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QUARTERLY  
REVIEW**

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# UFO QUARTERLY REVIEW

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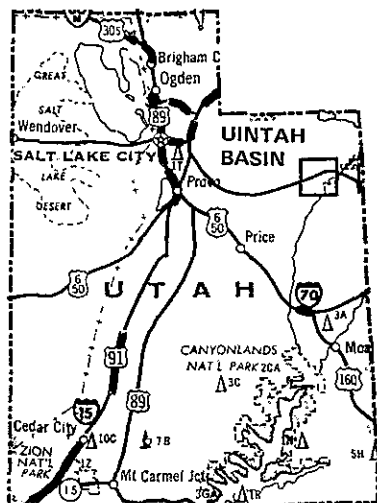
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## UFO QUARTERLY REVIEW

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“Some have dismissed the possibility of interstellar conflict because of the apparent light-speed limitation on travel. In fact, a concerned interstellar power might consider it well worth a 40-year trip to look over a potential threat.... Strange as it may seem, shipboard times at relativistic speeds are very roughly the same to any place in the Galaxy. At a constant acceleration of 1g, it takes only a few years, ship time, to reach the nearest stars, 21 years to reach the galactic center, and 28 years to reach the nearest spiral galaxy beyond the Milky Way.... Over large distances, starship communication at these velocities will occur very nearly as rapidly as communication by electromagnetic radiation. Why, then, should we doubt that extraterrestrials would be willing or able to send military spacecraft in our direction to at least look us over?”

— Michael Michaud  
writing in *The Futurist*



## EPISODE AT UINTAH BASIN

by Dr. Frank B. Salisbury

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In 1967, Dr. Frank Salisbury, a biologist at Utah State University, started research on a book about UFOs based on an article he had written for *BioScience* magazine entitled "The Scientist and the UFO." In developing material for the book, Salisbury recalled a conversation he had had in 1966 with a high school teacher who had told him about UFO sightings in a section of Utah called Uintah Basin, where the teacher lived. In 1968 and 1972, Salisbury investigated a large sampling of these hidden reports, many of which were unknown even to local townsfolk. The result was a new book called *UFOs over Utah*, scheduled to be published later this year by Devin-Adair.

Uintah Basin is a desert region, guarded on the north by 13,000-foot mountains and extending some 60 miles from the town of Vernal on the east to Duchesne on the west. Until the present century, it was inhabited almost entirely by Indians (the Utes and Ourays) and is still dominated by the northern reservation of these tribes. More recently, Mormon ranchers have migrated to the area from other parts of Utah, adding their own influence to the local Indian culture.

Dr. Salisbury has kindly consented to let NICAP publish parts of his book prior to its release. Three of the more interesting cases from the book are presented below, each with portion of an on-site interview with one of the witnesses. All photographs are courtesy of the author.

The Uintah Basin sightings turned out to be better than most UFO hunters' dreams. I had seen a small article or two in the Salt Lake City papers and heard a couple of announcements on the radio, indicating that something interesting for the UFO business was going on at Vernal, Utah, the largest town in the Uintah Basin. But such stories were common in 1965 and 1966. Then one evening in October of 1966 I gave a talk about the possibilities of life on Mars to the Association of Utah Science Teachers. Naturally, I tossed in a few comments about the UFO. Following the talk, a man came up and introduced himself as Joseph Junior Hicks, a junior high school science teacher from Roosevelt, Utah, right in the heart of the Uintah Basin.

Junior Hicks had gained the reputation as the local UFO authority, so the people had been bringing him their UFO reports. . . .

About three out of four cases, he estimates, did not look all that good. They appeared to be satellites, stars, or perhaps some other natural phenomenon. Yet the number of good sightings he has accumulated is truly fantastic. I condensed his file into a table so that we could number the sightings and look for correlations in sizes, shapes, sounds, etc. . . . After eliminating a few moving lights, we finished up with a total of 67 sightings and about 230 witnesses from the 300 to 400 sightings Junior has encountered. Few of the witnesses are duplicated, and considering that the area covered by the majority of the sightings (eliminating Duchesne and Vernal) contains only about 4000 people, this is a rather phenomenal number. As Junior and I went out interviewing, it became apparent that the number of good cases in his file could easily be doubled. Nearly everyone knew of someone else with a good story, or had another good story himself, one not in the file. This is apparent in the interviews that follow. A conservative estimate would indicate that 10% of the population of the Uintah Basin has had excellent sightings.

Hannah, Utah — June 1966



White spot marks location where Dean Powell saw UFO against mountain slope.

Dean Powell delivers mail from the main post office in Duchesne to several outlying points in the basin. He is in his 60s (and looks younger) and clearly a good solid citizen. He wouldn't tell his story until I had identified myself, which is definitely a point in his favor. Here it is as recorded by my dictaphone.

DEAN POWELL: It's something unbelievable, you know. Some think I'm nuts or something. I'm not saying it was a flying saucer; I never did determine it as a flying saucer, because I've heard all kinds of stories about seeing various shaped objects and things, but what I saw was a flying *craft*, a real flying craft which was real, and it was no saucer. And it was large enough that it was entirely different from anything that I've heard these fellows talk about flying saucers.

FRANK B. SALISBURY: What was its shape?

DP: Well, it was a sort of an oval shape, like a boat on the bottom. On one part of it, it had sort of a flat shelf thing or a deck. There was nothing on this, but then it came up out of the middle of the craft as if you had a rounded dome like a cab, right on out to the nose of it. I don't know which was the nose and which was the tail because it looked like it was highly maneuverable in any direction, but I know the direction it was going.

FBS: I guess what you need to do here is draw me a picture. Can you do that?

DP: I still think that it wasn't any flying saucer. I still think it was some kind of a scientific flying craft that they're keeping a secret in this country.

FBS: Can you remember the time and date?

DP: It was about 10:15 [a.m.]. I don't remember the date. It's been a couple of years ago [1966].

FBS: What time of year: winter, spring, summer, fall?

DP: Well, it wasn't winter. It was in the spring, and probably during June.

FBS: Maybe June of 1966, two years ago?

DP: Yes.

FBS: Where were you?

DP: I was at the Hanna Post Office.

FBS: Which direction was the object?

DP: Well, when I saw it, it was standing still.

FBS: Hovering in the sky?

DP: The sun was shining bright, it was a clear day. I was standing sort of like this, kind of resting, waiting for the mail [leaning on back of the post truck], and I just kind of looked out like that [west] and looked up. There was a hill about like that hill over there, about that high [perhaps] 500 ft high. And it [the object] wasn't that far away, however; the hill was only a little bit further than that hill and similar to that one [a typical desert butte].

FBS: A quarter of a mile?

DP: Well, yeah. About a quarter of a mile. And it was this side of the hill and just slightly below the crest. I had full view of it, and, of course, there's a lot of airplanes going over that section of the country, so I never paid any attention when I first saw it. Only that the thing made me realize

that it was something different was that there was no sound, not the slightest sound of any kind, and that was close, see.

FBS: Was it moving or standing still or hovering in the air, so far as you could tell?

