

FBI

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- TOP SECRET
- SECRET
- CONFIDENTIAL
- UNCLAS E F T O
- UNCLAS

Date 2/16/79

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
 FROM: SAC, ALBUQUERQUE

UNSUBS;
 CATTLE MUTILATIONS OCCURRING
 IN WESTERN STATES
 CIR - MISCELLANEOUS

Y. J. ...
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For the past seven or eight years mysterious cattle mutilations have been occurring throughout the United States and for the past four years have been occurring within the State of New Mexico. Officer GABE VALDEZ, New Mexico State Police, has been handling investigations of these mutilations within New Mexico. Information furnished to this office by Officer VALDEZ indicates that the animals are being shot with some type of paralyzing drug and the blood is being drawn from the animal after an injection of an anti-coagulant. It appears that in some instances the cattle's legs have been broken and helicopters without any identifying numbers have reportedly been seen in the vicinity of these mutilations. Officer VALDEZ theorizes that clamps are being placed on the cow's legs and they are being lifted by helicopter to some remote area where the mutilations are taking place and then the animal is returned to its original pasture. The mutilations primarily consist of removal of the tongue, the lymph gland, lower lip and the sexual organs of the animal. Much mystery has surrounded these mutilations, but according to witnesses they give the appearance of being very professionally done with a surgical instrument, and according to VALDEZ, as the years progress, each surgical procedure appears to be more professional. Officer VALDEZ has advised that in no instance, to his knowledge, have these carcasses ever been attacked by predator or scavenger animals, although there are tracks which would indicate that coyotes have been circling the carcass from a distance. He also advised that he has requested Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory to conduct investigations for him but until just recently has always been advised that the mutilations were done by predatory animals. Officer VALDEZ stated that just recently he has been told by two assistants at Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory that they were able to determine

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the type of tranquilizer and blood anti-coagulant that have been utilized.

Officer VALDEZ stated that Colorado probably has the most mutilations occurring within their State and that over the past four years approximately 30 have occurred in New Mexico. He stated of these 30, 15 have occurred on Indian Reservations but he did know that many mutilations have gone unreported which have occurred on the Indian reservations because the Indians, particularly in the Pueblos, are extremely superstitious and will not even allow officers in to investigate in some instances. Officer VALDEZ stated since the outset of these mutilations there have been an estimated 8,000 animals mutilated which would place the loss at approximately \$1,000,000.

R. E. THOMPSON, United States Attorney, advised that he had received an urgent call from the head of the Criminal Division, Department of Justice, advising him that he would be contacted by Senator HARRISON SCHMITT of New Mexico, who had been in contact with Attorney General GRIFFIN BELL in an effort to obtain Federal assistance in seeking to solve these cattle mutilations.

Bureau telephone call of 2/13/79 advised that a letter was forthcoming from the Department to the Bureau requesting our assistance in the investigation based on the fact that 15 of these animals had been mutilated on Indian reservation land.

On 2/15/79 ^{Gen. Valdez} Senator HARRISON SCHMITT, USA R. E. THOMPSON, SA SAMUEL W. JONES and myself met to discuss this matter. It was agreed that a conference should be held in April of this year in Albuquerque involving New Mexico and the surrounding States who have suffered cattle mutilation cases in an effort to fully discuss this matter to determine what has been developed to date and to recommend further steps to be taken to solve this ongoing problem. The role of the FBI was discussed but was not established since it was not resolved whether the FBI would act in a coordinating capacity, an investigating capacity or both. It was decided however, that it would be most beneficial if all this available information could be placed in a computer bank so that appropriate printouts could be made and an analysis made in an effort to determine a trend or pattern of these mutilations.

It is obvious if mutilations are to be solved there is a need for a coordinated effort so that all material available can be gathered and analyzed and further efforts synchronized. Whether the FBI should assume this role is a matter to be

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decided. If we are merely to investigate and direct our efforts toward the 15 mutilated cattle on the Indian reservation we, I believe, will be in the same position as the other law enforcement agencies at this time and would be seeking to achieve an almost impossible task. It is my belief that if we are to participate in any manner that we should do so fully, although this office and the USA's office are at a loss to determine what statute our investigative jurisdiction would be in this matter. If we are to act solely as a coordinator or in any other official capacity the sooner we can place this information in the computer bank, the better off we would be and in this regard it would be my recommendation that an expert in the computer field at the Bureau travel to Albuquerque in the very near future so that we can determine what type of information will be needed so that when the invitation for the April conference is submitted from Senator SCHMITT's Office that the surrounding States will be aware of the information that is needed to place in the computer. It should be noted that Senator SCHMITT's Office is coordinating the April conference and will submit the appropriate invitations and with the cooperation of the USA, Mr. THOMPSON, will chair this conference. The FBI will act only as a participant.

Since this has not been investigated by the FBI in any manner we have no theories whatsoever as to why or what is responsible for these cattle mutilations. Officer GABE VALDEZ is very adamant in his opinion that these mutilations are the work of the U. S. Government and that it is some clandestine operation either by the CIA or the Department of Energy and in all probability is connected with some type of research into biological warfare. His main reason for these beliefs is that he feels that he was given the "run around" by Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory and they are attempting to cover up this situation. There are also theories that these are cults (religious) or some type of Indian rituals resulting in these mutilations and the wildest theory advanced is that they have some connection with unidentified flying objects.

If we are to assume an investigative posture into this area, the matter of manpower, of course, becomes a consideration and I am unable to determine at this time the amount of manpower that would be needed to give this our full attention so that a rapid conclusion could be reached.

The Bureau is requested to furnish its comments and guidance on this whole situation including, if desired, the Legal Counsel's assessment of jurisdictional question. An early response would be needed however, so that we might properly, if requested to do so, obtain the data bank information. If it appears that we are going to become

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involved in this matter, it is obvious that there would be a large amount of correspondence necessary and Albuquerque would suggest a code name be established of BOVMUT.

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