Carter as probably everyone in the room knows saw a UFO prior to becoming Governor of Georgia. In 1976 the National Enquirer interviewed Carter about the incident, and about what he would do about UFOs if elected to the White House.

Carter made a promise to release all the sighting data. **Enquirer:** Governor, when you once saw a UFO. If you were President, would you reopen inquiry into UFOs?

**Carter:** Well - No what I would make the information we have about those sightings available to the public, and let them decide. I never have tried to identify what I saw. It was – you know - a light in the western sky. It was very unique. I had never seen it before. There were about 20 of us who saw it. None of us could figure out what it was. Well, I don’t think it was anything solid. It looked just like a light. It was a very peculiar aberration. I don’t make fun of people who say they have seen unidentified objects in the sky.

**Enquirer:** The United States used to have a body that investigated UFOs. That was discontinued. Would you reopen that?
Carter: I don’t know yet. Disclosure seemed only moments away. A President was in the White House who had experienced the phenomena, and who believed a well-informed public had the right to know. What many don’t realize is that Carter did place some conditions on his UFO promise.

I don’t see any reason to keep information like that secret but there may be some aspect of the UFO information with which I am not familiar that might be related to some secret experiments that we doing that might involve our national security – our new weapons systems. I certainly wouldn’t release that. But if it was something removed from our national security, in my opinion as President I would go ahead and release that. I see nothing wrong with that.

Many of the UFO accounts I have heard concerning the Carter administration state that Carter backed away from his promise to disclose and did nothing about UFOs while in the White House. This is not true at all. Carter did push hard on disclosure and did achieve a great deal.

Jimmy Carter started to push for the UFO answer even before he was president. During his president elect briefing given by President Ford’s Director of Central Intelligence George Bush, Carter demanded the files on
UFOs.

Bush told Carter that he could not provide the requested documents. He stated Carter did not have a “need-to-know” and that curiosity on the part of the President was not sufficient reason to be told about UFOs. Now Ronald Pandolfi, who is rumored to run the weird desk at the CIA, has expressed his doubts that George Bush even denied UFO information to the president-elect because it would have gotten him fired. The fact of the matter is, however, that Carter removed Bush. In fact Bush never served a single day as DCI under President Carter.

Once in office Carter continued to push for UFO disclosure. Those who elected him did not forget the UFO promise because the White House received 9,000 UFO letters. Carter’s promise to release was stalled by more than just the pledge Carter had made not to release information tied into the national security. It was limited by who Carter was.

Carter had run as a Washington insider. He had campaigned in short sleeves to put across the idea that he was a common man running for the nation’s highest office. Carter was a Washington outsider running against the Washington insiders who controlled the UFO secret. He should not have been surprised that they didn’t run to support his UFO disclosure initiative.
He came in at the time of the CIA scandal revelations was exposed by the Church Committee in 1976. The CIA was in a bad way, and when Carter came in he fired hundreds of CIA agents. Now they didn’t trust him, and any chance he had to get them to reveal their closest guarded secret was gone.

Carter also got into trouble with the military industrial complex, often rumored to be a controlling factor in the UFO cover-up, by cutting $5 billion from the defense budget. He also cancelled the B-1 bomber, shelved the neutron bomb, vetoed a nuclear aircraft carrier, and disassembled the draft machinery.

In the end he was run over.

Carter made a number of efforts to shake the federal agencies for any information they might have on UFOs, or for any secret system that existed for coordinating information on UFOs. His trusted Press Secretary Jody Powell took on this task. Powell contacted agencies such as the FBI and NASA.

The FBI said they “had no authorization or reason for conducting any inquiries on this subject” and that they turned everything over to the Air Force “without taking any action on it.”
NASA knew that the UFO issue was a no-win situation, and would be a severe strain on their budget, which Carter had just cut. They agreed to answer UFO mail sent to the White House and investigate any “bona fide physical evidence from credible sources”.

