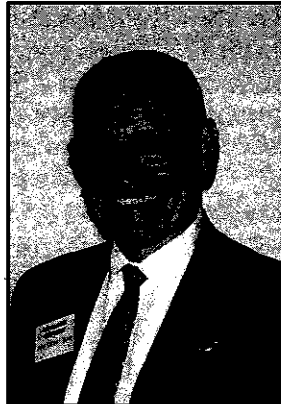


# Another look at Majestic

By Dr. Robert M. Wood and Ryan S. Wood

The hunt for a genuine U.S. Government document that shows the use of MJ-12 is over. The breakthrough comes from the FOIA effort of Tim Cooper, shown as Figure 1. This document, released by the CIA, is from the Paperclip files, Record Group 330, JIOA files, released Nov. 7, 1985. It is a memo from Hillenkoetter on 12 April 49 to the Joint Intelligence Objectives Agency (JIOA) and the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) that, while otherwise unclassified, shows file distribution to a CIA Top Secret control file and to MJ-12. This is unambiguous evidence that there was such a project. To our knowledge, this is the first and only FOIA-released document designating MJ-12. A censor has lined through the distribution block, but did not obliterate it.



Dr. Robert Wood

### Provenance of the documents

We are dealing with documents from multiple sources. In two instances, we have an original. Skeptics who casually assert that anyone can fake anything, especially with today's computers, are off base. The simple-minded focus by skeptics on provenance is a huge over-simplification of the problems and techniques of authentication process. For example, if you are at an antique show and an old English dresser has provenance (records of possession over the years), that can add to the value. An expert recognizes the dresser for what it is and knows what signs to look for as indication that it is a replica, not genuine, with or without the provenance records. The same thing is true in the examination of questioned documents.

We recognize that the provenance is relevant. Documents with the caveat MAJIC, Majestic, or MJ-12 have been around since 1984 with the release of the Eisenhower Briefing Document in 1987 by Bill Moore. Since then, other documents have emerged under different circumstances. A summary of their provenance is given in Table 1. There are five different sources for the Majestic documents.

### Background of document evaluation

From time to time Bob Wood corresponded with Stanton Friedman, who was very good about sending his research conclusions and passing on leads. Then, towards the end of December 1994, Stan requested permission from Don Berliner to let Bob have a look

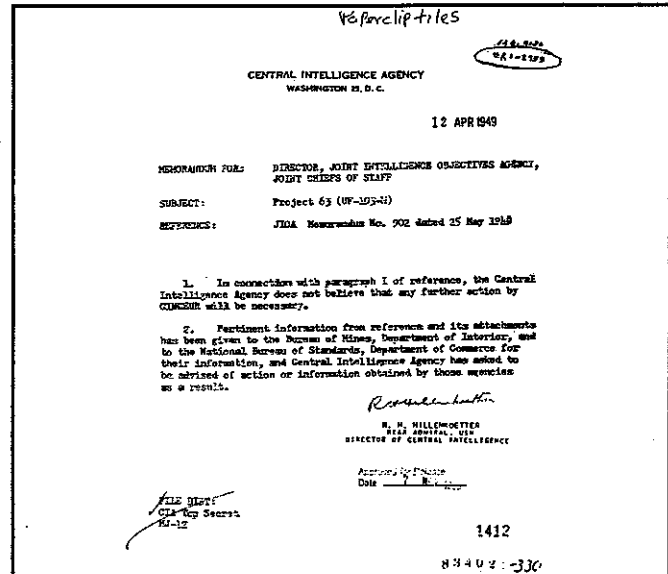


Figure 1: the reference to MJ-12

at the pages of the Special Operations Manual (SOM 1-01, 7 April 1954). Don had circulated SOM among a very limited group with the purpose of determining authenticity. In an attempt to read the words more clearly, he carefully keystroked the manual. Later, Don graciously lent his very best copies, and Bob made photographic enlargements of those and continued the replication of this manual. While doing this, Bob analyzed the factors that would determine fake versus genuine.

Stan decided to include part of the SOM in his 1996 book, *Top Secret/MAJIC*. While the publication had the positive aspect of reducing the secrecy of the document, the negative aspect was that the replication by the publisher was done carelessly, and included no discussion of authenticity. Because of this publication, a witness came forward to say that he had shredded both the EBD and SOM 1-01 while working in an admiral's office. The publication also led to Brian Parks finding identical UFOB reporting words in an FOIA document.

