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The following material is excerpted from Chapter 13 of Mr. Raymond E. Fowler's forthcoming book "UFOs—INTERPLANETARY VISITORS", published by Exposition Press, Inc., Jericho, New York 11753. 356 pages, price \$8.50.

Mr. Fowler has been a NICAP investigator for many years and is well qualified to speak on the subject of UFOs. His views are his own and are presented for NICAP members information. NICAP expects to offer Mr. Fowler's book to members when it is published (expected date, April 1974).

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THE SITUATION - UFOs

by Raymond E. Fowler

MILITARY — TREATED AS A THREAT

In this world of conflicting ideologies, wars and frantic arms races, it was only natural that the military, rather than the scientist, took an active interest in UFOs from the very outset. Although civilians were reporting UFOs in the early days, it was the military war machine that was first consistently confronted at close hand with the strange phenomena during World War II. Reports were prevalent among both allied and axis Air Forces of sharply-defined luminous globes and silvery balls which paced their aircraft in perfect formations. Most of these early reports have come to NICAP directly from World War II pilots because very little public information was forthcoming during the war years. One exception was the following Associated Press release.

Paris, Dec. 13, 1944—As the Allied armies ground out new gains on the western front today, the Germans were disclosed to have thrown a new *device* into the war—mysterious silvery balls which float in the air. Pilots report seeing these objects

both individually and in clusters, during forays...It is possible that they represent a new anti-aircraft defense instrument or weapon. (This dispatch was heavily censored at supreme Headquarters)

After the war, it was discovered that no such weapon existed in the enemy arsenal. Indeed, paradoxically enough, the German and Japanese Command thought that they represented secret Allied weapons! To make matters more puzzling, reports indicated that the objects never showed hostility and were not harmed when fired upon. The *official* explanation for these strange objects and globes of light was that they were electrical phenomena known as *St. Elmo's Fire*. Very few combat pilots would buy this explanation but since authority had spoken, little more could be said.

NICAP research has shown that similar sightings were being reported in the United States but only by newspapers on the local level. It wasn't until June 24, 1947, that the well-known sighting of 9 discs by pilot Kenneth Arnold suddenly became the focal point for national interest. The many sightings that had hitherto been ignored by the wire services became national news overnight! Silvery discs were being seen everywhere by people from all walks of life including close-up observations by military and civilian pilots.

"The Phenomenon is Real"

When the UFO dam burst in 1947, the Army Air Force was going through the throes of a radical reorganization that would involve becoming a separate service branch apart from the Army. Formerly classified documents reveal that UFOs caused panic within high military circles. Army Air Force Intelligence teams were dispatched all over the United States to interrogate civilian and military witnesses to UFO sightings. All data was funnelled to the Air Material Command (AMC) at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base near Dayton, Ohio. By the Fall of 1947, AMC had completed its initial analysis and sent the results to the Commanding General of the Army Air Forces.

The phenomenon reported is something real and not visionary or fictitious The description is (of objects which are) metallic . . . circular or elliptical in shape, flat on bottom and domed on top.

Sign — Grudge — Bluebook

Three months later, on December 30, 1947, the Commanding General of the Army Air Forces initiated Project *Sign* assigned it a 2A priority and ordered it to thoroughly investigate the UFO phenomena. Fear prevailed that the objects were Russian in origin!

Responsibility for *Sign* fell into the hands of the Air Technical Intelligence Center (ATIC), an integral part of the new fledgling Air Force which had hardly begun to try out its new wings. According to Edward J. Ruppelt, former chief of the Air Force UFO Project, ATIC concluded that the objects were not Russian but were interplanetary in origin. In August of 1948, a Top Secret report was prepared and sent up the chain of command for approval. The startling report went as far as the Air Force Chief of Staff, General Hoyt S. Vandenberg who rejected it for lack of proof and ordered it to be declassified and burned! The Pentagon denies that such a report ever existed. However, Major Dewey Fournet, former Pentagon monitor of the Air Force UFO project, now a NICAP Board member, also has confirmed its existence. Shortly after this, on December 27, 1949, the Air Force made a public announcement to the effect that flying saucers did not exist and that it was terminating Project *Sign*. "The Air Force has discontinued its special project of investigating and evaluating reported flying saucers. The reports are the result of misinterpretation of various conventional objects, a mild form of mass hysteria, and hoaxes. Continuance of the project is unwarranted." Unknown to the public at that time, the project did not really close. It opened again *secretly* in February of 1949 under a new code name—Project *Grudge*! However, its existence surfaced publicly when 1952 ushered in

