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THE FRINGE

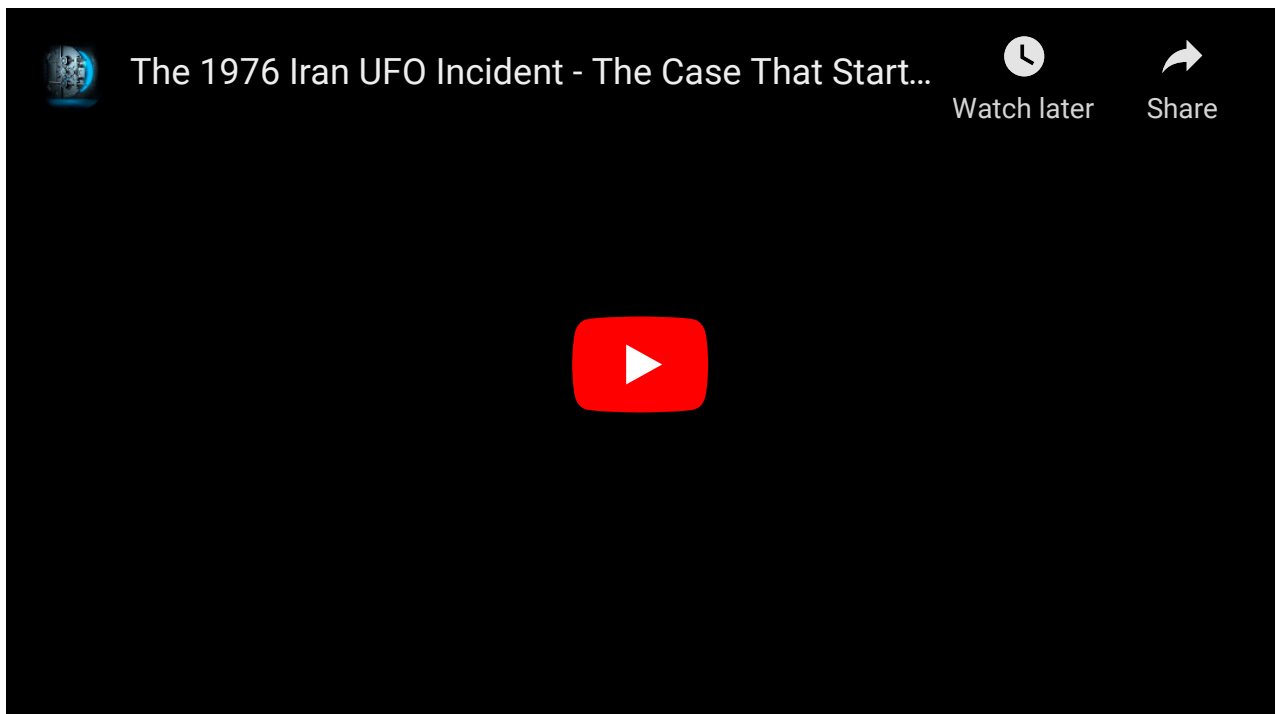
# The “1976 Iran Incident” – UFO Encounter over Tehran, Iran



BY JOHN GREENWALD — DECEMBER 3, 2020 — UPDATED: JANUARY 28, 2021

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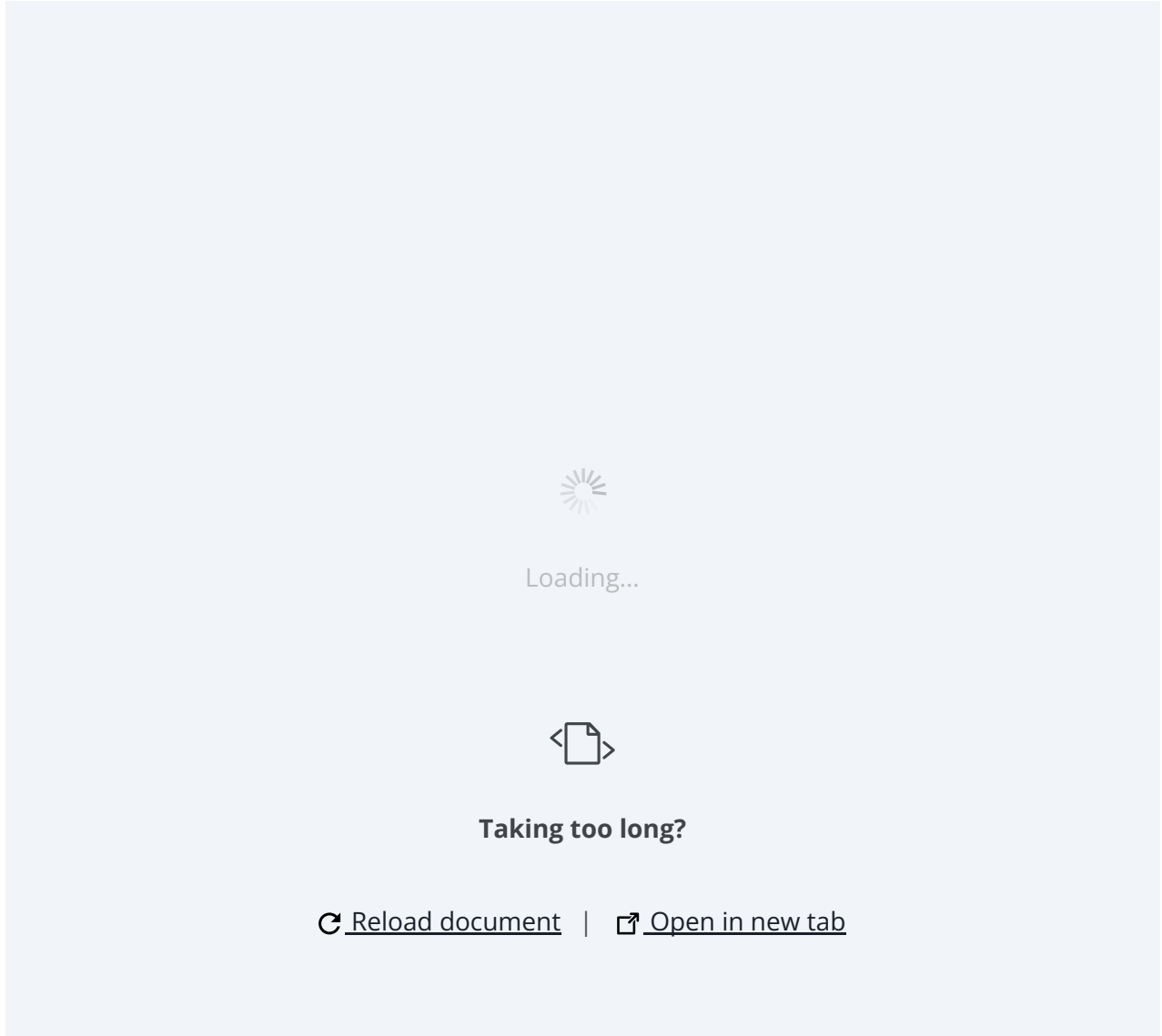
## Background



