

October 29, 1956

Dear Mr. Brown,

I am answering your letter of Oct.19, on a personal basis, as the official Project Magnet has been discontinued. I am enclosing a Statement regarding this matter.

I am glad indeed that you are forming a group to investigate seriously significance of the UFO phenomenae, and I wish you every success. With respect to your particular questions I would like to answer both in the affirmative, although I do not know how I might help.

Through my own investigations I have come to the following conclusions; Saucers are real, they are extraterrestrial, they are manned or directed by intelligent beings, these beings are friendly and want to help us. Mixed in with authentic material is a tremendous amount of "garbage" and the big job of the investigator is to sort the grain from the chaff. Furthermore, I believe that a completely open mind is necessary; a mind prepared to investigate ALL leads no matter how illogical or fantastic they may seem at first sight, and to follow them wherever they may go.

There is one point on which I would like to comment, and that is with regard to the inclusion of science fiction in your activities. While this is very interesting, entertaining, and sometimes contributes quite useful ideas, nevertheless, if associated with a serious project there is a natural tendency to class the whole thing as fiction. If it is felt that there is a need for such an outlet then I feel that it should be kept well away from the more serious aspect.

Thanking you for your interest in writing to me, and assuring you that I shall do what I can to further this investigation, I remain

Yours truly,



W. B. Smith

Mr. T. Townsend Brown
National Investigations Committee
on Aerial Phenomenae
1536 Connecticut Ave. N.W.
Washington, D.C.

North 7-9434