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August 11, 1961

The Honorable Overton Brooks,
Chairman, Science and Astronautics Committee,
House of Representatives,
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Mr. Chairman:

During a recent discussion with House Majority Leader McCormack, on the subject of Unidentified Flying Objects, Congressman McCormack informed me that a UFO Subcommittee had been created in the Science and Astronautics Committee, and that Congressman Joseph E. Karth had been appointed Chairman.

At that time, Congressman McCormack told me, it was not fully decided whether the inquiry sessions would be open or closed, but he indicated that executive sessions were probable because of a possibility of causing public uneasiness if hearings were public. Congressman McCormack advised me to see Subcommittee Chairman Karth in regard to discussing NICAP's documented evidence and the appearance of NICAP Board Members and officials before the subcommittee. He further told me I could inform Congressman Karth that he had made this suggestion.

As instructed by members of our Board of Governors (listed later) I told the Majority Leader that we had carefully considered the question of open sessions, but that most of the Board and our scientific and military advisers had reached this conclusion:

The dangers from official secrecy about UFOs far outweigh the possibility of temporary public alarm.

Because of the Berlin crisis, two dangers from UFO secrecy are rapidly increasing:

1. The risk of accidental war, from mistaking UFO formations for a Soviet attack -- either jet bombers or missiles, or both.

The Air Force is on record, as you undoubtedly know, that Strategic Air Command bombers more than once have been launched against Russia when defense radar tracked "foreign objects flying in seeming formation which never have been explained."

It is also on record that President Kennedy has ordered every possible step to reduce the risk of accidental war, after "holes"

were found in the system of safeguards. Dr. Marvin Stern, Assistant Director for Research and Development, Department of Defense, has stated that we are not giving enough consideration to the factors of stress and coincidence that might lead to war by accident. In view of the contradictions and confusion about UFOs in our defense forces, another mistaken identification of UFO formations could be extremely serious, and NICAP urges action at the earliest possible moment to end or reduce this hazard.

If Krushchev threatens to take Berlin by force, all of our U.S. and foreign military bases will be on full alert. Strategic Air Command H-bombers will be airborne, ready for the "Go" signal. Our Polaris and land-based missile crews will be on standby, ready to fire their long-range rockets; defense radarmen will be searching their scopes for any sign of a Soviet sneak attack.

At such a time, under tension, defense forces might again mistake fast-flying UFOs for enemy bombers or missiles -- with possibly fatal results.

To reduce this danger, confusion about UFOs in our defense forces should be ended immediately. Once informed that UFOs are not a myth, and given detailed recognition information already in Air Force possession, defense radarmen and all our defense network will be on guard against possibly fatal errors.

2. The second hazard is the growing danger that the Soviet Premier may, at a critical moment, falsely claim the UFOs as secret Russian weapons against which our defenses are helpless.

On pages five and six of the NICAP Confidential Report sent to you in 1960, we showed, with specific details, how Krushchev could take advantage of Air Force-UFO secrecy. By using massive, verified UFO evidence already on record and stressing Air Force evasions, contradictions and denials, he could broadcast this false claim: That the UFOs are superior Russian devices, lethal in war; and that the U.S. Air Force has hid this peril from the American people and our allies.

Because of the Berlin crisis, it is now of utmost importance that the United States release its massive evidence proving that the UFOs could not be Russian devices. The Air Force already has full proof: That these strange objects, vastly superior to any machine known, were operating in our skies early in World War II -- long before the Russians had rockets or even jets.

If the Air Force refuses to release this proof, then we respectfully urge that the UFO Subcommittee, or the Science and Astronautics Committee, accept and make public NICAP's proof that the UFOs are not Russian.

This action -- wide publicity of the cited evidence -- is

urgently necessary regardless of what the UFOs are, or if they are utterly harmless. By contradictions, evasions and suppression of evidence, the Air Force -- presumably deciding it best for the country -- has established a powerful censorship about UFOs, which unfortunately has caused some suspicion of an ominous secret, and has left us vulnerable to a false Soviet claim.

[conclusion]

The chief concern of NICAP Board members and officials is the increasing secrecy dangers -- NOT, at this time, final conclusions about the UFOs. Though the majority of our Board, our scientific advisers and technically qualified members is that the UFOs described by competent observers are under intelligent control, this is not the aim of our request to appear and present documented evidence to the UFO Subcommittee. The NICAP plan, detailed later, is aimed at reducing the secrecy dangers as quickly as possible, with the least criticism of the Air Force and the least possible public reaction.

In the last four years, NICAP's Board, advisers and technical subcommittees have examined and evaluated massive evidence from hundreds of highly-trained, competent and reliable observers. These include veteran Armed Services and airline pilots, missile trackers, airport tower and Air Force base operations experts, experienced astronomers, and many other competent witnesses. We have also examined massive documented evidence concerning the Air Force investigation and its policies.

We are prepared to produce -- in open sessions or in closed sessions under the plan which follows -- sufficient evidence to prove:

X
A. The Air Force has hidden, evaded, or untruthfully explained numerous UFO reports by the most competent observers.

X
B. It has withheld UFO sighting reports, conclusions and other UFO information from Members of Congress, the press and the public.