DP: No, it wasn't flopping or anything; it was just there, just stationary in the air. And I took a good look at it then, you know. Then it just dawned on me that it was one of these things people had been talking about, and so I called to the Postmaster there; she's a lady, but she was busy; she didn't know what I was calling about, so I let a yell out of me I guess you could have heard for four miles, because I wanted her to come and see it. Well, she ran out, and she just got a glance at it like that, and she had two or three kids in the house, and be damned if she didn't break and run back in the house to get the kids to see it. She should have stopped there and taken a good look at it herself. She came back out, and by that time it had started to move. And it just took off slowly, and then it gained momentum after it had gone a short distance. No sound at all. By the time she got back with the kids, it was quite a distance away in the northern direction, flying right up the canyon, up the north fork of the river.

And she couldn't locate it then because it was so far, and the sun was shining brightly. In that distance, she couldn't get a glimpse of it, but one of the children wanted to see it so badly that I just took a hold of him over his head and pointed my finger. And he said he saw it. I don't know whether he did or not, but all he would see was just the glittering in the distance.

FBS: How long do you think you saw it before you yelled at her?

DP: Oh, I must have looked at it for a minute or two minutes before I really realized that it wasn't making a sound and that it was standing still.

FBS: Then how long did it take to get out of sight?

DP: It went slowly when it started to move, and then it didn't move real fast. I have no way of telling how fast it went, but I imagine about . . . I'd say in three minutes it was out of sight. Two or three minutes, I don't know, but it wasn't very long. Now this was a craft that looked all aluminum-colored so far as I could tell—pure aluminum.

FBS: No windows?

DP: I didn't notice any windows, didn't notice any doors or any seams.

FBS: But it did have a dome, you say?

DP: It had a dome on the one half, the front half, in the direction that it went, and it had a sort of a deck on the other half, rounded on the bottom and flat on top.

FBS: I think I can begin to visualize it.

DP: Now I think it was some kind of an aircraft or something that we have in this country, probably that the scientists have been working on, but if they have, it's far superior to any aircraft that I ever saw, because it didn't make any noise, and it moved so smoothly when it did start, and then it left so fast when it got going a little. You don't have aircraft around that stand still, and this was the most interesting thing to me.

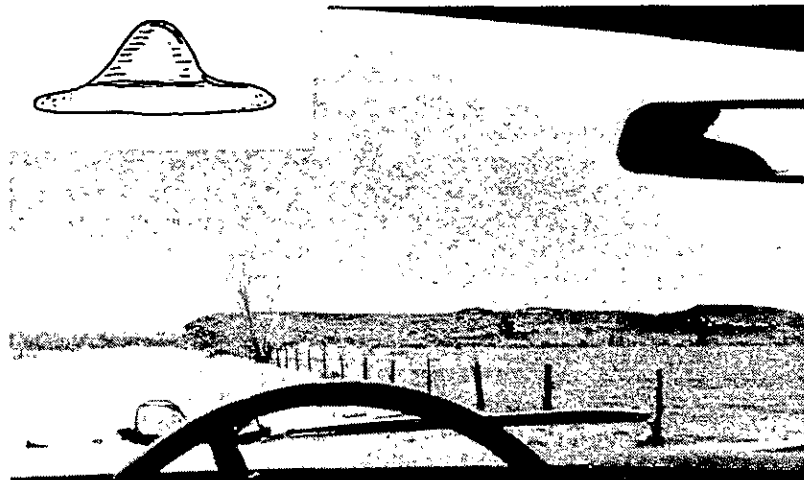
FBS: No wings?

DP: No wings. No structures like that.

FBS: No propellers or anything?

DP: Just even, smooth, very smooth on the outside.

Ft. Duchesne, Utah -- September 1966



View from Harris car when she first spotted object near butte at right.

The high point of the evening of September 28, 1966, was the sighting of Joe Ann Harris (now Joe Ann Lube) and her companions. Joe Ann and her husband were living in an apartment attached to a small Latter Day Saint (Mormon) chapel in Randlett, an Indian town about 15 miles south and then east of Ft. Duchesne. Joe Ann had driven some Indian girls to Roosevelt and was taking them home.

JOE ANN HARRIS: We [Joe Ann and Estel Manwaring] were on an Indian mission, and we had taken the girls down to a volleyball game at the chapel [in Roosevelt]. Cherlene Serwop was in the front with me, and I had four or five Indian girls with me, and they were all 16 and 17 years old.

As we rounded this turn [south of Ft. Duchesne] there was this big bright light up against the mountain about treetop level. It started moving down towards us, and as it moved, the lights would turn off and it would slant down towards us. The Indian girls said, "Look at that bright star." And I said, "That's not a star. It looks like an airplane that's going to crash into us," because it was headed straight at us. It was going to hit us, whatever it was, we knew.

FBS: How far away do you think it was when you first saw it?

JAH: It couldn't have been very far because there was a mountain [a bluff], and it was in front of that, about treetop level. The mountain was a lot higher than the trees. It might have been a half a mile, at the most, cause it looked real big.

It was real bright yellow, and it came to us and sloped down, and it got real close, and when the light would go out, we could see the dome shape with two extending parts out so that I thought it was a big bomber or something that was going to crash, and the cabin light of the airplane was going on and off. And all the Indian girls and I suddenly realized that it was something else than a bomber or anything we'd ever seen, and we all

decided it was a flying saucer, which it was. They were all on the floor screaming and hollering it was going to suck us up, which I thought it was going to do, and I still think today we'd had it.

FBS: Was the whole thing lighted up?

JAH: The whole dome was lighted up. It looked like a dome.

FBS: This light that went off and on was the light of the dome itself?

JAH: It was the light of the dome itself.

FBS: And it came right toward the car?

JAH: It would have hit us, or it would have gotten directly over us. And I know something would have happened to us.

FBS: How close do you think it got?

JAH: Oh, gee, I don't think it got from here down to the tree right there [30 to 50 feet away], and it was low, real big. It was as big as the chapel we lived in down there. It came right directly in front of us, right at us.

FBS: And you hit the brakes?

JAH: I did after a minute. I hit the brakes, and I thought, "Well, I'm going to back up and hightail it back to Ft. Duchesne," because it wasn't far back to Ft. Duchesne. And if I could make it back to Ft. Duchesne, we could stay at somebody's house. I knew I couldn't outrun it going that way [on to Randlett] because I knew it would keep up with me. And a car came around the corner [from behind, Ft. Duchesne], and I just speeded up and followed it right home [to Randlett]. And as soon as we got home I called this man, his name is Gail Wilkens, and I asked him what he thought about it, and he said he didn't even see it. Probably this was because this dome light kept going off and on, and when the dome light would go off, it would float down towards us, and we could see it moving down towards us. When the light would come on, we could tell it was so much closer down to us, and it scared us to death.

Pelican Lake, Utah -- November 1968



Object with umbilical cord hung over sagebrush flat in center background.