a second world-wide UFO sighting wave with the resultant public pressure on the government to do something about the situation! Thus, in March of 1952, its code name was again changed to Project *Bluebook*. Shortly after this, on January 12, 1953, the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) convened what has now become known as the *Robertson Panel* Because it was chaired by the late and renowned scientists, H.P. Robertson of the California Institute of Technology. The CIA asked the panel to examine and evaluate the UFO evidence. Ruppelt has presented a *veiled* account of these secret hearings in his book written in 1956. He writes that the panel was given three alternatives to choose from.

1. All UFO reports are explainable as known objects or natural phenomena; therefore the investigation should be permanently discontinued.
2. The UFO reports do not contain enough data upon which to base a final conclusion. Project Blue Book should be continued in hopes of obtaining better data.
3. The UFOs are interplanetary spacecraft.

Ruppelt relates that the scientists chose the second of the three suggested alternatives and recommended that the Air Force quadruple its investigation capability. The panel also urged that all UFO data be made known to the public. I think that it is important to quote Ruppelt in some length on this point as he thus far has been the only person who has revealed what the Robertson Panel's *real* recommendations were.

The panel didn't recommend that the activities of Bluebook be cut back, and they didn't recommend that it be dropped. They recommended that it be expanded. Too many of the reports had been made by credible observers, the report said, people who should know what they're looking at—people who think things out carefully. Data that was out of the circumstantial evidence class was badly needed. And the panel must have been at least partially convinced that an expanded effort would prove something interesting because the expansion they recommended

would require a considerable sum of money. The investigative force of Project Blue Book should be quadrupled in size, they wrote, and it should be staffed by specially trained experts in the fields of electronics, meteorology, photography, physics, and other fields of science pertinent to UFO investigations. Every effort should be made to set up instruments in locations where UFO sightings are frequent, so that data could be measured and recorded during a sighting. In other locations around the country, military and civilian scientists should be alerted and instructed to use every piece of available equipment that could be used to track UFO's.

And lastly, they said that the American public should be told every detail of every phase of the UFO investigation—the details of the sightings, the official conclusions, and why the conclusions were made. This would serve a double purpose; it would dispel any of the mystery that security breeds and it would keep the Air Force on the ball—sloppy investigations and analyses would never occur.

When the panel's conclusions were made known in the government, they met with mixed reactions. Some people were satisfied, but others weren't. Even the opinions of a group of the country's top scientists couldn't overcome the controversy that had dogged the UFO for five years. Some of those who didn't like the decision had sat in on the UFO's trial as spectators and they felt that the "jury" was definitely prejudiced—afraid to stick their necks out. They could see no reason to continue to assume that the UFO's weren't interplanetary vehicles.

However, the Central Intelligence Agency, who had organized the Robertson Panel in the first place, ordered the Air Force to initiate a debunking program to undermine public interest in UFOs. Since the panel's report remained classified for the next thirteen years, it was hard to judge the accuracy of Ruppelt's statements except for the obvious attitude of the United States Air Force which indeed appeared to be debunking UFOs.

The Robertson Panel report was finally declassified and made public in an *edited* version during the summer of 1966. According to this version of the report, the panel had concluded briefly that there was no evidence for "any artifacts of a hostile power," and CIA representatives present recommended that there should be a *debunking* of the flying saucers.

The "debunking" aim would result in reduction in public interest in "flying saucers" which today evokes a strong psychological reaction. This education could be accomplished by mass media such as television, motion pictures, and popular articles. Basis of such education would be actual case histories which had been puzzling at first but later explained. As in the case of conjuring tricks, there is much less stimulation if the "secret" is known.

Absolutely no mention was made in this sanitized version of the Robertson Panel to the panel's recommendations as outlined by former Bluebook Chief Ruppelt! This whole business is most curious. Why should such a report be classified SECRET for thirteen years if it were so insignificant? Why do its contents *not agree* with Ruppelt's statements?