The Carter administration did much more towards UFO disclosure than it has been given credit for. A good number of the declassified government UFO documents we have today were released under the Carter administration. During the four Carter years approximately 3,000 pages were released including big collections from the CIA, FBI, and NSA. Carter met openly with UFO personalities such as Grenada Prime Minister Eric Gary. They met in the Oval Office, and according to NRC notes UFOs were discussed in the meeting.

Stories told by attorney Daniel Sheehan clearly showed that Jimmy Carter did call for a collection of UFO information once he became president. Sheehan, a prominent civil rights attorney had been called as a consultant to two studies being done for the president. One of the studies was on UFOs, and one was on extraterrestrial intelligence. Sheehan described how he was contacted to obtain the Vatican library UFO files for the reports.

I was contacted by Marcia Smith, the head of the Science and Technology Division of the Congressional
Research Service, to see if I as chief counsel for the United States Jesuit Headquarters in Washington D.C. International Social Ministry Office could obtain access to the Vatican Library section that had the information about extraterrestrial intelligence and the UFOs in the Vatican Library in Rome. I agreed to do that as a special consultant to the Congressional Research Service.

As part of his work, Sheehan asked Marcia Smith to see the classified sections of Project Blue Book. Someone up high aided Marcia Smith, the author of the reports from the Library of Congress, and Sheehan was asked to go to the Madison Building to view the records. Sheehan described what happened,

Back in 1977, when I was asked to participate as a special consultant to the Library of Congress research group analysis for President Carter, I was given access to the Project Blue Book files – the classified sections of them during the preparation for a seminar which I was asked to present to the top 50 scientists at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in California in the SETI program.

In that context I was allowed to review the classified sections of the Blue Book Project. In that section I came across absolutely clear pictures - photographs -of a UFO that was on the ground. It had apparently crashed. It was stuck in the side of an embankment. There was snow all around in the photographs, and there were United States Air Force personnel in the photograph measuring this particular craft - taking photographs of it.
You could see them in a number of these photographs. Then there were actual close up photos from different perspectives of the vehicle, and they actually had insignia on the side of the vehicle that they had taken close up pictures of. So when I saw this, in the context, where I had been allowed into this room downstairs in the new building of the Library of Congress that had not even been opened yet.

This was a brand new building. They had a big special room downstairs. There were Air Force guards at the doors. When I actually saw these photographs in the files I said, "Well, Now that I have seen this, and I know that the United States Air Force has these photographs – that they’ve got this vehicle. They’ve obviously got it. Here are these photographs."

Sheehan further reported that Carter did get the two reports and that they had stunning information in them.

She went forward and supervised two of the final studies. The first study reached the conclusion – this was an official United States government Congressional Research Service report that was prepared by the Congressional Research Service Science and Technology Division and sent to the Science and Technology Committee of the House of Representatives, who in turn sent it to the President.
In this report they concluded that there were from two to six - at least - from two to six highly technological intelligent civilizations other than on our planet here in our galaxy.

And secondly, they prepared a full report on the UFO phenomena. It actually had diagrams of all the different shaped UFO craft that were there, and in fact projected that it appeared to be that in a certain number of cases, and they indicated that from 5% to 6% of these cases – of these sightings – that there was absolutely no other rational explanation for these phenomena, given the caliber of the witnesses, the caliber of the collaboration of the sightings, to lead to any other conclusion than the fact that they appeared to be coming from one or more of these two to six extraterrestrial civilizations in our galaxy.

Another indication that Carter did gain knowledge about the true nature of the UFO phenomena and tried to disclose it came from a story told by actress Shirley MacLean. MacLaine was responding to a question put to her by UFO researcher Art Greenfield on the Larry King Show.

The question was based on what actor Nicholas Cage had stated a couple weeks earlier during an appearance on the David Letterman show.

**Question:** Hello, Good evening Larry and Shirley, About two weeks ago, Nicholas Cage was on the Letterman Show and said Shirley had told him that President Carter
Shirley: "He didn't tell me that, but he told me many times that when I first wrote "Out On A Limb" that he would support me, that it was true, that there were occupants. Why should we be the only people in the universe? He wanted to shine the sunshine laws on intelligence, to expose it, to see how the people would react, but he didn't and wouldn't and couldn't, as he explained to me."

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