Then Stan sent Bob material that he received from Timothy Cooper, who said he had been receiving new documents in his post office box in Big Bear Lake, CA, beginning in 1992. Timothy already was a highly qualified, innovative UFO researcher, having filed many FOIA requests successfully, and had written a fascinating 300-page summary of what happened at White Sands Proving Ground (WSPG) in the summer of 1947. He also was the source of at least two of Len Stringfield's 1991 crash/retrieval reports. Stan Friedman spent many hours on the phone with Tim Cooper, concluding that several of his document copies probably were authentic in their original forms. Stan then contacted Bob, who lives in Southern California, urg-

ing him to visit with Timothy for closer evaluation.

On Sept. 24, 1996, Bob and his wife Charlotte met with Tim Cooper in his home at Big Bear Lake, CA. Tim said that he had communicated with leading people in the UFO field, but said, "You are the first person who ever took enough interest to come and see me." That first meeting was preliminary, and Tim had many things he wanted to say. He showed a copy of his 1947 WSPG piece and some of the source material.

Bob's interest in getting to the source material and getting past Tim's interpretation of what might have happened, even if it were correct, caused us to focus more on the papers obtained in the mailbox from his source, Thomas Cantwheel. Tim shared his reported unsuccessful attempts to learn the real identity of Cantwheel. Stan had sent us part of the Cooper-Cantwheel collection.

In subsequent visits Tim provided better copies and hunted through his files and found new documents Stan had not yet seen. Tim's filing system was not well-organized, understandably, given the tens of thousands of pages of FOIA material.

In the meantime, Bob's son and partner, Ryan S. Wood, expressed increasing interest in this subject. Ryan had had an independent decade-long interest in UFOs, and took the initiative to suggest that we might have the material and the skill to write a book. We became increasingly confident that the SOM 1-01 in its original form was genuine, having dealt satisfactorily and accurately with early objections to its authenticity. We became a partnership team, and told both Tim and Stan that was our plan, and sought permission

for selective use of the Cooper-Cantwheel collection for a book proposal. As a result, Ryan and Bob visited with Tim three more times, each time with focused questions, and each time leaving with more insight.

### Fake versus genuine?

We had been thoroughly exposed to the authentication discussions surrounding the Eisenhower Briefing Documents and the attendant—and often not constructive—criticism the participants piled upon each other. It seemed to us that since all reasonable students have now concluded that there was a covert program by the U.S. to study and exploit UFOs, documentation of such a program is properly assumed to exist. The question is, were we looking at real documents or at faked and disinforming documents?

This problem is very analogous to one that Bob worked on during his earlier career with McDonnell Douglas: "How do you tell the difference between a reentry vehicle (RV) with a real warhead and a decoy designed to fool radar? The details are classified, but the principle was to establish "discriminants," measure their values, and compare the numbers with those expected for RVs and for decoys. Statistically, the answer pops out: "the probability is ten to the minus three that is a real RV."

To use a technique like this, one turns to document authentication methods used by professional questioned document examiners. Whether one is trying to authenticate someone's will, the Dead Sea Scrolls, or old UFO records, the techniques and principles are known, proven and applicable. Generally, they are (1) provenance, (2) assessment of original (3) typography and chirography (including signatures), (4) chronol-

**Table 1. This table summarizes the provenance of each of the five sources of Majestic Documents, all of which include allusions to MJ, MAJIC, or Majestic.**