X
C. It has carried out an official policy of debunking reports, often regardless of the facts or with no investigations, in many cases publicly ridiculing competent observers -- even veteran Air Force and airline pilots. This policy has been carried out by official Air Force spokesmen in the Office of Public Information, in the Congressional Inquiry Division of the Office of Legislative Liaison, and by Public Information officers and other Air Force spokesman at various Air Force bases.

X
We realize that such a policy may have seemed fully justified in the earlier phase of the UFO problem, to avoid public alarm. We also realize that it has now become difficult for the Air Force to change this policy for fear of widespread criticism in Congress and by the public. But as previously stated, we are convinced this policy is increasingly dangerous.

If corrective steps are not taken, then this continued secrecy might later be considered as deliberately imperiling the country, during the present grave emergency.

~~We are certain that if the entire, documented NICAP record were made public it would prove Points A, B and C without question. It would probably increase criticism of the Air Force and increase demands for a full-scale open investigation in Congress.~~

NICAP has no desire to cause this situation, especially during the present crisis. We would be glad to cooperate fully with you, Congressman Karth and the other members of the UFO Subcommittee, to end the secrecy dangers with a minimum of unfavorable publicity. To that end, we submit the following plan for consideration by you, Chairman Karth and the subcommittee.

A. NICAP Board members, officials and advisers will submit the evidence and proof cited above, in executive sessions of the UFO Subcommittee, with the Air Force assigned representatives present and authorized to explain Air Force policies and answer specific questions. The Air Force representatives will be directed by the Subcommittee to answer all of NICAP officials' questions in regard to specific UFO sighting reports and to all phases of the Air Force investigation.

B. The Air Force representatives will similarly be permitted to question NICAP officials, and the NICAP representatives will answer fully, except for revealing names and certain details of a few reports given to NICAP confidentially.

C. (It is also agreed that the Air Force may withhold names similarly, where witnesses insisted on this, and also such minor items as classified radar techniques, aircraft speeds and other relatively unimportant points not bearing on the main questions at issue.)

D. If the Air Force representatives refuse to attend such a joint meeting, or to answer all the specific questions indicated, then the Subcommittee would offer them the alternative of hearings open to the press and public.

E. If the Subcommittee decides, after hearing Air Force and NICAP evidence and answers, that the Air Force has withheld, denied or wrongly explained specific UFO reports, and that it has withheld UFO information from or given untrue answers to Members of Congress, the press and public, then it will act to reduce the secrecy daggers by ending the censorship.

F. If this Subcommittee decision is made, insuring the prompt release of all UFO information in the hands of the Air Force, NICAP will immediately end its criticism of the Air Force past policies; it will make available all its own UFO information; and it will cooperate fully, as detailed in Paragraph F, in carrying out the new policy and educating the public.

If, however, the Air Force representatives in these joint meetings can disprove all of NICAP's documented evidence and claims, as cited in Paragraph A, page three, and elsewhere, then NICAP's director will resign and recommend that the Board of Governors dis-

by much Air Force answers to questions NICAP wants to receive as right not to?

solve the organization. He will also cease all public and written discussion of UFOs and criticism of the Air Force policies.

F. If the Subcommittee decides to end Air Force secrecy, NICAP will request that a new agency, or council, be set up to insure the speedy release of all UFO information, with the immediate purpose of reducing the secrecy dangers.

It is NICAP's belief, and it is an integral part of the submitted plan, that the new agency be independent of any existing Government agency, that it be designated as a UFO Information Agency, or with a similar title, and that it should not contain any members serving with the military services except for one Air Force consultant to delete minor classified items. The agency would also include one NICAP representative as a consultant to help expedite operations and make available all NICAP information. The new UFO Information Agency would include members of the press and broadcasting media to insure the release of all UFO facts as quickly as possible.

The agency could secure opinions from space authorities, astronomers, and other experts to help determine and make public more facts about the UFO situation, but they would not have any control of the information policy.

The information to be released would include all reports of unknown or so-called unidentified flying objects from Dec. 8, 1941 to date, these not to be summaries but complete reports -- visual, radar, photographic, astronomical and reports from any other sources including satellite tracking systems. The reports would include full details, opinions of witnesses, evaluations from the first sighting reports, first Intelligence interviews, to final conclusions of ATIC (Aerospace Technical Intelligence Center) and the Directorate of Air Force Intelligence. Also included would be all other UFO studies or evaluations by the Air Force or scientists under contract to the Air Force or any other Government agency; all UFO information from other sources, military, civil government, private and foreign; all official conclusions, estimates of the situation, etc., even if later modified; all official orders, policy letters and any other official UFO information not specifically listed.

* * * * *

We realize, Mr. Chairman, the heavy pressure of your many duties, and that to date you have not had time to examine fully all of the UFO evidence. We also realize that most of your information, up to now, has naturally come from Air Force officials, and since it is their official duty to uphold the secrecy policy -- even to the point of denying it -- you would find it hard to secure all the facts even in exhaustive discussions.

You are undoubtedly aware of Congressman McCormack's public statement in regard to this angle. In our recent meeting, he confirmed to

me that as Chairman of the House Select Committee on Outer Space he had tried, but had failed to get any detailed information on UFOs, even in executive sessions with Air Force officials. We have similar statements from other Members of Congress who believe that secrecy about UFOs should be fully investigated.

It is also possible that you have to some extent been misled by the unfortunately publicized claims of meetings with space creatures, rides to other planets, etc. Since they are sensational, such stories -- usually by deluded persons or outright frauds -- receive far more press notice than sober, verified reports by veteran pilots.