On December 17, 1969, the Air Force *again* informed the public that it was closing down its UFO project on the basis of the negative conclusion reached by the Colorado University UFO Study. Civilians were asked to report UFOs to their local police or to members of the scientific community. Looking back in retrospect, perhaps the Bluebook philosophy had proven to have done more harm than good to the public image of the United States Air Force. The *explanations* given to citizens regarding the objects they had reported to Bluebook were sometimes bordering on being ludicrous! Thus, it was probably felt that since the best UFO data originated from within the military complex, further investigation of civilian reports would only cause continued embarrassment and undesired public pressure. This being the case, the Air Force decided to concentrate only on the government-controlled source UFO reports in their continued but little publicized investigation of UFOs. Yes, *the Air Force is still investigating UFO reports!* I have in my possession a copy of correspondence between a NICAP associate, Mr. George Earley

and the Department of the Air Force. It is dated May 26, 1970 and is a direct answer to Mr. Earley's enquiry about what government agency would now be responsible for investigating UFO sightings since the Air Force had terminated Project Bluebook. In his answer, Colonel William T. Coleman, Chief, Public Information Division, Office of the Secretary of the Air Force stated the following fact.

The Aerospace Defense Command (ADC) is responsible for unknown aerial phenomena reported in any manner, and the provisions of Joint Army-Navy-Air Force Publication (JANAP)-146 provides for the processing of reports.

SCIENCE — GAINING INTERESTS

Goodbye Bluebook

In the Summer of 1969, I was told by Dr. Hynek that Project Bluebook was about to close. He felt then that such an announcement was imminent. However, the days, weeks and months went by and nothing happened. For some reason, the Air Force decided to delay the announcement. Why? I found out in December!

Despite strong protests from Dr. Edward U. Condon, former director of the controversial Colorado University UFO project, the prestigious *American Association for the Advancement of Science* (AAAS) announced that it would conduct a UFO Symposium at the 134th annual meeting to be held in Boston, Massachusetts. The symposium was organized by a special four-man AAAS committee composed of Drs. Thornton Page (Wesleyan University), Philip Morrison (M.I.T.), Walter Orr Roberts (retiring AAAS president) and Carl Sagan (Cornell University). Perhaps significant was the interesting fact that Dr. Page had been one of the members of the afore-mentioned CIA-sponsored Robertson Panel.

This was a momentous occasion in the long 22 year history of the UFO problem. Such an *open* meeting before the elite members of the scientific community had been impossible in the past. Then, just nine days before this well-advertised conference, the United States Air Force struck! The

office of the Secretary of the Air Force announced on December 17, 1969, that Project Bluebook was closed! The widespread press release stated—

In a memorandum to Air Force Chief of Staff General John D. Ryan, Secretary Seamans stated that "the continuance of Project Blue Book cannot be justified either on the ground of national security or in the interest of science," and concluded that the project does not merit future expenditures of resources.

Hello Science

The Air Force announcement was a well-timed effort to neutralize the effects of the AAAS UFO Symposium! The deliberate delay of the Air Force announcement to coincide with the planned scientific conference was admitted to me by none other than the *Archdemon of Saucerdom* himself during a rather heated telephone conversation I had with him several days before the symposium started! However, regardless of the attempts of Dr. Condon and the Air Force to downgrade the symposium, a total of fourteen papers were presented by qualified scientists during the course of three full-day sessions. They represented the fields of astronomy, physics, radar, meteorology, computer science, sociology, psychology and psychiatry. There appeared to be general agreement among the majority of the participants that no *firm* hypothesis yet explains the hard core sightings in terms of known phenomena.

Dr. Robert Hall of the University of Illinois stated that scientists have historically resisted inexplicable events in several ways: by avoiding or denying evidence; by illogical arguments and by passing the buck between physical and behavioral scientists. Galileo's first telescopic view of Jupiter's satellites and the history of previously unexplained meteorite falls ("stones do not fall from the sky!") were cited as examples of science's attitude toward such reports. In conclusion, Dr. Hall urged scientists not to dismiss hard-core UFO cases, stating that "there is clearly a phenomenon of surpassing

importance here. It is going to force some of us to make some fundamental changes in our knowledge".