The following case is thoroughly documented within the United States Government’s files. It was the first document I had ever received under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and will

always remain special to me in that regard. But despite my personal connection, this case remains one of the most interesting cases you can find in official documents.

The document, obtained under the FOIA from the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) reads as follows ([.pdf version](#)):



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What was strange about this case, was the fact that the document was “UNCLASSIFIED.”

However, that was not the case for a document that I obtained from the National Security Agency (NSA) which had one major difference: an opening paragraph from a United States Air Force Captain. This document was classified “CONFIDENTIAL.” The statement read as follows (full [.pdf version](#)):



Sometime in his career, each pilot can expect to encounter strange, unusual happenings which will never be adequately or entirely explained by logic or subsequent investigation. The following article recounts just such an episode as reported by two F-4 Phantom crews of the Imperial Iranian Air Force during late 1976. No additional information or explanation of the strange events has been forthcoming; the story will be filed away and probably forgotten, but it makes interesting, and possibly disturbing, reading.

\* \* \* \* \*

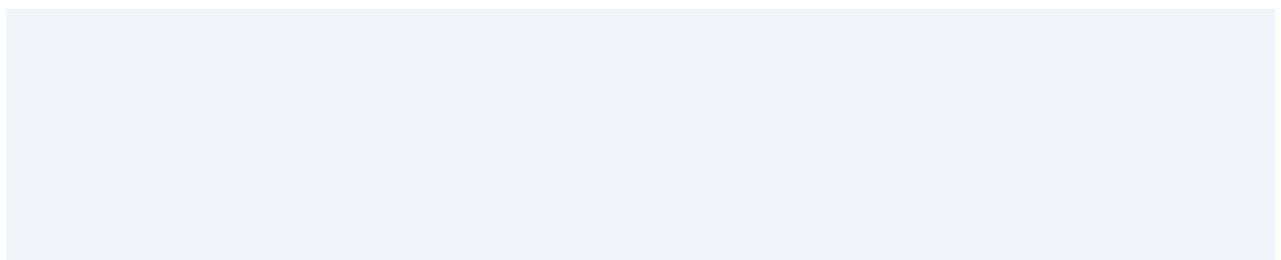
*Statement by Captain Henry S. Shields and the "1976 Iran Incident"*

Another great find within the NSA files, was the routing slip for the original intelligence document. On it, it outlines the extreme importance of the case as it "met the criteria for a valid UFO study." The reasons outlined were the credibility of the witnesses, which included an Air Force General; radar confirmation; electromagnetic effects on THREE separate aircraft; physiological effect on some crew members; and a UFO which displayed in "inordinate amount of maneuver-ability."

Although difficult to read in its entirety, here is the relevant portion of the routing slip:

<p>REMARKS (Number and Classify each Paragraph)</p> <p>An outstanding case which meets the criteria for a valid study of a UFO phenomenon:</p> <p>The object was seen from (i.e. Basrah, Iraq and the Gulf of Persia) and viewpoints (both)</p> <p>b) The credibility of many of the witnesses was high (an air force general, qualified aircrews, and experienced tower operators).</p> <p>c) Visual sightings were confirmed by radar.</p> <p>d) Similar electromagnetic effects (EMS) were reported by three separate aircraft.</p> <p>e) There were physiological effects on some crew members (i.e. loss of night vision due to the brightness of the object).</p> <p>f) An inordinate amount of maneuver-ability was displayed by the UFO's.</p>
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The full document is available below:





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