NICAP is a serious fact-finding organization, headed by a distinguished Board of Governors, aided by over 200 advisers and subcommittee consultants -- space experts, pilots, electronics engineers, astronomers, former Intelligence officers, former members of the AF-UFO project, and authorities in many other related fields. Our membership includes over 4,500 persons, covering all 50 states, among them editors, newsmen, commentators, newscasters and staff members of radio and television stations, doctors, lawyers, heads of corporations, and influential citizens in many communities.

Our Board includes Vice Adm. R. H. Millenkoetter, former director of the Central Intelligence Agency, who is our Acting Chairman; Dr. Marcus Bach, University of Iowa; Rev. Albert Baller, Greenfield, Mass., news commentator Frank Edwards; Maj. Dewey Fournet, Jr., USAFR, former Intelligence monitor for the Air Force UFO project; Mr. E. B. Hartranft, Jr., President, Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association; Rear Admiral R. B. Knowles, Col. R. B. Emerson, U.S. Army Reserve; and Professor Charles A. Maney, Defiance University.

The 1960 Confidential Report, sent to you on July 21, 1960, also lists some of the Advisers and technically trained members of NICAP who believe the UFO secrecy dangerous, among them Col. Joseph Bryan, III, USAFR, Lt. Col. James McAshan, USAFR, former AF Maj. William D. Leet, etc. We are prepared to produce statements and names of other Air Force officers who strongly oppose the censorship.

Because of NICAP's careful investigation, and its securing of massive documented evidence, we earnestly request your consideration -- and that of Chairman Karth -- of the plan we have submitted. We also wish to repeat our request for the appearance of Board and staff members of NICAP before the UFO Subcommittee, with sufficient time to present our important evidence. I am sure that you will wish to see evidence on the other side of the UFO problem, to make sure that if there are secrecy dangers they will be quickly corrected.

The NICAP plan offers you and the Subcommittee a chance to settle, once and for all, whether or not the Air Force is withholding the facts about UFOs. It also offers a chance to offset the increasing newspaper stories claiming that the Subcommittee inquiry is being hidden, or that attempts are being made to kill the inquiry because of Air Force pressure

The Hon. Overton Brooks, August 11, 1961, page seven.

X NICAP offers this chance to end the long UFO controversy in the best interests of the country. If we are correct, then the American people -- and our allies -- should at once be protected against the secrecy dangers. If the Air Force can disprove all our claims, then most of the public opposition to Air Force UFO policies will end, after the resignation of NICAP's director, his public admission that NICAP claims were completely disproved, and dissolution of the organization.

Either way, the present confusion and hazards will be ended, also the complacency of those who still believe the UFOs are American secret weapons.

To date, you have seen but a small cross-section of NICAP evidence, in the 1960 Confidential Report. We are prepared to submit all our massive evidence, including recent, documented cases and proof of censorship, if the NICAP plan, including joint Air Force-NICAP discussions, is accepted. As we have stated, we believe that if all this evidence were made public it would completely prove an official cover-up. However, we fully realize that this was adopted by patriotic Air Force officials, with or without orders from higher authority, as a policy they considered proper in the earlier phase. We also realize that most spokesmen are simply carrying out orders, even in trying to debunk verified reports by qualified observers. But in one instance, which we will fully document, the official Air Force Headquarters spokesman repeatedly ridiculed reputable citizens and trained observers, sometimes implying they were lying or intoxicated. On nationwide broadcasts, in press interviews, in an official Air Force book and in official Air Force letters, he repeatedly denounced all citizens and organizations that refused to accept the Air Force UFO statements.

Since these facts can be proved, together with all the claims made in this letter, the truth about the Air Force UFO investigation will break through eventually. In view of all the outside pressure, including demands by Members of Congress, this is certain to come in the next few months. It is far better to settle it now than to wait and gamble as Krushchev deliberately increases the tension over Berlin and in other critical areas.

X We believe the NICAP cooperation plan offers a sensible way out of the Air Force predicament. Agreeing to full release of the facts now, instead of waiting until they are forced to do this, will go far to restore public confidence in the Air Force UFO investigation. Such a frank, honest policy will soon erase memories of the earlier secrecy, and meantime the chief purpose -- ending of the secrecy-dangers -- will have been achieved. At least, the dangers will have been greatly reduced.

Your office has on record our request for a conference with you on August 24th or 25th, at which time the NICAP Board will hold its emergency meeting to decide our next action. Meantime, I shall be prepared to meet you, Subcommittee Chairman Karth, and the subcommittee members, for a preliminary briefing if you wish to expedite an examination of the secrecy dangers.

*These
two can
be secured
by
secrecy
of this
proposal.*

The Hon. Overton Brooks, August 11, 1961, page eight.

The Board of Governors has instructed me to request your opinions of the submitted NICAP plan and other information in this letter, and also any suggestions you may have for immediate reduction of the secrecy dangers. Having your opinions and suggestions before August 24 will enable the Board to discuss them at its first meeting and to be better prepared for the later conference with you, on August 24th or 25th.