Morlin Buchanan and Richard Faucett were hunting on the evening of November 14, 1968 when they saw their marvelous UFO. We visited Morlin first. He is an industrial arts teacher at West Junior High where Junior teaches:

MORLIN BUCHANAN: We were out hunting geese down by Pelican Lake. It was a kind of enjoyable evening, just about at sundown. Probably the sun had set, but it's difficult to remember for sure. All of a sudden old Richard turned to me and said, "Look at that weather balloon up there, or whatever it is. It's a UFO!" And I said, "No, it's not; that's a plain old balloon down there with a string on it—see the string, how it curves with a little bit of breeze?" It was about time for us to quit hunting geese, so we jumped in the truck, and I looked through the field glasses and said, "It's down there about six blocks; we'll ride on down and grab that string off the ground." So we got in the truck, and we'd drive down the road a couple of miles and stop to look at it through the field glasses. I had these 10-50s, pretty powerful. It kept getting bigger and that string kept getting bigger around! Pretty soon we'd gone about 6 or 8 miles. I thought we'd just go down there and pick it up, but it got a little big there! Soon we were almost underneath it; not quite underneath, but you looked right up and there it was. The "string" was a great big wind tunnel descending from the UFO down to the earth. Just offhand I'd say it was at least 3 feet in diameter, but it wasn't cone-shaped; it was the same diameter all the way down to the ground. And it kind of had a breeze that was really blowing it. There was gray matter coming up through this wind tunnel, so I presume it was kind of sucking things up from the ground into the object.

FBS: Was the wind tunnel made of some kind of material, or was it just . .

MB: I couldn't tell you for sure.

FBS: It was like a tornado spout, is that what you mean?

MB: Right, right! Except it was the same diameter, right from the UFO clear to the ground. By the way, the object up in the sky was very round, sort of like a balloon, but the top of it was glowing—I mean it looked like the sun was reflecting off the glass — but it couldn't have been, because the sun was down. So here we are, and he says: "Well, I've got a spotlight here—let's drive around here in the sagebrush and check it out." I said, "No way—I don't want to be zapped up!" I was very serious, because it was kind of spooky, and I didn't want to go out there and investigate. But anyway, as we jumped in the truck the last time and started off, all of a sudden the light went out and it was gone—just that fast!

FBS: How close do you think you got?

MB: Would you believe we got within maybe a couple of blocks from where it was?

FBS: You had the impression that it was a tornado—type wind column; did you see any dust moving on the ground beneath so you could pinpoint where it was on the ground?

MB: Nope. [Original reports mention dust at the base of the "column."]

FBS: So it could still have been another 10 miles away?

MB: No, it couldn't have been another 10 miles, because it was in front of the cliffs, the Randlett ledges, which were only a half mile away at the very most. So it had to be right there in that little sagebrush flat.

FBS: Okay. Now I just want to ask you one more thing, namely: could it

have been some kind of natural phenomenon like a tornado?

MB: No, there's no way it could have been. There was just a nice evening breeze.

FBS: What are the good reasons that it couldn't have been?

MB: The day had been calm, the sun had been shining, there was a nice evening breeze, nice fall night.

FBS: Oh yeah, but I could talk my way out of all those things. But you mentioned two or three other good points: the size and shape of the tube, and of course the light. How bright was the light?

MB: Just about like a street light.

FBS: So it was not really brilliant; it didn't hurt your eyes at all?

MB: Nope. And I would say that the tube wasn't more than 4 feet in diameter.

FBS: And the gizmo itself, if the column was 3 feet—how large was the object on top?

MB: At least 30 feet in diameter—50—I don't know. It was bigger than 25 and I doubt if it was any bigger than 50 feet.

FBS: Was there a sharp, distinct boundary between it and the background? Or was it like a cloud?

MB: Oh yes! It was not like a cloud. It was definitely a round cylinder, just like a line on a piece of paper.

FBS: Except you aren't that sure about the tube. That was kind of fuzzy when you got up there close?

MB: No, it was *not* fuzzy. It was a very distinct tube, like a hose, the same size all the way up. It was just gray matter *inside* . . .

FBS: You saw movement inside the tube?

MB: Well no, you couldn't actually see movement, you could just see gray matter in there. That's all I'm going to say. All I can see in my memory is just gray.

FBS: Um-hmm. Well, how did you get the impression of wind?

MB: That's a good question. I don't know. What else could it be? Maybe at the time I said I did, but now I'm not so sure.

FBS: The boundary between the light and the rest of the object: was that a sharp boundary?

MB: No, it kind of faded from light to dark.

FBS: So it was light on top and got gradually darker as it went to the bottom. . . Was it emitting the light, rather than reflecting it?

MB: I would say it could have been either one.

JUNIOR H: Did the tunnel stay stationary while you were watching it?

MB: Yeah, it stayed stationary —

FBS: But you said it was a little curved?

MB: Yeah, it had a small bow in it, like a little breeze had bent it.

FBS: So how did this disappear?

MB: I have the impression that the wind tunnel just gradually came up to it, the light went out, and there it went.

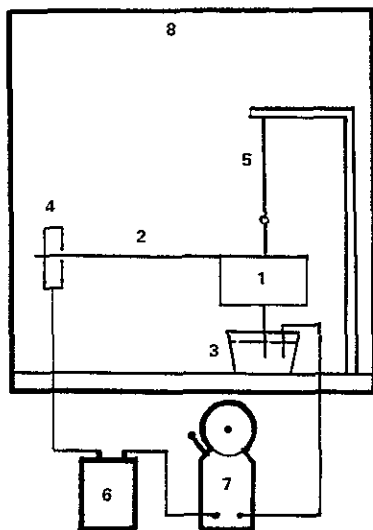
# THE EXETER EXPERIMENT

by David F. Webb

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*Editor's Note: In the March issue of UFO Investigator, NICAP reported on a small network of UFO detectors set up around Exeter, New Hampshire, by NICAP member John Oswald. The detectors were deployed in homes of people who agreed to monitor the devices and record any times the detectors were activated. A total of 15 detectors were operated at 13 different sites (two sites used two detectors). The farthest site from Exeter was 7.8 miles (No. 12), and the greatest distance between two sites was 13 miles (Nos. 1 and 12). Not all detectors were operated for the same length of time; Oswald, who ran site No. 1, maintained a detector for the longest period: 675 days (approximately 22 months). Other units functioned for shorter periods, ranging from 31 to 650 days. Only six sites operated on a 24-hour basis. The experiment began in November 1970 and ended in September 1972.*

*All detectors were identical in design. They used a suspended magnet that triggered an alarm when affected by changes in local magnetic fields. During operation, the detectors were protected from air currents, vibrations, and other non-*



Simplified diagram of Oswald detector shows magnet structure and alarm system. Components include: (1) magnet, (2) needle, (3) reservoir of mercury, (4) loop, (5) suspension string, (6) battery, (7) bell, (8) glass enclosure. When magnetic fluctuations cause needle to touch loop, circuit is closed and alarm rings. To work properly, needle must be aligned with north and protected from outside disturbances.

*magnetic forces that might cause the magnet to activate the alarm. An effort was made to place the detectors away from areas where unwanted disturbances might occur, such as effects from passing cars. This effort was not entirely successful.*

*It was not always possible for people who monitored the detectors to observe the sky when the detectors went off. In some cases, an alarm occurred at an inconvenient time or when weather conditions were poor. Most of the detectors were operated only during periods when people were at home.*

*Oswald routinely maintained the system and kept careful records on the status of each unit. He also collected sighting reports from the*

*Exeter area for the duration of the experiment. These totaled 46. Of that number, he classified 22 as good or reasonably good.*

*The number of alarms recorded during the experiment was 659. This was too large to attribute to any one cause. In assessing these results, Oswald sought the help of another NICAP member, David Webb, a physicist in Boston. Webb prepared a detailed report on his analysis of the detector data, concluding that most of the alarms could be linked to geomagnetic phenomena and other variables not related to UFOs.*

*Webb recently submitted a copy of his report to NICAP, which we are pleased to publish here in condensed form. Some of the material we have included was prepared especially for this article.*

Early in our study of the magnetometer data, it became obvious to Oswald and myself that many of the alarms were triggered by geomagnetic activity, i.e., the action of the Earth's magnetic field [as it] is related to activity on the sun, such as solar flares. One conclusion of my analysis is that half of the data [obtained by Oswald] can be reasonably removed as noise.

