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National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Sharon S. Holgerson
FOIA Officer (Code PO)
300 E Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20546

January 31, 2003

Dear Sir or Madam:

This letter is a request under the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552 (FOIA) regarding the incident described below, and regarding Cosmos 96 which may have been involved in the incident.

On the night of December, an object fell from the sky and crashed in Kecksburg, Pennsylvania, near Acme, PA in Westmoreland County. Eyewitness accounts from that night, and early morning on December 10, 1965 describe military and government personnel on the scene, which took part in what apparently was a search and recovery operation of the object involved. Witnesses report that NASA personnel were on the scene as well.

1. Pursuant to FOIA Sec. 552, I request access to **all data of whatever form** including correspondence, telegraphic, electronic, photographs, scientific reports, analyses or tests such as metallurgic analysis, collection records, interviews with civilians relating or referring to a December 9 and December 10, 1965 incident in or around Kecksburg or anywhere in Western Pennsylvania. For purposes of this request, references to "Kecksburg" or "Kecksburg incident" or "Acme" include all sightings or incidents reported to have occurred in the United States on or about December 9, 1965. Unless otherwise indicated, this request includes all data dated from December 1, 1965 to the present relating to this incident.
2. Please send all **NASA Fragology Files** for 1962 to 1967.
3. Please send any records on **Richard M. Schulherr**, who I believe was a NASA officer connected to Project Moon Dust in the 1960's or later.
4. Please send any and all records on **Project Moon Dust** pertaining to the retrieval of foreign objects or objects of unknown origin by NASA personnel, and/or the examination or analysis of debris sent to NASA by other any other agencies under Project Moon Dust.
5. Please send records on **Cosmos 96**, or **Kosmos 96**, a Soviet satellite and Venus probe that came down on December 9, 1965. When the spacecraft attained earth orbit the main rocket body (65-094B) separated from the orbiting launch platform. An explosion is believed to have resulted

in at least 6 additional fragments. Sixteen days after the explosion, Cosmos 96 reentered the Earth's atmosphere - on December 9, 1965. Part of the satellite may have landed in Canada.

Prior to the crash in Pennsylvania on December 9, 1965, witnesses in Michigan, Ohio, Indiana and Canada reported seeing an object moving in the sky. Available information states that unidentified foil-like chaff/debris was collected in these other regions on or around the date of the Kecksburg incident

Please send any records regarding Cosmos 96, and specifically regarding NASA's involvement of the recovery of the satellite, parts or debris thereof, anywhere in the United States or Canada.

I am a journalist, author and producer at public radio station KPFA in Berkeley, CA. I have published widely in mainstream newspapers in the US and abroad, such as the *Boston Globe*, the *Baltimore Sun*, *The Nation*, *the Globe and Mail*, *the International Herald Tribune*, *the Irish Independent* and the *Sydney Morning Herald*. The disclosing of these documents is in the public interest. I therefore request that all fees for search and reproduction be waived.

I am willing to pay up to \$1000.00 for reasonable costs of search and copying if a ruling on my fee waiver request would delay processing of my document request, subject, of course, to reimbursement should my fee waiver request be granted. If you estimate that the costs will exceed \$1000.00, please contact me as soon as possible.

As the FOIA requires, I will look forward to your response within twenty (20) working days. Thank you very much for your time in making this search.

Sincerely,

Leslie Kean

Cc: Lee E. Helfrich, Esq.
Lobel, Novins & Lamont