Respectfully yours,

Donald E. Keyhoe,
Major, U. S. Marine Corps, Retired
Director of NICAP

COVERING LETTER

August 11, 1961

The Honorable Overton Brooks,
Chairman, Science and Astronautics Committee,
House of Representatives,
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Mr. Chairman:

By direction of the NICAP Board of Governors, I am submitting the enclosed plan for reducing the serious dangers from secrecy on Unidentified Flying Objects. Because of the Berlin crisis, two dangers are rapidly increasing:

1. The risk of accidental war, from mistaking UFOs for Soviet bombers or missiles. Such errors already have caused Strategic Air Command bombers to be launched against Russia. The errors were caught in time, but now, with tension increasing, fast-flying UFOs might again be mistaken for a Soviet sneak attack -- this time with possibly fatal results.

2. The Soviet Premier may, at a critical moment, falsely claim the UFOs as secret Russian weapons against which we are helpless. Ridiculous as we know it to be, such a broadcast claim in a period of near-war tension could cause wide apprehension, here and among our allies. Because of Air Force secrecy, many citizens might fear Khrushchev's claim was true. (See pp. 6-7, NICAP Confidential Report to Congress.)

NICAP's chief concern is ending these dangers quickly -- NOT any final conclusions about UFOs. We are prepared to present to you, and to Chairman Karth of the UFO Subcommittee, massive documented proof of the dangerous Air Force secrecy, of deliberate withholding of UFO information from Members of Congress, the press and the public. We also offer the UFO Subcommittee full proof that the UFOs could not be Russian, to end the false-claim danger if the Air Force refuses to make its own proof public. The plan enclosed calls for a showdown, in executive sessions of the UFO Subcommittee, between Air Force representatives and NICAP officials. If NICAP proves the secrecy, then we are sure you will act promptly to end this-- and the dangers. If the Air Force can disprove NICAP's documented evidence, then I agree to resign as NICAP Director, urge the Board to dissolve NICAP, with a public statement that our claims were proved unfounded.

The Board respectfully urges your careful consideration of this plan, together with your opinions and suggestions, to be made available before the emergency Board meeting on August 24-25. NICAP offers its full cooperation to end the dangers, in the best interests of the nation.

I shall be glad to discuss the NICAP plan and evidence with you and Chairman Karth if you decide this preliminary conference will expedite the reduction of the secrecy dangers.

Respectfully yours,

Donald E. Keyhoe
Major, U. S. Marine Corps, Retired
Director of NICAP

Enc. The August 11, 1961, detailed NICAP plan and discussion of NICAP proof of Air Force secrecy.

NATIONAL INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE

ON AERIAL PHENOMENA

TELEPHONE: NORTH 7-9434

CABLE ADDRESS:
SKYLIGHT

WASHINGTON 6, D. C.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES:
1536 CONNECTICUT AVE., N. W.

August 17, 1961

MAJOR DONALD E. KEYHOE
USMC (RET.) DIRECTOR

file-UFO

The Honorable Joseph E. Karth,
Chairman, UFO Subcommittee,
House of Representatives,
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Mr. Chairman:

About two weeks ago, Congressman John W. McCormack, the House Majority Leader, informed me that a UFO Subcommittee had been created in the Science and Astronautics Committee and that you had been appointed Chairman. After our discussion of certain UFO evidence, including the launching of Strategic Air Command bombers when UFOs were mistaken for a Soviet sneak attack, Congressman McCormack advised me to get in touch with you and stated that I could inform you of this suggestion.

When I phoned your office, you were absent and your secretary advised me to call Congressman Overton Brooks, Chairman of the Science and Astronautics Committee. After some delay, Congressman Brooks has agreed to see Vice Admiral R.H. Hillenkoetter, our acting chairman, and myself on August 23 or 24. Admiral Hillenkoetter was formerly Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, and he is on record as strongly opposing the Air Force UFO secrecy and urging Congressional investigations of the UFO problem.

During the past week, you have been quoted in the press as favoring open sessions for the UFO Subcommittee inquiry. (Congressman McCormack told me this had not been decided, but he indicated the inquiry sessions probably would be closed, though this would be a decision by you and Congressman Brooks.) The NICAP Board, technical advisers and I sincerely appreciate your firmness in seeking to learn all the facts. We are sure you will wish to have all possible verified and documented evidence, and I have been instructed to make this available to you and your Subcommittee.

As directed, I first sent a letter to Congressman Brooks, emphasizing the Board's concern over the secrecy dangers and submitting a plan to reduce these dangers quickly with the least public criticism of the Air Force. Because of the Berlin crisis, we feel that every step possible should be taken immediately. Since you are the Congressman actually in charge of the UFO inquiry, I am therefore enclosing a copy of the NIWAP plan and our added suggestions, as detailed for Congressman Brooks. Also enclosed is a copy of the covering letter which sums up the key points.

A privately-supported fact-finding body serving the national public interest

The Hon. Joseph E. Karth, August 17, 1961, page two.

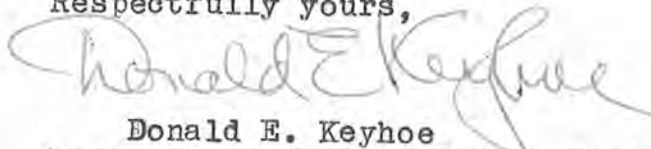
If you would prefer it, we shall be glad to submit the plan and accompanying information to you in a direct letter. The sending of these copies is merely to expedite delivery of the NICAP information to you, in case a prolonged study delays it in Congressman Brooks' office.