To produce the tables [included with this report], the following procedure was used. Using the basic alarm data, times were converted to Universal Time (UT), so that the times for each alarm could be directly compared with international geomagnetic observatory data. I then compared the alarm data with various indices of geomagnetic activity to determine which would best serve for filtering the data. I chose the Kp index primarily because it has the best time resolution (3 hours) and is conveniently available in

graphs showing many months of activity at a glance. Every alarm was correlated with its corresponding 3-hour Kp index, and the alarm was placed in one of three categories depending on the Kp values and general geomagnetic storm level.

The Kp index data are contained in NOAA's Solar-Geophysical Data Bulletins (1970-72). Their derivation and reliability are discussed in detail by Rostoker (1972). Briefly, Kp, as well as most other magnetic indices, is derived from data recorded at individual magnetic observatories on 3-component magnetometers. The data are recorded in either the local magnetic coordinate system (H,D,Z) or the more familiar geographic coordinate system (X,Y,Z). It should be noted that Oswald's magnetometer only measures the Earth's local magnetic field in the horizontal (H,D or X,Y) plane. The field deviations at each observatory are analyzed in 3-hour intervals and converted to a quasi-logarithmic index K. The values of K range from 0 (low activity) to 9 (high activity). The Kp index is then simply the mean of the K indices from 13 observatories between magnetic latitudes 47 and 63 degrees.

Rostoker emphasizes several possible pitfalls for anyone using the Kp index. The index can only give a lower limit of the level of geomagnetic activity for individual events. The spacing between observatories used in the index is large enough that local perturbations may not be recorded at all in the index. Thus the more localized field around, say, New England could be significantly disturbed and not be recorded in the world-wide Kp index. So we cannot say that storm activity was necessarily low everywhere just because Kp was small during the period in

question. However, a large value of Kp is usually a guarantee of general high geomagnetic activity. This last point served as the basis for my filtering of the alarm data.

Following the above guideline, Rostoker suggests that a good indicator of storm activity [is a Kp of at least 2]. For alarm classification I used three categories based on geomagnetic activity:

**LOW** — alarm occurred when [Kp was no more than 2] during the 3-hour interval in question *and* for the 3-hour intervals immediately preceding and following (i.e. for a 9-hour period roughly centered on the alarm time.)

**MODERATE**—alarm occurred during a 3-hour interval when [Kp was no more than 2] but did not meet the other criterion for **LOW**, *or* when [Kp was more than 2] but not during an obvious solar storm.

**PROBABLE** — alarm occurred during a 3-hour interval when [Kp was greater than 2] *and* a general storm was occurring.

Obviously these ratings are somewhat subjective, but I feel they are descriptive since the first two categories are intentionally conservative. **LOW**, in fact, should be a good indicator of an alarm triggered by a non-geomagnetic event, while **PROBABLE** should be a good indicator of an alarm set off by a geomagnetic storm.

The accuracy of the **PROBABLE** category was tested using data from Oswald's own magnetometer (No. 1), which I consider the most carefully managed detector, and also the detector with the highest number of alarms (probably not coincidentally). During nearly every major

storm during the study period, Magnetometer No. 1 was quite active.

Many of the other sensitive magnetometers, on the other hand, did not consistently have alarms during the same strong magnetic events. In fact rarely did more than two magnetometers have alarms on the same day. This is puzzling, but may be due to such factors as poor calibration, poor management (e.g. not resetting the device after an alarm), local magnetic disturbances, or local geomagnetic field variations. Also the detectors were not always in operation simultaneously.

A word on detector calibration is necessary at this point. If we assume that the *relative* calibration of the magnetometers is valid (i.e. all the detectors are measured against two standard magnets), we should be able to arrive at a rough Kp-vs.-magnetometer sensitivity threshold for each magnetometer. The attempt fails with this data probably for the reasons cited in the last paragraph but also because the Kp index is not necessarily a good indicator for individual magnetic events at one location. Therefore, the fact that a detector alarm occurred during a period of low geomagnetic activity (**LOW**) does not necessarily imply a non-geomagnetic cause; the magnetometer may be sensitive to even slight magnetic fluctuations or localized activity.

The converse statement also applies to events in the **PROBABLE** category. Thus an alarm occurring during a period of high geomagnetic activity does not necessarily imply a geomagnetic cause. Other sources such as automobile engines, AC fields, or even UFOs [may have triggered] some alarms. However, I decided to exclude *all* alarms in the **PROBABLE** category [for purposes of correlation] simply because geo-

TABLE A  
SUMMARY OF ALARM DATA

Detector Site	Maximum Sensitivity (inches)	Reliability Index	Days of Operation	Average Daily Operating Time (hours)	Total Alarms	Alarms in KP Categories		
						Low	Moderate	Probable
1	33	8.8	675	8	181	13	14	154
2	24	2.0	595	24	49	13	15	21
3	29	5.0	575	24	101	15	41	45
4	26	0.3	465	11	6	1	2	3
5	34	6.4	400	24	148	44	41	63
6	30	1.5	585	7	29	5	14	10
7	26	2.0	340	24	26	11	10	5
8	24	2.8	385	24	46	26	8	12
9	26	2.1	390	18	32	12	11	9
10	28	2.1	305	9	23	11	5	7
11	31	0.7	140	24	3	0	0	3
12	27	0.4	650	8	10	3	5	2
13	29	4.7	31	6	5	0	2	3



TABLE B  
CORRELATION OF ALARMS AND UFO REPORTS

Date of Sighting and Alarm	Time of Sighting	Time of Alarm	Estimated Distance to UFO from Detector Site (miles)	Detector Site	KP Category	Oswald's Rating of Report*
<i>Primary Correlations</i>						
1-13-71	7:30 pm	7:30 pm	1	4	Mod	A
10-17-71	7:00 pm	8:20 pm	12	7	Low	B
		11:13 pm	13.5	8	Low	
1-05-72	10:50 pm	11:20 pm	4	5	Mod	B
1-06-72	10:15 pm	10:55 pm	3.5	5	Low	A
<i>Secondary Correlations</i> <sup>(1)</sup>						
3-05-71	night****	8:25 am	8.5	1	Mod	C
3-18-71**	night	7:25 am	2.5	6	Low	C
8-24-71	8:10 pm	10:40 pm	6	5	Low	C
10-19-71	night	10:07 am	7	5	Low	C
		3:50 pm	7	5	Low	
10-30-71	night	7:04 am	1.5	8	Mod	C
		10:45 am	9	10	Low	
		1:25 pm	1.5	8	Low	
		4:10 am***	1.5	8	Low	
11-08-71	11:50 pm	7:10 am***	1.5	8	Low	
		6:40 am***	2	10	Low	B
3-06-72	7:00 pm	8:35 am	-	3	Low	B
		11:40 am	-	7	Low	
3-06-72	7:20 pm	8:35 am	4	3	Low	B
		11:40 am	5.5	7	Low	
8-21-72	night	9:32 am	-	8	Mod	C

## Notes:

\* A — Probable unknown; B — Possible unknown;

C — Insufficient data

\*\* Date uncertain

\*\*\* Time on day after sighting

\*\*\*\* Sometime between sunset and midnight

(1) One report of special interest is not included in this table. It occurred on 11-23-71 at 1:55 am. It is class A; it is correlated with 4 alarms within 45 minutes; and the detectors giving these alarms have a high Reliability Index. More exciting is the fact that an alarm occurred at the location of magnetometer Number 1 four minutes before both of the detectors at location Number 5 went off; simultaneously with these latter alarms a "large, fast moving, oval white light" was sighted at location Number 5. This sighting deserves greater attention.

magnetic activity could easily have triggered the alarm if nothing else had.