<i>Document</i>	<i>No pp</i>	<i>Receipt Date</i>	<i>Recipient</i>	<i>Nature of original</i>	<i>Origin of original</i>	<i>Our estimate of the real source and provenance</i>
Eisenhower Briefing Document	16	Dec 84	Jaime Shandera Mailbox	35 mm black and white film	Albuquerque Postmark	Photography suggests professionalism. Possibly completely genuine but intentionally deceptive, or possibly an intentional leak to the Soviets.
Cutler-Twining Memo	1	Jul 85	Bill Moore, Jaime Shandera	Period onion skin paper, red declassification slash	Rec Gr 341, Box 189, between folders	This authentic piece may have been made easy to locate to ensure acceptance of the Eisenhower Briefing Document.
Thirteen document sets (See Table 2)	59	1992-1996	Timothy Cooper	Copies left on five different occasions	U.S.P.O. Box combination mailbox	Thomas Cantwheel claimed to be the source in a letter and extensive conversation with Cooper. Cantwheel is alias for the CIC agent who picked Cooper, then leaked documents.
Special Operations Manual 1-01	24	7 Mar 94	Don Berliner	Undeveloped 35 mm black and white film	La Crosse WI postmark	Mailed with a meter from a pharmacy. The hands of photographer show clearly. The purloiner probably can be identified by using analysis, interviews.
DCI to JOA and JCS	1	?	Timothy Cooper	Xerox copy, noticed in 1998	FOIA request by Cooper	The Subject is Project 63, a Paperclip topic, but file distribution shows CIA Top Secret MJ-12

**Table 2. This chronological listing identifies many of the documents obtained from Timothy Cooper and identifies some critical content.**

<i>Date and Document</i>	<i>No. pp.</i>	<i>Significance</i>
Jun -47 Einstein-Oppenheimer draft	6 draft	Consistent with direct dictation by Einstein of questions that Vannevar Bush asked him about relationships with inhabitant of celestial bodies. First use of the term EBE. Clearly a draft, uncorrected.
4 Jul -47 IPU Travel order	1 final	Sends a CIC unit to "Condron Field, N. M." Requests report by 28 Jul.
8 Jul -47 Directive to Twining by Eisenhower	1 final	Authorizes Twining to go the WSPG Command Center for the "purpose of making an appraisal of the reported unidentified objects being kept there."
9 Jul -47 Directive to Twining by Truman	1 final	Exact same wording as above, but new typewriter and signed by Truman. Signature is being validated.
16 Jul -47 Air Accident Report by Twining	3 final	First three pages of the report by Twining on "Flying Discs."
22 Jul -47 CIC/IPU report (Interplan. Phenom. Unit)	7 draft	Refers back to 4 Jul -47 order. Identifies autopsy medical officer Rae, death of three technicians handling EBEs. Rae's records are found, confirm credibility.
19 Sep -47 Hillenkoetter memo to Joint Intel. Comm.	1 draft	Cooper's copy published in Good's "Beyond Top Secret," page 467. First appearance of MAJIC as an acronym for document title. Unique RHH handwriting correcting "unknown" to "unidentified."
19 Sep -47 Twining's draft report	18 draft 1 final	Presents technical, scientific, political, and National Security considerations. Recommends Majestic Twelve be a fully funded, operational intelligence gathering agency.
25 Sep -47 Marshall and Humelsine Memo to Truman	1 final	Refers to MAJIC and MJ-12. Emphasizes that no indication of the contents of the Twining report be divulged to the public. Similar wording to authentic Wedemeyer document over secret phone, same date.
Est Early -48 Majestic Twelve Project "1" Annual Report	1 draft	Cover page to a report we presumably do not have. Titles of Panel participants are correct for early 1948. The title was "...to investigate the capture of unidentified platform space vehicles..."
Mid- 1952 summary report	16 draft	Provides a multi-year history of our investigation into background, problems and perspectives of the "other-world visitation." Succinct statements of problems in 13 technical and political areas.
28 Jun 61 JFK to Director of the CIA	1 final	Requests "review of MJ-12 intelligence operations."
12 Nov 63 JFK to CIA	1 draft	Handwriting says "Angleton has MJ directive" and is dated 11/20/63.

**Table 3. Some of the skeptics' concerns are easier to deal with than others. We believe that constructive skepticism will ultimately establish the authenticity of most of these documents.**