The late Dr. James E. McDonald, University of Arizona, presented evidence based upon three years of full-time UFO research which included the personal interviewing of over 500 UFO witnesses across the country. Included in his presentation was the mention of the *Beverly Affair* covered in chapter 9 of this book. McDonald contended that UFOs represented one of the greatest scientific problems of our times. He further stated that Colorado UFO Project Chief, Edward U. Condon's conclusions, did not support the contents of the project's final report which contained a large number of well-documented unexplained UFO sightings.

Dr. Hynek delivered a paper entitled *21 years of UFO Reports*. He concluded that the residue of unexplained UFO reports deserve scientific study because:

1. The same phenomenon is reported from widely-separated locations.
2. The reports come from responsible witnesses.
3. The descriptions are not of known processes.
4. The reports resist explanation by known processes.

Philip Morrison of M.I.T. and one of the world's most brilliant physicists was the last speaker. He very eloquently summarized the central thoughts and conclusions of the papers presented at the symposium. The title of his paper was *The Nature of Physical Evidence*. He said that he found certain of the reported UFO events "puzzling" but did not personally favor the extraterrestrial or any particular hypothesis. He suggested that only a clear example of a UFO incident will demonstrate whatever hypothesis is being tested. In closing, he cited Biot's investigation of the French meteorite fall as a classic historical example of the proper testing of evidence. Biot's "independent link-by-link test of multiple chains of evidence" is what Morrison stressed must be pursued if scientists are to resolve the UFO problem.

Several years prior to the AAAS UFO symposium there were definite signs that UFOs were finally becoming scientifically respectable. For years, interested scientists felt obligated to study the problem silently among their colleagues

because of negative military pronouncements and the lunatic fringe which soon became associated with UFOs. The tide began to turn when the Air Force announced that renowned physicist Edward U. Condon would direct a civilian scientific study of UFOs. Although the study did not prove that UFOs were alien craft from outer space, it nonetheless could not explain a large percentage of the sightings investigated. These included radar-visual and photographic cases by the military, civilians and our astronauts.

PSYCHOLOGICAL STRESS EVALUATOR

The similarities between UFO investigations and courtroom situations are sometimes striking. Circumstantial evidence and a heavy reliance on witness testimony is the basis for the decision making process in many of the decisions reached by judges and juries throughout the world. In a majority of the UFO cases this same type of evidence comprises the total data base available to the serious investigator for his decision making process.

Throughout the history of jurisprudence methods have been sought to determine the truthfulness of a witness's testimony. For the most part this methodology has consisted of skillful interrogation and data gathering by law enforcement agencies during their preparation of the case. The best cases (based on witness testimony) in NICAP files also shows the imprint of skilled investigator interrogation.

In the field of jurisprudence a valuable tool has been available to the investigator in his quest to determine the truthfulness of witness statements. The polygraph, or lie detector, may not be perfect and its accuracy is somewhat dependent on the skill of the operator, but nevertheless it has given investigators another useful methodology to use in their search for truth.

Unfortunately UFO investigators have been unable to avail themselves of the use of polygraphs in a majority of the cases. Complete witness cooperation is needed, as is the availability of the equipment and a trained operator at the site of investigation. The potential of polygraphic examination in strengthening or weakening a case has for the most part been

unavailable in the field of UFO research. It should be clear to the reader that the results of a polygraphic examination does not give definitive proof, but would certainly give the researcher direction and an indication of the strength of other evidence.

Fortunately for those of us in the field of UFO research a new technology has been developed which does not have the limitations that kept the UFO researcher from achieving maximum utilization of the polygraph. This new instrumentation and analysis system is not dependent on witness cooperation, does not need a trained operator at the site of investigation and in fact, requires only a good quality tape recorder as the instrument used for the investigation.

After many years of research Dektor Counterintelligence and Security, Inc. of Springfield, Va. placed on the market their Psychological Stress Evaluator (PSE-1) in 1972. The Dektor Psychological Stress Evaluator detects, measures and graphically displays certain specific, stress-related components of the human voice: superimposed on the audible voice frequencies are inaudible frequency modulations (FM) whose strength and pattern relate inversely to the degree of psychological stress in the speaker at the moment of utterance.