The magnetometer data presented in Table A [include] a so-called "Reliability Index," which is an indicator of the reliability of a given magnetometer's operation. It is the product of the magnetometer's sensitivity times the total number of alarms it produced divided by the total days of operation. This quantitative scale indicates that Oswald's detector is indeed the best managed detector, and reinforces Oswald's statements about the detectors with the lowest RI.

Once [filtered alarm data — those in the LOW and MODERATE categories —] had been produced, I could then try to extract any UFO "signal" from the filtered data by checking for time correlation with Oswald's list of UFO reports from the Exeter region during the same general time period that the magnetometers were operating. My expectations were low for several reasons: 1) I doubted that the response time and sensitivity of the detectors were sufficient to record the field of a fast, probably distant sky object; 2) The statistical quality of the reports is low (more than 2/3 are uncertain in either date or location or both); 3) Most of the filtered alarms might very well have been caused by local geomagnetic events, passing autos, or other mundane electromagnetic disturbances. Therefore, I was surprised to discover that 13 of the UFO reports were correlated in time with 24 alarms, although only 4 of these reports had alarms occurring within 80 minutes of the [reported] sighting time.

Table B lists the correlated alarm data vs. UFO report data under two classifications, "Primary" and "Secondary." The Primary correla-

tions are those rated highly because Oswald rates the UFO report as a possible or probable unknown (his class A or B), and the time difference between the report and the alarm is known and small. Note that I did not try to include a weighting factor for the proximity of the detector to the UFO [location]: it is very difficult in most cases to determine the actual location of the reported UFO as opposed to the location of the witness. Even so, it is interesting that 3 of the 4 Primary reports have known distances [to the UFO] that are no more than 4 miles.

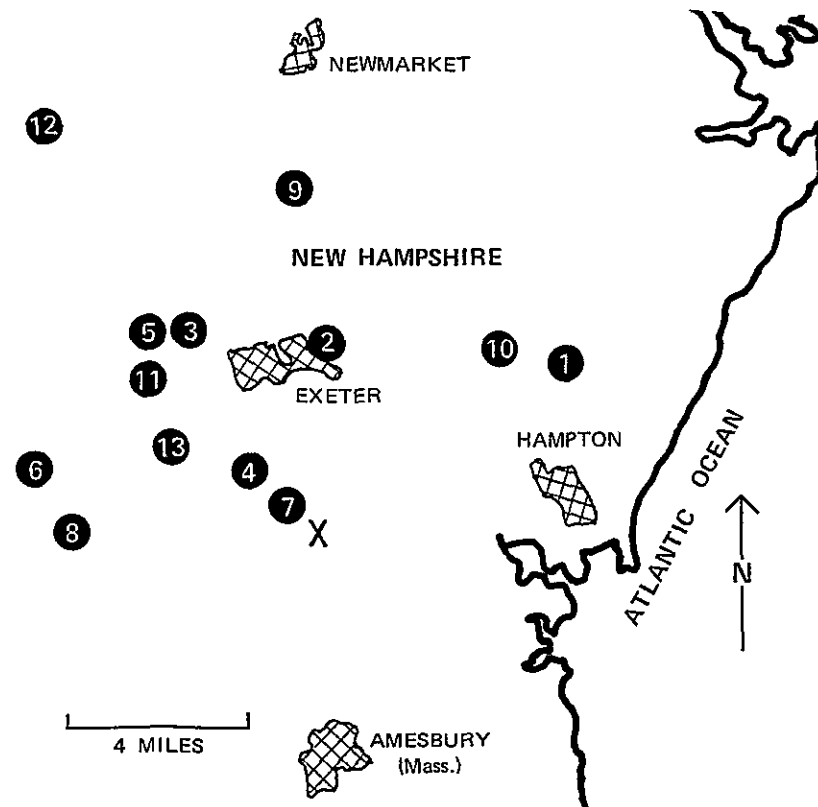
The Secondary correlations have insufficient data (mainly the exact date and/or time are unknown), are rated low by Oswald, or do not correlate closely in time. A UFO report was included in Table B if an alarm occurred within 12 hours of the report time. At first glance this conservative figure implies that all Secondary correlations are suspect; only [one report] has an alarm occurring within a reasonable time of the sighting, but it is classified as C. The list may prove useful, however, if all the reports with time uncertainties are further investigated to better determine the date and time of each.

My study compared only the filtered alarm data against the UFO report list. No attempt was made to study the reverse correlation: the UFO reports against all of the alarm data. This processing might uncover some interesting material. If the quality of the report data were improved, a statistical study of the UFO reports vs. all alarm data would be useful. But one would have to be quite stringent in the time correlation because of the inclusion of alarms during high geomagnetic activity. If carefully done, the reports could be further correlated

with distance, detector sensitivity, and report class.

Observation of the behavior of the two sets of dual magnetometers (sites Nos. 1 and 5) gives insight for a method of minimizing noise. Oswald maintained two detectors at his site (No. 1), one very sensitive (33 in.) and the other relatively insensitive (24 in.). The 33 in. gave more alarms than any other detector, while the 24 in. gave only 11 alarms. All of these latter alarms occurred during intense geomagnetic activity. The two detectors at location No. 5 were more closely matched in sensitivity, only 4 to 6 inches different in calibration distance. They recorded most of their alarms simul-

taneously. The implication is that all such magnetometers should be used in tandem, with their individual sensitivities chosen such that one will discriminate against geomagnetic activity. Oswald's 33 in. detector was obviously too sensitive to storm activity, while the 24 in. was probably nearly correct for detecting only the largest storm events and large local disturbances. It must be remembered that the field intensity falls off as the inverse square of the distance, so the difference in calibration of the two detectors need not be large. The use of carefully calibrated tandem detectors also will permit the cross-measurement of field strength of a source if it triggers both detectors simultaneously.



Detector sites were clustered around Exeter in random pattern. Famous Exeter sighting of 1965 actually occurred outside small town of Kensington (X on map).