<i>Skeptical concern</i>	<i>Present best response</i>
There is no significant provenance.	See Table 1. Provenance is nice but sometimes not essential.
Use of the word "belief" implies an emotional position.	We want to find the truth. We have studied the documents more than anyone else so far. The words "consider" or "regard" are also perfectly good.
The use of the concept of a "zinger" is the equivalent of the "erosion of objectivity."	The evaluation of criteria other than provenance always recognizes a faker could be at work. We are just trying to assess how difficult it would have been for such a faker to have created whatever we are looking at. An exceptionally difficult item to have faked we elected to call a "zinger."
We are inconsistent with Friedman's TOP SECRET/MAJIC determinations of Cooper's material	True. The authentication work is ongoing. Friedman may change his mind. We may change our mind. The logic processes, however, should be available for inspection. Friedman has excellent archive contacts and they are very helpful.
Fakers have lots of time to dig around archives, get the proper paper	There can be extremely subtle differences between the genuine and the fake in language and style; the presence of incredibly arcane confirmed detail is very unlikely in a fake.
Since we did not discuss all the documents we have, it is a "cover-up."	We chose to not overload the community with documents of whose authenticity we are unsure.
A fatal flaw has been found in that the alleged disappearance of the New Zealand One-Fourth Regiment has been shown to be both incorrect and first published in the 60s. This ensures the whole document is fraudulent.	This will take a while to determine the correct evaluation. One reaction is that if the story surfaced in 1960s, might it have been lying around classified military sources earlier? The simplistic answer is that the author may have thought it was a true story, just being one of several. More basically, though, the presence of one flaw in a questioned document evaluation must be viewed in the context of perhaps dozens of other detailed checkable facts known to very few. We plan to show that this regiment disappearance story has been around long before the 60s.
The presence of numerous grammatical, punctuation and spelling errors strongly suggests fakery. This extrapolates to "the more errors, the more genuine it is."	Most of the pages we are seeing are unsigned, unfinished draft material (50 out of 59 pages). Technical people are not well known for their writing ability. It is incredible that a faker would permit so many errors. It is reasonable that one of the reasons we have them is that they were drafts, less well controlled by security than the final copies. Errors need to be placed in the context of the author and the typist, who may or may not be the same person.
Retro-virus was a word invented in the 70s. Thus, the 1952 report using it must be fake.	The modern usage of retrovirus has no hyphen. We have located a 1935 reference that uses the concept as a "retrograde" evolution of the virus. It is very likely that this precise word usage with the hyphen will be found in the literature, thereby reaffirming authenticity. Retro-virus is consistent with collegial usage of the time.

ogy, and (5) content analysis and authorship. By analogy, these are five "discriminants."

Bob embraced this systematic methodology relative to SOM 1-01. The overwhelming conclusion, based on four years of work, was that this is a completely genuine document published for its stated purposes. We have an array of evidence in each of the five categories above that put the conclusion of a fake in a "wishful thinking" pile.

### Clearly genuine

The authenticity of SOM 1-01 could be a topic of another article later. Such an article would clearly show the reasons why this document is clearly genuine in its original form. One row of Table 4, to be discussed later, summarizes arguments for SOM 1-01's authenticity. We have dealt in detail with the five main criticisms of the SOM 1-01 in the available videotape and CD-ROM. (Order at 800-845-2151).

Table 2 shows thirteen documents of the Cooper-Cantwheel collection to which was also have applied discriminants in particular and the QD examination method in general.

Our book, *The Majestic Documents*, assembles the documents in chronological order and includes legible replicas of the original. In one case (25 Sep 47 Humelsine to Truman) similar language or phrases were available before the date of the document. This has caused naysayers to argue that they were surely faked. This "favoring fakery" as a principle of document authentication can not work unless one wishes to maintain a preconceived notion of what the answer should be. A fake document determination is incomplete unless accompanied by a rationale supporting fakery. Who was the target? What evidence supports a faker's motivation, means, and opportunities?

### The question of faking

Detractors claim that almost anything can be faked with the right software, and that the UFO records include many examples of faked documents. This is unsupportable on two counts: first, software tools would have to be available prior to the arrival of the document; second, where and what are examples of such faked documents?

A careful analysis of the typography, for example, shows that the famous Truman-Forrestal memo was created with a 1940 Underwood Standard—certainly not a computerized fake. We may suspect that "The Aquarius Documents" are fake, but to our knowledge they have not undergone a detailed investigation and were never claimed to be anything more than a re-type. We have shown, for example, that the Special Operations Manual includes, amongst other indicators, a few examples of a "raised z" that virtually guarantees the manual was prepared with a hot lead Monotype

printing machine of the period (1954). We always recognize that the faker could recondition an old machine, train an operator for several years to use it, slavishly follow the 1953 Style Manual for format, and voila! we have the fake. Generally, our analyses are oriented not to be absolute and unequivocal, but to show that the faker would have had to have access to equipment, knowledge, and sophistication levels that just become unbelievable.