The physiological basis of the PSE-1 results from the fact that the involuntary frequency modulations are understood to result from minute oscillations of the muscles of the voice mechanism. Such oscillations, known as physiological tremor or micro-tremor, can be shown in the laboratory as a normal accompaniment to the activity of any voluntary muscle, occurring at a rate of 8-14 cycles per second.

Whereas most of the functional indicators of stress are attributed to the Autonomic Nervous System (ANS), physiological tremor as seen in the voice mechanism appears to be controlled by the Central Nervous System (CNS); as the ANS gains dominance in a stress situation, the micro-tremors are suppressed. In contrast to the hold-over of the ANS stress indicators, recovery of the FM indicator upon removal of the stressing stimulus allows evaluation of closely space stimuli, as may occur in narrative speech.

The relationship of psychological stress caused by an individual's dishonest statement and the resulting change in his physiological state has long been recognized and analyzed

through the use of a polygraph which measures stress induced changes in blood pressure, respiration and other physiological indicators. The application of the PSE-1 is based on this recognized principle of involuntary physiological changes related to psychological stress and has broad application in psychophysiological and pharmacological research and many other professional fields. Stress induced by fear, anxiety, guilt and conflict facilitates detection of attempted deception during interrogation and aids in a variety of professional decisions based on judgments concerning motivation, honesty, reliability, areas of tension and "psychological set".

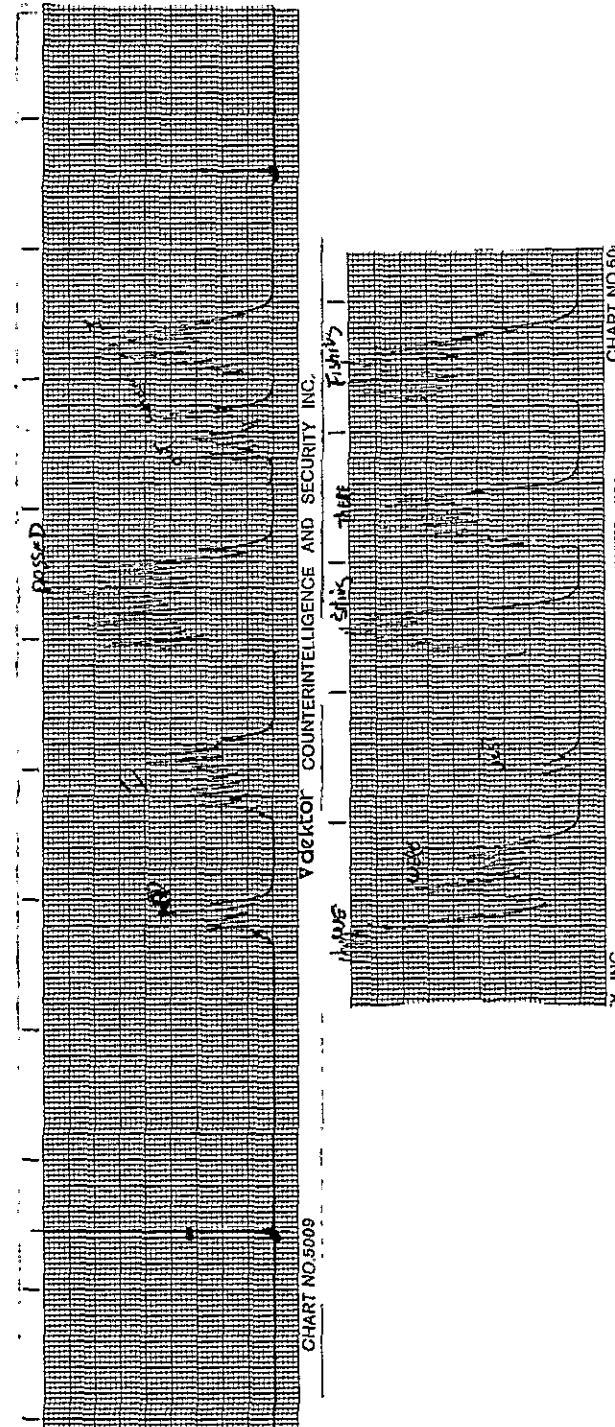
The PSE-1 is employed by law enforcement agencies, retail food and drug chains private investigators, law firms and psychiatric clinics as an effective tool in industrial psychology, criminal investigation, corporate security and employee screening and medical or psychiatric diagnosis.