## DIALOGUE ON GOVERNMENT COVERUP

*The question of government conspiracy is one of the dominant themes in UFO literature. The emergence of private UFO organizations has been, as much as anything else, a reaction to government obfuscation on UFOs and evident attempts to influence public opinion. Behind government statements, many groups see the shadow of surreptitious activity, born possibly of evidence uncovered by government investigators. Under the stimulus of such suspicions, a continuing flow of charges, rumors, and speculation has saturated the UFO field, encouraged by such perennial reports as men-in-black and crashed saucers.*

*To help deal with this issue, NICAP asked two men who are closely acquainted with the nature of government to sit in a discussion on the question of cover-up and conspiracy. Both men are associated with NICAP and have spent most of their professional life in government-related work. Harold H. Cooper, recently resigned NICAP Governor, served with the Central Intelligence Agency for 19 years, where he was special assistant to the Deputy Director for Intelligence. He is author of a novel about life in the CIA and is presently writing a book on John Randolph of Virginia. John P. Coyle, a NICAP photographic consultant, is an operations research specialist presently working with the Navy in the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations. He was formerly employed by the Center for Naval Analysis, the Navy counterpart of RAND.*

*The discussion was conducted by NICAP staff member Stuart Nixon on March 7, 1973. It was held, appropriately enough, in a motel overlooking the Pentagon. The transcript that follows has been edited for continuity and space requirements.*

**NICAP:** The U. S. Government is officially disinterested in the UFO problem. How do you account for this? Is it due to competition from other priorities or is it part of the general climate of opinion that UFOs are a dead issue?

**COOPER:** I don't think it's so much the climate. My experience in government has been that the government takes action when it's forced to by concrete occurrences. An example that occurs to me was that the CIA informed what we call the government—namely, the National Security Council—week after week for 12 months before the first Sputnik flew, saying that it would fly, that they were working on it, that it would probably happen, and gradations of this, up to the time of the first launch. None of the men on the Security Council under Eisenhower would sit still for this talk; it sounded like science fiction to them and they weren't interested. Or if so, they concealed their interest from the rest. Then when it occurred, it was the biggest news of the time. Herblock had a magnificent cartoon showing Khrushchev raising a golfer's cap while Sputnik sailed overhead like a golfball. The thing is, the imagination hadn't anticipated this, and I must say that this is true of all the CIA reporting at the time; we did say it was likely to occur, but nobody in CIA said or stated in any formal paper that it would be a worldwide shock. That element did not get through. I think if Allen Dulles had been able to tell the Security Council, "Look, fellows, when this happens, we are all going to lose face"—if he had been able to do that, they might have said, "Oh, that Allen Dulles is going off his rocker." You can only brief your commanding officer insofar as his imagination will permit it. This is the tragedy of all briefing operations in the intelligence area. So the government came out at once after Sputnik and made a public statement—Allen Dulles said, "Look, the government was not surprised by this." Well, that's true; the government was not surprised by Sputnik; it was flabbergasted.

**COYLE:** You know a thing happened right after that. Of course, we were frantic to get our Earth satellite up, and I think something's that probably germane to what you're trying to talk about here—what sort of things happen in government spontaneously rather than what is authorized by the government itself—is that everybody was scrambling around trying to launch the American satellite. There were several projects—Pioneer was the name of the project, I think. There were a bunch of people, friends of mine, out in California at a place called the Naval Ordnance Test Station who had the idea that they, although they weren't authorized to—they had a bunch of scrap rockets that were in a scrap pile—and they put in a bid—Why don't you let us try it?—and got turned down. I wasn't out there; I just talked to friends on the fringe of this group, so that I wasn't actually there to see how far it went. But between my friends and me, we weren't too sure whether there might not be an American satellite that would also surprise the government. It was feasible; I mean these guys had a little design where they could go out there—it wouldn't cost the government any money—and bootleg a multi-stage satellite that would be done by taking clusters of these rockets and strapping them together—maybe a five-stage thing.

**COOPER:** They couldn't get an authorization?

**COYLE:** They couldn't get an authorization, but they didn't need one; they didn't have to draw anything from government stock; they could do it all by themselves.

**NICAP:** Were they afraid to do it without some kind of approval?

**COYLE:** No, no. They would have done it, I think, except that it was a little more difficult than they thought, and they didn't quite get around to it, and by the time they did, Pioneer had flown. And I've seen this happen a number of times—spontaneous, unauthorized things which occur somehow from the grassroots of the government establishment, which react in situations like that.

**COOPER:** Yes, you can get a semi-official action in the government by men of good will who know each other and can work together without drawing on government funds. I have suggested before that there may be scientists of some sort—perhaps in the Smithsonian someplace—who would be perfectly agreeable to keeping one eye cocked on the direction of this UFO problem. But they would not do so on paper; you have to do it by word of mouth.

**COYLE:** Unless they actually had something.

**COOPER:** Unless they've got a bar of metal or something, they're not going to do it on paper.

**COYLE:** There's another case that happened earlier in this same group, and I guess what gave them the courage to go on with this, was the famous Sidewinder project, which was a bootleg project.

**NICAP:** The missile?

**COYLE:** Yes, the air-to-air missile. It was not authorized; it was developed out there on a bootstrap by guys who had been ordered not to. They were supposed to evaluate weapon systems. And the thing they did was to take the best features—they had been given all these systems to test—they took the best features of each and sort of married a whole bunch of different ideas, each of which was good in one part but didn't quite hack it, and attached these things all together and made the famous Sidewinder missile. And you know it's really the only successful air-to-air missile that's ever been effectively tested in combat. And it was successful because it was a bootleg, simple-minded thing developed in spite of the bureaucracy.

**NICAP:** We know that Project Blue Book—or whatever name it went under; it had earlier names—was on the surface; it was classified in the beginning (1948) and finally it surfaced and remained visible. As a matter of fact, it was really the focal point for public awareness of government involvement in the UFO controversy. And yet, much of the speculation about this whole subject centers on whether Blue Book could have been a cover for a much more serious investigation. The history of Blue Book is basically a history of ineptitude; even the skeptics are willing to admit that. How do you account for an inept project in the public eye and still assume there is nothing beneath the surface of a more serious or competent nature?

**COYLE:** You can't blame them; just because the government does it, it doesn't have to be "ept."

**COOPER:** That's right. Almost anything you want to take illustrates the government making symbolic gestures rather than dealing with issues. That's what the government so often does to avoid seriously confronting a problem.

**NICAP:** That's an interesting way to put it.

**COOPER:** I used to tell my young people who came to work—they would either tell me they had taken political science or history—that what they needed was a course in symbolist poetry. So much in government is symbolic gesture. Summit talks, for instance.

**NICAP:** Some people might ask why this is a relevant question; why does the cover-up question keep coming up? Well, most of the people who have followed the UFO subject take UFOs seriously; that's why they're interested. And they cannot understand why their government doesn't. To them, it's reasonable to look at some of these reports and say, well, they come from responsible citizens, they are internally consistent, and after all, we can't always have things happen according to our own terms. Can't someone in the government see it the same way?

**COOPER:** But is it fair to ask the government to interest itself in a subject which is so far not a factual subject?

**NICAP:** Not a factual subject?

**COOPER:** Yes, it's not an empirical matter. If I may speak for the government for a moment, why should the government be interested in it? The people aren't running amuck; their health is not affected. It's a matter of purely intellectual concern. And usually, historically, these things have been done by individuals on their own hook.

**COYLE:** There should be some evidence, of course. If it had turned out to involve security, then one would have expected it to have become a much more important question.

**COOPER:** Nobody's been killed by this phenomenon.

**NICAP:** Well, there have been some deaths associated with it, but certainly it doesn't represent a threat as such. But this gets us back to a basic question. We don't know what these things are; if we take any of the reports at face value, they are extraordinary events, whatever that may mean. And yet, somehow within the framework

of government, shouldn't there be some mechanism for looking at things that have no immediate relevancy and yet still might be important to us as a society? This is pure science.

**COOPER:** Oh yes, you get a certain amount of pure research in the government—certainly, a lot of it. But it's sort of bootlegged because they really think it's going to pay off in another way.