A copy of the NICAP plan also is going to Congressman McCormack, who gave me his views on the question of secrecy and asked me to inform him of any new developments. Congressman McCormack has agreed to see Vice Adm. Hillenkoetter during the emergency Board meeting on August 23-24. This meeting was called because of the increasing danger of accidental war, or dangerous false claims by Krushchev, resulting from Air Force UFO secrecy.

I believe you know, from NICAP's Confidential Report sent you in 1960, that this is a responsible organization with a competent Board and capable military, scientific and technical advisers. NICAP has always concentrated on verified reports by responsible observers and documented evidence of the censorship, which we are prepared to present you and the Subcommittee. I have been instructed to offer you our full cooperation, and to ask for a preliminary discussion of the NICAP plan and evidence, before the August 23-24 Board meeting. We earnestly hope you will agree to this preliminary discussion -- or a conference with the entire Subcommittee if you desire -- so that the Board will have the benefit of your opinions before deciding on NICAP's future actions.

We are sure that we are all working toward the same end -- the end of unwarranted secrecy, speedy reduction of the secrecy dangers, and a reasonable evaluation of the UFO evidence with the least public reaction at this critical time. We greatly appreciate the firm stand you have taken and we shall cooperate with you in every way possible.

Respectfully yours,



Donald E. Keyhoe
Major, U. S. Marine Corps, Retired
Director of NICAP

Enclosures: Covering letter of Aug. 11 to Congressman Overton Brooks, and detailed Aug. 11 letter describing the suggested NICAP plan and its available evidence and steps for ending the secrecy dangers.

August 28, 1961

Major Donald E. Keyhoe
U.S.M.C. (Ret.)
Director, NICAP
1536 Connecticut Avenue, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

I have read with interest the copy of your letter to Chairman Overton Brooks including suggested "hearing plans."

Perhaps I have been misled in this whole business of UFO. However, it was my belief that you, your organization and others like it, actually had proof that UFO's did in fact exist and that you would be prepared to prove this during the course of a hearing. And further that UFO's were not merely the result of space or atmospheric phenomena, but actually were craft (of sorts) from other planets.

I was sadly disappointed as I read your proposed plan, suggestions and viewpoints. I cannot help but feel after so reading, that your primary if not sole objective, is to 'be-little', 'defame', 'ridicule' (with the least possible publicity, you say) and thereby cause the U. S. Air Force embarrassment unless they have to you and others, all information you seek, including such information that may well involve our Nation's security. I too am opposed to unnecessary secrecy. However, unnecessary or unwarranted secrecy is nothing more than a matter of opinion. And so even though you and I are opposed to such, we may well disagree on extent and content. As a former military officer, you in your judgment and knowing all the facts, in all probability withheld from the public, knowledge I would not have considered "secret." I repeat - I have opposed and will continue to oppose unwarranted secrecy. At the same time I will not support a proposition swelling of sour grapes in disguise.

Your letter to Chairman Brooks (including your proposed plan) concerned itself almost totally, in my opinion, with evident dislike and malicious intent toward a great branch of the military. In fact it sounded to me like nothing more than cheap service rivalry. Now I hasten to add that I could be wrong, but I have read many plans and proposals in my day and must say I recognize a little prejudice and/or dislike when I see it. If you are not in a position to "make a good case" that UFO's are some kind of foreign craft, I'm not even interested in holding hearings. This I thought to be your purpose. Certainly I'm

not interested in listening to headline making accusations (prompted it seems by past gripes) in open debate between you and the Air Force.

It was my every intention to have the Air Force and organizations of good repute, testify on different days so as to get all the facts. This is the custom and the protocol of Congressional hearings. And I might say - I'm not worried about public alarm - I'm much more concerned about grandstand acts of a rabble rousing nature where accusations may be made THAT COULDN'T BE ANSWERED BY ANYONE - the Air Force or NICAP. It's狡猾 to point out that under your plan you wouldn't be answering many questions if any - you'd just be asking them. Anyone can make someone else look bad under those conditions, and I am not a captive of the Air Force, I assure you.

As I have said, I suffered extreme disappointment as I read your plan. Talk about secrecy! In paragraph A of your letter to Chairman Brooks you propose "the Air Force representatives will be directed by the subcommittee to answer all of NICAP officials' questions in regard to specific UFO sighting, reports and to all phases of the Air Force investigation."

However, in paragraph B of the same letter you propose "...and the NICAP representatives will answer fully, except for revealing names and certain details of a few reports given to NICAP confidentially." (Emphasis added). What kind of honesty, forthrightness and fairness is that! You demand that a military service of this nation is to divulge everything to you, BUT YOU IN TURN cannot give "certain details" because it is confidential (secret)? Oh, yes, I have also read paragraph C of your proposals ("It is also agreed that the Air Force may withhold names similarly, where witnesses insisted on this, and also, such minor items as classified radar techniques, aircraft speeds and other relatively unimportant points not bearing on the main questions at issue.") (Emphasis added).

Personally I don't feel I need to elaborate on the generosity equivocated by your language in paragraph C. However, no one interested in justice could refrain completely. First of all, what witness honestly interested in the security of his nation, is going to insist to the Air Force he remain anonymous? (Or to your organization for that matter). Secondly, you generously grant the Air Force the privilege of withholding "relatively unimportant points not bearing on the main questions at issue." Very generous, indeed. If you have information which the Air Force is keeping secret, but does not involve national security, I suggest you release it to the newspapers. They'll love it.