THE INSTRUMENT

The use of the Voice as the physiological medium for stress evaluation, with the consequent elimination of attached body sensors, avoids the artificial and often misleading stresses induced by painful pressure instruments, restricted posture and tense pre-test procedures associated with other methods of stress instrumentation.

A tape recording preserves the speech pattern containing the voluntarily formed words which carry the involuntary speech components indicating stress. Using electronic filtering and frequency discrimination techniques, the PSE-1 processes the voice frequencies and displays the inaudible, stress-related FM patterns on a moving strip chart. These FM patterns, as interpreted by Dektor Chart Interpretation Criteria, indicate the levels of psychological stress.

The chart is traced with a heated stylus on heat-sensitive paper for ease of operation and permanence. The tape recording can be charted in four different modes of display for gross and detailed evaluation, to provide optimum charts of different types of tests.



Actual reproduction of PSE-1 Analysis of Pescagoola, Mississippi Case.

VALIDITY TESTING

After its development the PSE-1 was tested not only for validity of the instrument and chart interpretation criteria, but also for the limits of its applicability. Of particular interest were its ability to accept narrative answers as well as YES/NO; to discriminate between degrees of stress; and to display stress level on an absolute rather than relative basis. In this phase of testing, no inconclusive calls or retests were permitted.

To these ends, the first test series performed used the TV program, "To Tell the Truth" for subjects. Since only the statement, "My name is " was evaluated, no comparison with known truth or known stress was possible, thereby requiring chart interpretation on an absolute basis. This series also tested for narrative responses. Twenty-five segments of three subjects each were evaluated. In each segment, two subjects lied and one told the truth about his name. Of the 75 subject evaluations, 71 were correctly called for a success of 94.7 percent.

The second test series, in conjunction with initial demonstrations of the PSE-1, consisted of traditional lie-detection tests (Peak of Tension and General Question Tests). Both YES/NO and narrative answers were given. This series evaluated very low stress levels, because the "lie" was invited and no jeopardy or real anxiety was involved. Of 24 tests, containing 180 evaluated elements, all elements were correctly called in 22, providing a success of 91 percent on a total test basis.

The third test series was performed on actual felony suspects by a Maryland County Police Chief Polygraph Examiner using the PSE-1 and the polygraph simultaneously. Lie detection questioning techniques were employed, as well as a complex test structure, inasmuch as "guilty knowledge" as well as innocence and guilt was of interest to the Police Department. Twenty-six cases containing 162 relevant elements have been corroborated by confession or investigation. This series was a real-world high-stress test situation, in which PSE-1 evaluation provided the subsequently corroborated correct results in all elements for a success figure of 100 percent.

The fourth test series was structured to provide for comparison, reaction to presumed emotion producing words and presumed neutral words. Subjects read aloud words from each group randomly presented on 3 by 5 cards. Of 53 elements in the seven tests, 52 were correctly identified as to word group, for a success of 98.4 percent.

An additional finding of this test series is of particular interest. When stress responses of each subject were ranked according to degree, the expected variation could be subjectively related to differences in environment and background among the subjects. For instance, a retired police officer now responsible for resolving bomb threats stressed most on the word BOMB, to a lesser degree on felony words and least on misdemeanor words.

Field employment of the PSE-1 has resulted in over a thousand actual examinations performed, ranging from psychiatric evaluation to criminal lie detection, with results equaling or exceeding the above test results. Moreover, tests have been accomplished successfully in Greek, Spanish, German, Italian, Arabic (Syrian and Iranian), Chinese Mandarin and Vietnamese.

The acceptance of the PSE system as an accurate and valuable tool for determining the truthfulness of witness' statements is attested to by its present usage in Police Department's throughout the United States.

NICAP's first opportunity to use the Psychological Stress Evaluator system came during the UFO Wave of 1973. On October 11, 1973, two fisherman from the town of Pascagoula, Mississippi reported being taken on board of UFO and examined. On October 16, 1973 a cab driver from Gulfport, Mississippi reported that while he was dozing in his taxi cab he was abruptly awakened by a creature having an identical appearance to that described by the fisherman, tapping on the window of his car. NICAP was able to tape record from television interviews the statements of these individuals and send the tapes to Dektor Counterintelligence and Security, Inc. for analysis.

