

In the decade of the 1960s the sightings of UFOs reached its maximum, and at the same time the 'Cold War' was at its most intensive stage. As I was expected by the Editor of the *Daily Telegraph* to be a Science Correspondent who knows every aspect of Science, military as well as civilian, (*sic*) I collected every scrap of public information dealing with espionage and I published a summary article on 15 July 1966. I began:

"Space spies, human and electronic, will make 007 as old-fashioned as a knight in armour ... Allen Dulles, the former head of CIA (the American Intelligence Agency) said: 'It is much easier now to put a listening device into somebody's room, than a lady spy into his bed.'"

At the time of writing, I could report that electronic micro-miniaturisation had allowed listening and transmitting devices to be hidden in a false molar tooth, in lipsticks, spectacle frames, earrings and fountain pens. Although few details were published about the information gathering capacities of American and Russian reconnaissance satellites, like Samos and Midas, their usefulness was known and generally acknowledged. The American NSA (National Security Agency) was in advance of the Russian equivalent, as it had more than 2000 listening posts distributed around the Earth and could thus obtain the results of the satellite reconnaissance continuously in real time, which the Russians could not. No doubt since 1966 much progress has been made in these fields.

I gave emphasis in my article to the advice of Admiral R.H. Hillenkoetter, who urged as long ago as 1947 that 80 percent of all intelligence should now be based on technical and scientific journals and photographs, indicating the usefulness of scientific discoveries for military purposes of the future.

Ever since I have wondered if the British MI 6, the Deuxième Bureau, the German D.N.B. and the Italian SISMI have followed Hillenkoetter's excellent advice, and how they managed to carry out a continuous, world-wide search of the scientific and technical literature for any indications of possible future weapons of war. It might just prove possible, if these Intelligence Agencies were allied in NATO and among them subdivided the whole field of science, and then exchanged their revelations. It would also be necessary in such a search to involve many university scientists to scan the scientific literature, a vast field.

Could agent 007, even if he had a degree in Physics, have warned 'M' of a possible atom bomb, after reading Otto Hahn's and Fritz Strassmann's scientific publication in the *Naturwissenschaften* of 6 January 1939 about the splitting of the uranium atom by means of neutron radiation. Barium resulted, and was this proof of atomic fission and a possible bomb? Only a few readers guessed at the time!