Honestly and sincerely, I make this confession; before I had received copies of your letter (and terms) to Chairman Brooks, I was vitally concerned and interested in what positive and factual information you had on UFO's and the assistance you might give to the Committee. You dispelled any hopes I had relative thereto in the language heretofore

cited. I also could not overlook your language on page three: "The chief concern of NICAP Board members and officials is the increasing secrecy dangers - NOT, at this time, final conclusions about the UFO's." Undoubtedly, I have been misinformed on the purpose of NICAP. I was erroneously led to believe you had factual evidence of some kind about UFO's.

If I have anything to say about it, your terms, conditions and suggestions will not be accepted.

Very truly yours,

Joseph E. Karth

cc: Hon. Overton Brooks, Chairman
Hon. John McCormack, Majority Leader
Subcommittee members

JEK:eb

NATIONAL INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE

ON AERIAL PHENOMENA

TELEPHONE: NORTH 7-9434

CABLE ADDRESS:
SKYLIGHT

WASHINGTON 6, D. C.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES:
1536 CONNECTICUT AVE., N. W.

MAJOR DONALD E. KEYHOE
USMC (RET.) DIRECTOR

file UFO's

September 1, 1961

Representative Joseph E. Karth
Congress of the United States
Washington 25, D. C.

SEP 1 1961

Dear Congressman Karth:

Your letter of August 28 in regard to hearings on UFOs has been received in Major Keyhoe's absence. I will call it to his attention immediately when he returns this weekend. However, in the interim I would like to answer some of the points you make. Major Keyhoe will be in touch with you later.

We sincerely regret that you have interpreted the NICAP plan as an attempt to "defame" and "ridicule" the Air Force, and to indulge in rabble rousing. As stated in our letter, we would be glad to work out a just solution to the UFO problem in which the Air Force would not be subjected to unnecessary ridicule. In fact, we have repeatedly offered to cooperate with the Air Force and other government agencies in any reasonable plan to increase the flow of non-security UFO information.

In order to provide a solution, it is first necessary to take into account the nature of this unique problem. As the agency officially charged with investigation of UFOs, the Air Force has become the "authoritative" source of information as far as Members of Congress, other government agencies, and the press are concerned. Some Congressmen have even told us that they are obliged to accept the Air Force views for that reason.

We allege, and are prepared to prove, that unnecessary secrecy and even deliberate misrepresentation has been an integral part of the Air Force UFO investigation. We realize that these are serious charges, but we have taken great pains to make it clear that we are not opposing the Air Force as such. We are opposing a particular policy which we believe wrong and dangerous. We have great respect for the Air Force and the important mission it is performing. Among our members are many Air Force officers who also oppose this policy, including Major Dewey Fournet, Jr., USAFR, former Pentagon Monitor of the official UFO investigation. Major Fournet is a NICAP Board Member. There are also many scientists, engineers, ministers, and other responsible citizens in our membership in opposition to the Air Force policy, clearly not motivated by "inter-service rivalry".

Secondly, in addition to the "authoritative" position of the Air Force in this matter, there is the further problem that the Air

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Force has consistently maintained UFOs are only misidentified conventional objects, rather than a unique phenomenon requiring special scientific investigation. The so-called "scientific" investigation by the AF has consisted of tagging each individual UFO report as something conventional (obviously pure guesswork in many cases.) We allege, are are prepared to prove, that there is a consistent body of UFO evidence pointing to a unique phenomenon of maneuvering and apparently controlled objects.

There is no doubt that the AF also has many similar UFO reports which we do not have, and which, in our view, should be made public for scientific investigation. Since the AF has a virtual monopoly on UFO investigation, and has been able to maintain its "authoritative" negative position due to its great influence, it is necessary for us to fight for an end to secrecy in this field.

Our remarks about the few items that would legitimately be kept confidential on both sides were based on the fact that the AF does insist that witnesses remain anonymous. We accept this, but for our part would only insist on anonymity for those witnesses who specifically requested it. We also recognize the need for legitimate security classification on certain aspects of radar intercept procedures, etc., but too often these have been used by the AF as an excuse for not releasing UFO reports at all. Such information could easily be deleted from the reports, and the substance of the reports left intact.

Our plan was offered in good faith as one suggestion on how to establish the facts about UFOs and the official investigation. We have since been advised, as you also state, that such a procedure of confrontation is not customary.

In order to demonstrate our sincerity, we would be glad to meet with you in private at your convenience and do show you a sample of our evidence. We would also be glad to discuss any alternate plan which would clarify the issue and present the facts to the public.

Since the Air Force is engaged in very serious business related to present crises in Berlin and elsewhere, we have no desire to embarrass or belittle them. If the UFO investigation could be turned over to a civilian scientific agency, as we suggested, it would relieve the AF of this added burden. A gradual transition could be made in which the AF said, in effect; "UFOs are not a military problem but a scientific one. Although we maintain an interest in anything affecting the air spaces, we are turning our data over to the scientific community for its evaluation." This would be consistent with AF claims that there is nothing to UFOs, and could be done in a way that would be to their credit.

Again, we regret that you have misunderstood our reasons for keeping after the AF about UFO's. We do think that the secrecy dangers are of immediate importance. In regard to final conclusions

Karth...3

about UFOs, we were willing to let the facts speak for themselves. It is our conviction that anyone who examines the evidence fairly will conclude that UFOs are a unique reality. If the reality is accepted, there are few reasonable explanations of what the objects are.