On October 18, 1973 the NICAP office received a telephone call from the director of news for a Biloxi, Mississippi television station. This gentleman stated that his station was being flooded with telephone calls from the

citizenry of Biloxi. These calls were from individuals reporting that they had seen UFOs, as well as from individuals expressing deep concern for the safety of themselves and their families. This concern was generated because of the two separate reports of creature contact which received widespread publicity throughout the United States. The purpose of the call from the television station was to ask NICAP's advice on what the station should do in an attempt to stem the tide of citizen involvement that was reaching "hysterical proportions". The station was told to be factual in their treatment of the subject and to report that NICAP was investigating the cases and would inform the station as to the results of such investigations. *Within one hour of this phone call the first analysis of witness reliability was telephoned to NICAP Headquarters by Dektor. This was the analysis of the taxi cab driver's taped television statements and in summary the analysis showed that there was no doubt that the man was lying about the occurrence. His statements were later confirmed as being a hoax. NICAP telephoned Biloxi to report on the results of the analysis and coincidentally in the elapsed time news reporters at the television station had been able to break the witness' story and had a film interview of him admitting he had lied. On the news that evening both the filmed interview and the results of the psychological stress evaluation analysis were prominently featured.*

The Psychological Stress Evaluator and polygraphic analysis both achieve their maximum effectiveness when a structured interview is used. The purpose of structuring the interview is to first record the responses to preliminary innocuous questions, i.e., are you John Doe, do you live in Washington, D.C., etc. The responses to such questions enable the operator to establish a base line against which stress related replies can be compared. These stress related replies are, of course, those responses elicited by questions concerning the event being analyzed by the investigator. The analysis of statements made by the two Pascagoula fisherman was inconclusive since the opportunity to do a structured interview did not exist. Even though an analysis of their statements during television interviews show a high degree of stress, a base line could not be established and there is the possibility that the stress patterns observed are the result of being interviewed for national television.

UFO WAVE OF 1973

A SUMMARY

During the last week of August, 1973 NICAP started receiving reports of UFO sightings from the state of Georgia. These sightings were localized in the southern part of the state. By the first week of September reports were coming in from throughout the state of Georgia as were requests from the news media for information on UFOs. NICAP was soon being flooded with reports from throughout the South followed by increased activity in the Midwest then New England and finally the Far Western states. By the first week of November the volume of reports being received at NICAP Headquarters had returned to the normal level of approximately 20 per month, a sharp contrast to the over 300 reports received in a 2½ month period.

In addition to processing, investigating and analyzing these reports NICAP was called upon to furnish information to the news media and approximately 75 interviews were conducted during this time period. The most common question occurring during interviews was "what is causing this rash of sighting reports". At first glance this might seem to be a simple question to answer, i.e. UFOs are more active. It is well known to those following UFO research that peaks in sighting reports seem to occur every five or six years and the peak activity which occurred in the fall of 1973 did, of course, follow that pattern. *We can state with confidence that UFOs were more active during this period due to the number of good solid reports received. However, it is far more difficult to measure the effect of nationwide publicity as a stimulus on the general population thereby causing individuals to make reports.*

Once publicity is received about UFO sightings two things begin occurring. Individuals who have seen something truly puzzling are more prone to come forward with their report since the national publicity makes them realize that

they were not alone in their experience with a UFO. This, of course, enables NICAP to receive a high number of good solid cases which probably would have gone unreported had it not been for the publicity associated with UFO sightings. Unfortunately publicity is a two edged sword which also causes a high number of poor quality reports. Once publicity is given to sightings individuals start looking for UFOs and reports seem to start coming in claiming that anything moving in the sky, and half of the things that don't move, was a UFO sighting.

Analysis of the over 300 cases received by NICAP in the fall of 1973 would lead us to state that approximately 60% of those cases received cannot be explained as normally occurring conventional phenomena. The remaining cases (an excess of 100 reports) have been classified as Unidentified Flying Objects. Some of these cases are so classified due to the lack of sufficient data for a complete analysis, but without doubt UFOs were more active in the fall of 1973. The only thing that is debatable is to what degree nationwide publicity influenced that number of reports received.