In each of the categories, an examiner looks for discriminants and uses them to assess genuineness vs. fakery. The mere existence of one indicator of fakery (for example, a seemingly incorrect classification stamp) should never be enough to swing the conclusion, inasmuch as it, for one example among several, is not a discriminant by itself.

### The skeptics speak

Over the years, Ryan and Bob have interacted selectively with other researchers whose goal, like ours, was to determine whether the documents were authentic or not. A list of these helpful people is mentioned in our CD-ROM and on our web site. Each usually focused on a specialized aspect of authenticity for a particular document at issue. These colleagues provided about 50 skeptical questions and concerns.

Recently, as part of Mr. Joseph Firmage's Project Kairos Website ([www.TheWordsTruth.org](http://www.TheWordsTruth.org)) we chose to leverage his efforts and provide our documents in support of his vision. The Internet publication was alive with quick reaction criticisms and compliments. A recent critical review is found in a publication edited by Barry Greenwood. After deleting the cynical comment, rhetorical questions, and ad hominem arguments, we concluded that there were a few authenticity concerns raised that would interest all. Table 3 summarizes these concerns and provides the necessary clarity.

The 1st Annual Report discusses period issues, including biological warfare. This draft uses the then-coined word "retro-virus," discussed in Table 3. The whole report is a casual draft, not a finished report. These drafter education and specialties inclined them to excessive use of hyphenization and word coning, typical of bureaucracies.

"Retro-virus" is but one among many, such as other-world, one-hundred, bio-medical, multi-layers, over-all, stand-by, micro-circuitry, low-power, electro-magnetic, high-temperature, electro-hydrodynamic, super-aerodyne, out-weighted, inter-active, mid-air, rocket-plane, X-plane, body-bag, air-borne, south-western, air-sea, near-miss, right-angle, and low-level.

Another point that needs to be clarified is our position on the authenticity of the Eisenhower Brief-

**Table 4. Considerations other than provenance provide impressive authentication arguments. This is, in effect, a list of the requirements that a faker would have had to deal with in order to create the documents.**