To prove that UFOs are space ships is a difficult task, since there is strong disagreement about "What constitutes proof?" (in the words of the former chief of the AF UFO investigation.) If the reality of UFOs is granted, we realize the need for a fully instrumented study of them in order to obtain final, conclusive proof of their nature.*

I hope this letter will clarify our position somewhat.

Sincerely yours,

Richard Hall

Richard Hall
Secretary of NICAP

RH:mlk

cc: Rep. John W. McCormack

*In other words, many NICAP officials are convinced on the basis of our evidence that UFOs are space ships. The Air Force terms these considered opinions a "sensational conclusion," and argues that we have no "proof". Perhaps not if the AF requires a crashed "saucer" which can be analyzed in a laboratory. In any case, we are not insisting that UFOs are space ships. We are content to argue for their reality, and if anyone has a better explanation we are willing to listen. Regardless of what they are, they do pose a threat of being mistaken for enemy aircraft on radar screens and causing an accidental war.

NATIONAL INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE

ON AERIAL PHENOMENA

WASHINGTON 6, D. C.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES:
1536 CONNECTICUT AVE., N. W.

Sept. 12, 1961

TELEPHONE: NORTH 7-9434
CABLE ADDRESS:
SKYLIGHT

MAJOR DONALD E. KEYHOE
USMC (RET.) DIRECTOR

The Honorable Joseph E. Karth,
Congress of the United States,
Washington, 25, D.C.

SEP 18 1961

Dear Congressman Karth:

Your letter of August 28th was a severe shock because I seem to have given you, unwittingly, a totally erroneous impression of NICAP and its aims -- an unfortunate picture reflecting on the character of our Board of Governors, our scientific and technical advisers and the entire membership, as well as myself.

But even though it was a blow to learn you had drawn such conclusions, I am grateful for your frank letter. You could simply have rejected the suggestions, or refrained from answering, giving no hint of your feelings. But you have given me a chance to correct the wrong impression and I thank you.

At the time, I did not realize that the proposed joint meeting of the Air Force and NICAP, in executive sessions, was against Congressional protocol. I see now it seemed presumptuous to suggest it, and I wish I could have discussed the matter with you personally -- as I hoped to do when I asked your office for an appointment. Unfortunately, you were not available because of pressing committee meetings, which of course I understand.

At no time did NICAP ever expect headline stories of any Air Force-NICAP debate. Our proposal was for questions and answers in executive sessions, with an alternative of open hearings which I naturally assumed would be routine Subcommittee questioning of witnesses. (Page four of the letter to Representative Brooks.) I can see now that the misunderstanding was caused by my unfortunate choice of words in parts of that long letter. It was written under heavy pressure; according to our information closed inquiry sessions were proceeding, with no indication that NICAP would have time to present all its evidence; Congress was then believed approaching adjournment, and we were seriously concerned about the danger of accidental war and the need for some action before adjournment; my attempt to see Congressman Brooks, after your office suggested this, had met with failure; and we were being publicly charged with being a "tool of the Defense Department," secretly working to hide the truth about UFOs, and only pretending to seek a Congressional investigation. All our four years' careful investigation -- avoiding harsh attacks on the Air Force -- seemed about to be wasted, with hearings ended by adjournment before NICAP would have a chance for

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more than a brief appearance, if that. If this happened, I knew it would bring new charges that we were secretly working with the Air Force to conceal the facts. (As proof of these charges, I can show you several published articles, one in a recent newsstand magazine with nationwide circulation.)

Apparently all this combined tension caused the poor choice of words by which you were given the wrong impression. I believe the following information will satisfy you that NICAP does have factual proof of UFO reality, that it is working for the best interests of the country -- and that it is not motivated by any desire to belittle the Air Force.

To me personally, this is the most distressing thing of all -- that you suspect NICAP's primary, if not sole objective, is to ridicule and embarrass the Air Force. Most of our Board members, scientific and technical advisers and subcommittee members are civilians; none that I know of have any ill-feeling toward the Air Force. Not one of the military members (including Air Force officers from colonel on down) has any such bias; most of them are reserve or retired officers, with no "career stake" involved; and all of them have followed a moderate course in urging a change in UFO secrecy.

Gen. W. D. White, recently retired Air Force Chief of Staff, is a close personal friend of Vice Adm. R. H. Hillenkoetter, former Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, who is on our Board. I am sure General White will vouch for Adm. Hillenkoetter's complete lack of ill-feeling toward the Air Force, and that Hillenkoetter would undoubtedly quit NICAP if it began any malicious attacks. The same lack of hostility toward the Air Force applies to the other military Board members -- R. Adm. H. B. Knowles, Col. W. B. Emerson, U.S. Army Reserve, and Maj. Dewey Fournet, U.S. Air Force Reserve, and former AF Headquarters Monitor for the UFO Project, "Blue Book."