**NICAP:** How much does a willingness to engage in pure research influence government policy? It doesn't seem, at least in this particular instance, to have had much effect; we don't see scientists whose intellectual curiosity is excited; we don't see these people involved; they're not even at the surface.

**COOPER:** There's a good reason. Take, for example, a college professor, a Nobel Prize winner. If he sees a UFO at close hand, he will not—believe me—tell anybody, especially the head of his department at the university. If he let it out, his Dean would have him right where he's been trying to get him for 20 years.

**NICAP:** Isn't that a kind of chicken-and-egg situation, though? If the government had started off and said publicly, "We don't see a military threat here but we are willing to turn over our data to an appropriate scientific agency and let them pursue it further if they feel that's necessary," at least the public then would have had an open mind. More importantly, the scientific community would not have been put off by the problem.

**COYLE:** The difficulty is that the evidence really is the other way, but the preponderance is toward various kinds of hysteria, etc. There is enough fraud and evident misconceptions of one kind or another that you just don't want to get mixed up in it. Nobody wants to be identified with it.

**COOPER:** Remember the history of the identification of meteorites in the 18th Century. The government was opposed. It was impossible to get a serious investigation started because the subject was not in the books. It was a lawyer who solved the problem when his gardener brought him in a steaming hot potato that was metal and said it fell in the garden. Well, he knew his gardener was sensible, not an hysterical fellow, and he took it to Paris to find out what it was. And finally he nailed the Academy scientists down. It's a classic story in the history of science.

**NICAP:** Let's go back to one thing you said, Mr. Coyle. Can you accept a project like Blue Book, which went on for 21 years (1948-69), operating out of two rooms at a very low priority, with a few officers and a secretary—file clerks essentially—can you conceive of this as nothing but an ineptly run project without any purpose other than to stave off public interference, or something of that nature?

**COYLE:** I can conceive of it; I don't really know enough about the project. There are plenty of offices in government that operate inefficiently; there are particular personalities who are assigned to situations like these. How much turnover was there in the people operating the project?

**NICAP:** Fairly high, actually.

**COYLE:** Fairly high? OK, now if that's the case, I can say that it's probably straight. If it was high enough, you're going to get a wide spectrum of competence and personalities, and if there was really something hidden in the back of it that was available for someone to find, one of those guys would have waited until he got out of the service and disclosed what he had seen.

**NICAP:** Many people have a high degree of faith in the government, or at least a significantly higher degree than I do. How do you see it.

**COOPER:** You both are right. They're right to have faith in the government, and you're right to be skeptical of it. It just depends on different cases. I won \$20 on a bet during the War when the government announced that a certain enemy ship was sunk. The Secretary of the Navy announced that the ship was sunk. Well, we had come to the conclusion in our office from our information that the ship had not been sunk. Our information was just enough to make the skeptical fellows in the office smile

knowingly. They didn't believe the Secretary. I said, "No, it's not that I'm less cynical than you; it's just that I'm ten years older than you. And I know the Secretary of the Navy is not going to stick his reputation out to be knocked off like that, unless he's got enough evidence that he can take six heads with him if he's wrong. It's clear that ship sunk; we just don't know it here." By golly, it was sunk.

**NICAP:** A lesson in pragmatic logic.

**COOPER:** What the hell. The Secretary of the Navy didn't give a damn whether the ship was sunk; all he wanted to do was stay Secretary of the Navy.

**NICAP:** It's interesting you bring this example up, because one example I often cite as evidence that a secret project could not be conducted without some leakage is that in the 1950s, the Secretary of the Navy was flying over the Pacific with an escort aircraft in bright daylight. They sighted an object that paced their plane and was seen by both aircraft. The story goes that when the Secretary got back to Washington, he was sufficiently concerned to instigate his own investigation. He called in some of his research people and assigned them to pull together some information. Eventually a meeting was held and word got out that the Navy was poking around. This antagonized the Air Force, and the Navy closed out its inquiry. The Air Force said, in so many words, that the UFO situation was its responsibility.

**COOPER:** Sure. It was; Ike had given it to them. The bureaucracy always makes distinctions of that kind.

**NICAP:** Let's carry it a step further. Some people would say this doesn't prove anything. If there had been a secret project, the Secretary of the Navy would have been contacted on a confidential basis and questioned about the incident. But there is no indication this happened.

**COOPER:** Has NICAP talked with anyone who has personal knowledge of this incident?

**NICAP:** No, our source is a Navy officer who knew some of the people involved.

**COYLE:** It remains though that there is a natural opportunity for someone with a desire to find out what's going on. Some guy in the Blue Book project who was alert and interested could have stumbled across the facts, if just by chance. The same incident that was being investigated by the other people would also be investigated by them; it would be very hard for the two projects not to overlap. And someone could have picked up something from an innocent witness, who might say, "I just talked to somebody else about this." It's most unlikely you could have over all these years a separation that could be tight. You ought to look up some of the old incumbents in the Blue Book project and interview a sampling.

**NICAP:** We've thought about that, but there's some question as to how much cooperation we might expect. Some of the former personnel, like Major Quintanilla, have shown little interest in their Blue Book assignment.

**COYLE:** They might have selected people who were not highly motivated.

**COOPER:** It was a dumping ground; it became a dumping ground.

**COYLE:** Yes, but of course, their selections weren't that good either. Presumably, they would have picked someone with reasonable competence; if somebody was going to be dumped, it would not be because he was stupid but because he was smart.

**NICAP:** We got frustrated on this several years ago. The project was brought back to an active status in 1951, two years after they issued a statement saying it had been closed down entirely. Actually, that was not true; it had only been downgraded to routine status from a special project. But nobody caught that distinction. Then in 1951, an incident occurred in New Jersey that prompted the Air Force Director of Intelligence, Gen. C. P. Cabell, to reinstate the project to a higher level. We tried to contact Cabell in 1970 but he wouldn't grant us an interview. Shortly after we received his letter, he died.

**COYLE:** OK, if there was some sort of secret project going on, why would he have bothered to set this other thing up?

**NICAP:** People who believe there is a secret project would answer that by saying it is so secret, a lot of seemingly key people like Cabell actually don't know about it.

**COOPER:** I can't buy it. Sure the government's done secret things in time of war, but they all come out. The atomic bomb was concealed from a lot of people, despite the fact that thousands of people were involved with it. It came as a surprise in my office, even though we were busily embracing all sorts of other secrets.

**COYLE:** I had almost a complete story of what was going on at Alamogordo about a month before it leaked out—just a casual comment from some physicist friends.

**COOPER:** Sure this kind of thing can happen. When I asked a taxi driver to let me out in front of a certain Navy building, he said, "I understand they're reading Japanese messages in that building." And he was absolutely right.

**NICAP:** What is the longest project that's been kept secret? Is it possible to come up with an average life-expectancy figure for a secret in Washington?

**COOPER:** You have to distinguish between a project and events. Events are known to lots of people but never described in the public domain. You can postulate their existence if you want to.

**NICAP:** Could the UFO problem fall in that category?

**COYLE:** You could be sure that a secret project could not have been very accurate in following up on all possible areas of leakage. You know damn well it would be impossible for you to cover the tracks of all the people who do your interviews. They could leak information.

