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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 Senator HARRISON SCHMITT, USA R. E. THOMPSON, SA SAMUEL W. JONES and myself met to discuss this matter. It was greed 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 abayysis made in an effort to determine a trend or pattern of these mutilations.

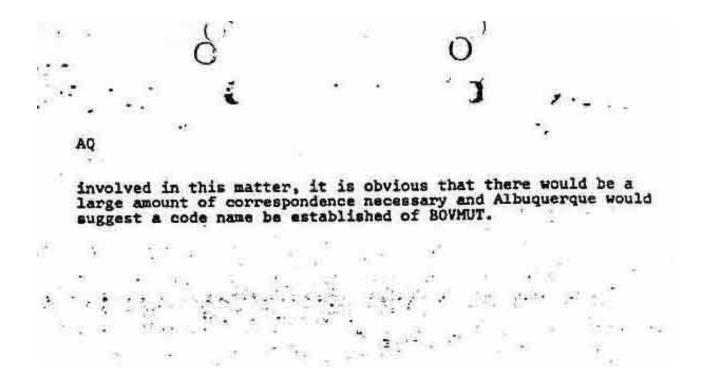
It is obvious if mutilations are to be solved there is a need for a coordinated effort so that all material available can be gathered and analyzed and further efforts synchronized. Whether the FBI should assume this role is a matter to be

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 satute 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 adament 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 an umable 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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