Date and Document	Content and Authorship	Type and Handwriting	Assessment of originals	Chronology
Jun 47 Oppenheimer-Einstein draft	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Literary criticism and analysis verifies Einstein as the sole author</li> <li>Content credible, not argumentative</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Later classified by paste-on labels</li> <li>Bush's initials</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Xerography contrast reveals 8 x 10.5 size paper used during war</li> <li>8 x 10.5 size paper</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Einstein was at Princeton at the time</li> </ul>
4 Jul 47 IPU Field Order	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Correct style, format</li> <li>Correct military argot or "lingo"</li> <li>Consistent with other unclass. reports</li> <li>Organizationally correct distribution</li> <li>Correct "Courier" language</li> <li>No faker would know Sandia was AEC facility 8 Jul; dispute settled days before</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Head of G-2, Chamberlain's authorizing initial, "C"</li> <li>Manual typewriter of the period</li> <li>Authentic Eisenhower signature</li> <li>Period manual typewriter</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Xerox copies reveal 8 x 10.5 size paper</li> <li>Type distortion suggest onionskin paper flimsy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consistent with published recollections of living eyewitnesses</li> <li>Twining gone to NM on 7 July per flight logs</li> <li>Directive provides authority to subordinates</li> </ul>
8 Jul 47 Directive to Twining by Eisenhower	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Technical analysis detail unique to flying saucers</li> <li>Very prosaic description of what was found without romance or glamour</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>War Bonds, Save logo authentic paper</li> <li>Authentic Twining signature</li> <li>Organizationally correct routing genuine</li> <li>No faker would add a line for Hap Arnold (5-star generals never retire)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Xerox copies reveal 8 x 10.5 size paper</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>References Presidential Directive of 9 July by Truman</li> </ul>
16 Jul 47 Air Accident Report by Twining (AAR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consistent with style of other (non-UTO) CIC reports</li> <li>Never-before seen mention of Charles Rea as autopsy surgeon</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Handwriting may be that of Chamberlain</li> <li>C.C.S and J.C.S. file stamps precise and obscure today</li> <li>Period manual typewriter</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Xerox copies reveal 8 x 10.5 size paper</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Date shows it was initially drafted on 9 July, before reports in from other sites</li> </ul>
22 Jul 47 CIC IPU (Interplan. Phenon. Unit)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Very peculiar naval terminology word error corrected in author's handwriting</li> <li>Rare mention of Naval Research Lab at White Sands Proving Ground</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Period manual typewriter</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Xerox copies reveal 8 x 10.5 size paper</li> <li>Type distortion suggest "onion skin" paper flimsy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Letterhead address was that of CIG headquarters at the time original document was made</li> </ul>
19 Sep 47 Twining's 19-page report draft ("White Hot" Report)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unique technologies as in the AAR.</li> <li>All organizational and argot details prove correct historically</li> <li>Checks out 100% in peer-reviewed history and archives</li> <li>NE 102 obscure material today</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Authentic signatures on disclosure sheet</li> <li>Names involved very appropriate</li> <li>No faker would know to include Wedemeyer on this list</li> <li>Period manual typewriter</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Xerox copies reveal 8 x 10.5 size paper</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No technical, organizational or nomenclature anachronisms</li> </ul>
Fall 1952 1st Annual Report on Majestic Twelve Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Correct CIA administrative language and argot for 1952</li> <li>Corresponds in detail to biological warfare interest and activities of the Army</li> <li>Term "retro-virus" dates to 1935</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Period manual typewriter</li> <li>"Not for public inspection" caveat stamp rare but genuine. Examples available.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No images of 8 x 10.5 paper showing in 1952</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adoption PSB by Truman on April 4, 1951 obscure point unlikely to have been faked. Annex B-23 is correct</li> </ul>
7 Apr 54 Special Operation Manual, SOM 1-01	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Valid USAF Technical Order nomenclature on cover</li> <li>Par. 17, page 11, 4th column tagging scheme highly consistent current usage</li> <li>Pages 22-25 FOIA-validated, fit perfectly</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Period Monotype press and type of print font</li> <li>"Raised z" is totally consistent with other Government documents printed in the period</li> <li>Passes computerized faking tests</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consistent in style and size with other USAF TOs and military Field Manuals (FMs)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Early anachronism detractions all since shown to be not valid</li> <li>Two-word use of "screw driver"</li> </ul>

ing Document. Generally, we think that it is likely that all eight pages of the EBD contain genuine material. Also, the Truman-Forrestal memo included as Attachment A appears genuine, given the 1940 Underwood Standard determination and the Truman signature accomplished by use of a pantograph (a mechanical pen with one master driving several slave pens), thereby explaining the similarity to the Truman-Bush signature a week later.

Likewise, there is no reason to suspect the titles of the attachments, since one of them also appears in the Special Operations Manual, and another is thought to be the Preliminary Analytical Report of 19 Sep 47. None of the other attachments were included.

There are, however, inconsistencies in content with the new MJ documents. For example, the EBD says we recovered four EBEs, when our other documents say five. It claims that the propulsion unit was completely destroyed in the wreckage, when it is clear that we dissected it in detail. One clear reason and motivation for a fake document might have been to try to mislead the Soviets in 1984 (the date of the leak) into believing that we had not learned anything about how they work; when, in fact, by then we probably had been smashingly successful in the reverse engineering process. So we imagine that this CIA disinformation operation would be consistent with trying to influence the KGB via the innocent UFO community. We cannot yet prove this, because the other possibility is that the EBD authors decided to not tell Ike the complete story at that time. After all, he wasn't President yet.

### Conclusions

Although not extensively discussed above, the authenticity of the Special Operations Manual (SOM 1-01) in its original form is assured. The rationale for this conclusion is partially discussed on our CD-ROM, and will be more fully stated in our upcoming book. Table 4 identifies subtleties associated with nine documents that strongly favor authenticity of the originals. Detailed discussion of these points is well beyond the scope of this short article, but anyone with the documents, our CD-ROM, or Web site access can be able to follow the logic.

Increasing fine determination of authentication is forecast to continue. This is just the beginning of the data for the public. There is mounting evidence that the Majestic program was the real thing, and that these documents show it. We have several additional documents and analyses that we will be presenting in our forthcoming book. Until then, the best available authentication discussion is available free on the Web site ([The Web Site](#))