**NICAP:** You would think so, although couldn't you at least hypothesize that these people would be sworn to secrecy? We're talking about fairly large numbers, but they'd be selected in any event. You might get 90 percent to never open their mouths, but what about that 10 percent, or even one percent?

**COOPER:** What would be the reason for the secrecy?

**NICAP:** Well, you'll get a hundred answers on this.

**COOPER:** One, obviously, is that it is our own experimental work. We can discount that for various reasons. What other reasons are advanced for a secret project?

**NICAP:** One of the most original I've heard goes something like this: 1) the government recognized that some of these phenomena were in fact extraterrestrial, 2) it was felt that such events could have a radical effect on the population, 3) the government decided that the best policy was a do-nothing policy because these "visitors" weren't doing anything to us, and 4) the principal consideration was to avoid any restructuring of the social order, or worse. In other words, let them come and go. Maintain cognizance but don't interfere or create the need for social change. Life will go on.

**COOPER:** Well, the fact is none of these things happened, although there is a certain amount of logic in that view. This room is full of radio waves, but as long as nothing happens to us, the government is not particularly concerned. There are so many other things that are important. So I say these objects are "nonexistent" in that sense. We can't contain them; we can't predicate their behavior. It may be they are far more desperate than we are. We can't really project our situation onto them, but they may be encountering problems that prevent them from contacting us.

**NICAP:** That would be consistent with your earlier point. If there is no practical benefit to be derived from a particular action, the action will probably not be taken at the government level.

**COOPER:** A secret project wouldn't get official status until they brought in the wing of a plane. Then it would be organized.

**COYLE:** This gets you back to the physical evidence problem. You keep hearing talk about these rare physical metal objects that are left behind and that sort of thing. If there were such a thing, it would become of considerable interest. It is most unlikely the scientific community wouldn't really have an interest.

**NICAP:** Unless it was kept from them.

**COYLE:** It would be very difficult to keep it from them because the scientists who are competent to make that judgment, that something like this is interesting, are more loyal to their science than they are to any political interest. They'd be eager to go out and make themselves a scoop.

**COOPER:** One of the greatest illusions the layman has about government is the question of secrecy. You may think this is a strange thing for me to say when I've just recited a number of things the government has never publicized. You will be even more convinced I am wrong when I tell you that it isn't just a matter of national security or vital secrets. Governments respond to situations for other reasons. Information may be kept from the public just to avoid public pressure. If you're looking for secrecy, you can always find it. You can postulate secrecy just as you can postulate the devil.

**COYLE:** Then, of course, you've got to recognize there's more than one government in the world. Not only do these secrets have to be kept from the French, who have had in some ways a richer experience of UFOs than the Americans have, but from other governments as well.

**NICAP:** You couldn't conceive of some sort of international agreement to maintain complete secrecy until the true implications of this thing...

**COOPER:** No, no, absolutely inconceivable.

**COYLE:** Not if there are people out looking. You've got lots of people out looking. You've got NICAP and all its related activities, plus similar groups abroad. And they all go out and investigate everything they can find, convinced there's something there. And many of them have competent backgrounds; many are scientists and that kind of thing. And the evidence is generally available. If there is some secret cabal, they are selective enough that they can somehow anticipate the actual arrival of one of these visitations and get there and suborn witnesses before they can talk to the papers or something like that. Or they are able to arrange a specific date and place where they know they can isolate the phenomenon. This would mean the actual events seen by the public are not the real ones. That's about the only way you could make it work—have a conspiracy to assure the ones that are seen by the ordinary casual customer are not the real occurrences. I'm not ready to swear that that would be impossible. It would have to be something like that.

**NICAP:** Now you've hit on a very critical point. A lot of people say the only reports a secret project would be interested in are those from their own military people. You know—they've gotten a lot better pictures from their gun cameras than they're ever going to get from Joe Blow with his Polaroid, who happens, just by sheer chance, to see the thing sitting in the woods. So they don't need to worry about Joe with his Polaroid; they got those gun camera pictures, and they've got their radar tracks, etc., etc. But that still begs the question you just raised.

**COYLE:** We've established those military people can't be isolated, even if a secret project pulled out those kinds of observations.

**NICAP:** Even if they could, there's still the citizen who might have an equally dramatic encounter as the military pilot. How are you going to shut that citizen up? You can propose a kind of police state situation where there is intimidation; goodness knows there has been evidence of intimidation in this field. Airline pilots in particular have felt pressure from their companies, and that kind of thing. But these are isolated incidents, relatively speaking.

**COOPER:** I would really seriously believe that you are wasting energy in postulating the existence of a secret project or cabal of any sort.

**NICAP:** It may be, but the UFO field has been characterized by this kind of question, mainly because it is inconceivable to the seriously interested person that his government could not interpret the evidence the way he interprets it.

**COOPER:** Again, it gets me back to where I started. If there's no practical result, the Air Force doesn't need to say anything.

**NICAP:** We're really making a very clear-cut distinction here between honest scientific curiosity — climbing a mountain because it's there — and a vested interest of some kind.

**COOPER:** Government action.

**NICAP:** Government action. Climbing the mountain only because there's something on the other side.

**COOPER:** You have to remember also there are all sorts of other cultural reasons why the media, for instance, would play it down. They played it up for a year or two, and gradually the more responsible people in the business said, "Look, we are not doing the public any good; we're being made monkeys out of." Now, ever since our moon flights, UFO documentaries on TV, etc., nobody raises too many eyebrows about it. Mrs. Glutz in Des Moines is interviewed while hanging clothes in the back yard; she says, "Well, we get to the moon; why can't they get here?" That's the end of it as far as the mass mind is concerned.

**NICAP:** There's a lot of truth in that.

**COOPER:** The government is not going to act without some hard evidence. Take a general I know. He has enough imagination to say, "The world's full of things we can't explain. What makes you think we can explain everything? Why do you jump on this subject?"

**NICAP:** One Air Force official I spoke with said, "We were briefed many times on this matter." But he overlooked that the people who did the briefing were not likely to tell him what was actually occurring at Blue Book. So what confidence could he place in what he was told? The lower echelons are usually going to tell him only what he wants to hear.

**COOPER:** Up to a point. They're more likely to go back to their office and say, "The boss was bored with this; he doesn't believe it."

**COYLE:** Undoubtedly, though, there must have been brass who came through the circuit every once and a while who were believers in the view that something was out there and whose subordinates were eager to go find the evidence for them.

**NICAP:** In the final analysis, it's the old argument of the true conservative: if the government wants to keep a secret, it can do so.

**COOPER:** Whoever says that has obviously never worked for the government. One man can keep a secret.

**COYLE:** With a little bit of luck, maybe two. But not many more.

**COOPER:** The only other thing I've seen is one matter that's been kept officially secret since World War II, although there must be 10,000 people who know about it.

**NICAP:** You've never seen anything published about it, not even speculation?

**COOPER:** I've seen allusions to it but not anything you could call a statement. It was about an intelligence success during the War.

**COYLE:** Of course, there are many things that are successfully kept secret because there just isn't any impact; there are not enough people who're interested to make it matter. I can tell you a secret that's been kept to this day, which is shared by only four or five people. This was a secret of who released a paper of mine to Drew Pearson in 1958. It isn't important enough to be a big issue, but it is a secret. In the UFO case, the question at stake would be important enough to enough people — if you're thinking of the enormity of the thing you think is being kept secret. It wouldn't be the sort of case that I just described.