no one who knows me or has followed my career will recognize. Unfortunately for Torquemada this describes, by now, a whole lot of people. It won't be easy for him to fool them.

In Torquemadaville, a village of the damned if ever there was one, one dissents from the grand inquisitor's dictates at peril to one's soul, or at least to one's good name and professional reputation. I realize only belatedly that I shirked my obligation to keep my mouth shut. In remarking, even if only privately, that the Linda case merits further discussion, even after Torquemada had pronounced otherwise, I stand accused of collusion with demonic forces poised to crush truth, justice, and the Torquemadian way; my sentence is personal abuse, wasted time, and postage expenditures. In Torquemadaville, Constitutional scholars please note, you have one inalienable right: to agree absolutely with Torquemada.

A tedious business, you say, your head shaking. Indeed. Would that you and I had not been fated to waste away in Torquemadaville. If we are lucky, our tormentor will soon bore even himself, though in my experience individuals of his ilk treat their grievances as beloved objects of everlasting fascination, to be nursed for years on end, sometimes right up to the moment the butterfly net drops over their heads.

In any event, I pledge not to indulge this specimen for long. Having nothing constructive to do, he may have boundless time to nurse endless grievances and to concoct ever more outlandishly mean-spirited fantasies. I have no such time on my hands and neither, I am sure, have any of you. The rest of us, after all, have lives. I shall endeavor to be brief.

2.

This is Torquemada's response?

A friend who got a copy of Torquemada's November 23 memo before I saw one told me it was featherweight stuff and urged me not to spend much time on it. Frankly, I doubt that I could spend much time on it even if I wanted to.

Torquemada writes, "Both Clark and Andrus are in positions to control the information that is, and more importantly, is not, presented in their UFO magazines." Uh huh. So? That's the function of editors: to make judgments in these areas. Does anybody besides Torquemada find something sinister in this? Obviously he has never had the experience of editing a magazine and knows nothing of the job description.

Of course the implication is that Clark and Andrus are involved in some sort of sinister conspiracy to hide the truth -- this just after, incidentally, the Fund for UFO Research gives me its Isabel Davis Award in part because as *IUR* editor I have "presented the pros and cons of highly controversial information in a fair and evenhanded manner." As I have told Joe Stefula and Rich Butler, two of the leading critics of the Linda case, on more than one occasion, I would be delighted to publish anything they may care to write on their investigation. In fact, it would please me no end if *IUR*, as it has been with other important and contentious issues in ufology, became the forum in which the Linda case is debated and, I hope, eventually resolved to the satisfaction of all reasonable observers.

I urge everybody to reread *The Politics of Torquemada* and decide for himself or herself whether Torquemada's latest memo adequately addresses the points I made. For example, I earlier pointed, as evidence of Torquemada's "hilarious hypocrisy," his alleged concern for Linda's physical well being, threatened supposedly by misbehaving government operatives. My position is

entirely consistent with the skeptical one I happen to hold, while Torquemada's makes no sense at all:

If Linda is lying, as Torquemada purports to believe, why should he work himself into apoplexy over my nonsupport of his desire to turn Richard and Dan in? If Linda is fibbing, she is perfectly safe -- so why all the excitement? If she is not fibbing, she can turn them in herself any time she wants to. (Were she to solicit my advice in the matter, which she has not, I would urge her to do so.) I think that any unbiased observer would conclude that my skepticism of her claims is more genuine, and more profound, than Torquemada's. In reality, it appears, Torquemada's pretended concern stems from a need to indulge himself in a righteous frenzy at my expense, logical consistency be damned.

Torquemada's contrary claim notwithstanding, I do not "accept Linda's story of being harassed, kidnapped, sexually molested, and nearly drowned by government agents." I think these stories are highly unlikely, and I have told Hopkins as much. On the other hand, only Linda knows for sure, and at least two other persons, I am told, claim to have seen Richard and Dan. That, of course, does not prove they are government agents. The question of the true identity, however, is still unanswered, and to date no evidence bearing on the issue -- simple speculation does not count -- has been presented. This is what I mean by an "ambiguous element."

Only Torquemada -- alone of all chroniclers of the case -- continues to labor under the delusion that I am anything other than an unbeliever in Linda's claims. If he wants to be disabused of this notion -- probably not, I gather, since it serves some strange agenda of his -- he might want to communicate with an acquaintance of his, Dennis Stillings. Stillings was the first person with whom I discussed the matter, within hours of my return from New York.

To repeat, yet again: The heresy that drives Torquemada's frenzy stems from an effort on my part, possibly naive, certainly well-intentioned, to keep communication open between angry proponents and determined critics of the Linda case. Agree or disagree, everyone else who was there assumed my good will in the matter, and no one else on the critics' side has seen the need to write nutty communiques concocting all kinds of malign motives on my part. For that matter, no one who has written or spoken with me about the Linda case has accused me of anything remotely like the serious social crimes Torquemada hallucinates.

It should also be noted, since Torquemada claims I was trying to stop the investigation for reasons he never quite explains, that Joe Stefula tells me that he decided quite on his own to leave the case, because he feels he has learned as much as he is likely to find out, and he has established to his satisfaction that the story is a hoax.

Yes, I guess that "living in an isolated existence in a small, remote town in Minnesota" (not far, incidentally, from the small, remote town in Minnesota where Torquemada was born; anyone who wishes to draw conclusions about Torquemada's psychological motives in bringing this seemingly irrelevant geographical fact into the discussion is free to do so), I would think that the disappearance and abduction of a prominent international political figure would be a "politically sensitive" matter to those who knew of it. I fail to understand, however, where Torquemada gets the strange idea that I believe in a "conspiracy at the top levels of the world's governments in suppressing evidence about this UFO abduction and the subsequent kidnappings, sexual molestation, and attempted murder." He goes on, more heatedly than grammatically, to bleat, "Hopkins and Clark seem to think that they possess

secret, crucial knowledge of the international political situation regarding the UFO abduction phenomena [sic]." Torquemada, who has no clue to my current thinking on the abduction phenomenon, just made this up, as he has done with his other, similarly peculiar charges. If nothing else, Torquemada is one imaginative dude. He really ought to be writing novels and inventing characters whose fictitiousness he doesn't have to hide.

When I left New York, as I told Hopkins at the time, I had grave reservations about the claimed involvement of the VIP in the abduction event. Since then, on further reflection and discussion with the case's more rational critics, my doubts have hardened into virtual certainty that no such thing happened.

While Torquemada flails away at his straw man, let us take the opportunity to escape from the oppressive confines of Torquemadaville for the freer, fresher air of rational discourse, to which we may look forward -- I hope in the pages of *IUR* -- from Hopkins, Butler, Stefula, and other honorable (and, unlike me, actual) participants in the investigation and analysis.

A final thought: Possibly something is missing here. Possibly the failure of both positive and negative analyses to address all the puzzling and ambiguous elements of the case has to do with the absence of one vital but missing truth, still undetected, which when found will tell us all we need to know. We shall see, I hope, and when we do, I hope that missing truth will emerge into view in the pages of *IUR*. Let us wish all serious investigators, of whatever persuasion, all the best. They will need it as much as the rest of us will not need further unsolicited polemics from the not-so-grand inquisitor who wastes away in Torquemadaville. -- Jerome Clark

612 North Oscar Avenue
Canby, Minnesota 56220
November 30, 1992

Note from the Editor: This will be the
last of the ^{printed copies} Hansen/Clark exchange
on this case -- unless some new
unforeseen conclusion develops!