Since early in '57, NICAP has had the aid and guidance of unquestionably loyal Air Force officers who would resent and denounce any malicious attacks on their Service. One of these is Col. J. Bryan, III, USAFR, who several times has been chosen by General Norstadt to serve on his staff; I am sure General Norstadt will certify to Colonel Bryan's devotion to the Air Force. Among the others, who include pilots and Intelligence officers, are Lt. Col. James McAshan, USAFR; Major Paul A. Duich, USAF, retired recently from Strategic Air Command duty; Major John F. McLeod, USAFR, now a CAP commander; and Major Edwin A. Jerome, USAF, retired recently. (A Command Pilot and Intelligence officer, Major Jerome has confirmed the unsolved tracking of a UFO at 9,000 m.p.h., over Goose Bay AFB. USAF radar tracking was confirmed also by Royal Canadian Air Force radar experts.) The AF group includes former Lieut. Colonel J.B. Hartranft, now President, Aircraft Owners and Pilots Ass'n, and former Maj. W. B. Leet, bomber pilot with three officially reported UFO sightings.

All of the above group are on record -- without any violent denunciation -- that the Air Force has withheld and is still withholding UFO information, including UFO sighting reports. All have

Page three.

endorsed and supported NICAP's policy of conservative, factual investigation, its attempts to secure a Congressional investigation and its belief that most of the UFO information now withheld should be released in the national interest. (Other AF names are available to you.)

NICAP's aims and sincerity also have been endorsed by Mr. Albert M. Chop, former AF Headquarters Information official in charge of handling the UFO subject, and by Capt. Edward J. Ruppelt, former head of Project "Blue Book." Captain Ruppelt has since died, but he is on record in letters to NICAP that this was a reliable organization to which he could refer UFO inquiries. Captain Ruppelt also is on record that he considered an invitation to join the Board or be an adviser as "an honor," and the only reason he could not accept was a feeling it might add strain to his heart condition, or cause another attack.

As to my own attitude, I have always had a high regard for the Army Air Corps and its successor, the Air Force. As a professional writer, I have sincerely praised and reported the exploits of this Service as far back as the early "Dawn to Dusk" flight and the "Round The World" flight of Army Air Corps pilots. Other sincere accounts of Air Force heroism and important developments, written by me, have appeared on up through World War II, in aviation magazines, in Cosmopolitan and in Reader's Digest. I intend, when I return to general writing, to write other such articles, regardless of the outcome of the UFO situation.

I am naturally proud of being a Naval Academy graduate. I also am proud of being a Marine and having served as a Marine Corps pilot. But anyone who knows me will tell you I am not prejudiced against the other Services. If I had any narrow Navy or Marine slant it certainly was lost years ago. After a night crash at Guam, I was retired with an injury. In succession, I was editor of the Coast and Geodetic Survey, chief of information, Aeronautics Branch, Dept. of Commerce (now the FAA), manager of the Byrd-Bennett North Pole Plane tour, aide to Col. Charles Lindbergh on his tour of the United States, a free-lance writer and lecturer, an editor on Cosmopolitan (for a brief period as a special assignment early in World War II); early in 1942, I went on active duty in Naval Aviation training, under Admiral Arthur Radford (who I believe will vouch for my lack of prejudice against other Services) and retired again at the end of the war. Since then I have written, lectured and -- since 1957, tried to achieve the aims of NICAP, under instructions by our Board. The point I am trying to make is that all those years in varied non-military jobs gave me a broad enough viewpoint to make impossible any real Service rivalry.

Furthermore, I have worked closely enough with the Air Force, during two phases of the UFO investigation, to realize the problem and to know that many officers -- even in the Directorate of Intelligence -- were strongly opposed to UFO censorship. During 1952-3, I was given access to a great deal AF-UFO information, including some forty important and unsolved UFO cases which were declassified for me with the approval of the Directorate of Intelligence.

At that time, a high-level group of Intelligence and Information officers was planning to release more information to the public, including a UFO film evaluated by the Air Force and the Navy. Though the plan was canceled, representatives of this group continued to urge a policy change -- even while carrying out the tightened censorship policy. Knowing this situation, I certainly do not condemn the individuals involved; they obey orders just as I would if I went back on active duty. The only time NICAP or I have expressed any feeling about individuals concerned was when one or two went far beyond the requirements of the job to ridicule witnesses -- in fact, anyone who even questioned the Air Force statements. One of these officers -- since replaced by a more courteous and moderate spokesman -- publicly labeled most witnesses as incompetent, deluded, untruthful, or even intoxicated. On one nationwide television program, he even denied statements by Members of Congress. After this program, thousands of letters poured into the network offices, to NICAP and to Air Force Headquarters; most viewers, including a number of Air Force members, protested the spokesman's intolerance and rudeness toward responsible witnesses and honest dissenters. Aside from protesting such actions, NICAP's attitude has been to offer the Air Force its cooperation so as to reduce secrecy dangers. When this was rejected, we repeated the offer, then turned to Congress and offered our factual evidence.

In regard to the proposed NICAP plan, we discovered it was contrary to Congressional custom just before your letter arrived. On being informed of this by Mr. J. B. Hartranft, president of Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association, the Board immediately voted to withdraw the plan, also to notify all our members in our September report so that they will not urge Congressional support for it. A withdrawal letter was being drafted, during my absence on business, when your letter of August 28th arrived. Because of its serious nature, it was decided to wait until my return for a full explanation to you and to Congressman Brooks.

Although I knew the proposed plan was unusual, I was not aware it was against procedure in closed sessions. Neither I nor anyone at NICAP had any idea of trying to violate Congressional customs. Before discussing the provisions about which my wording misled you, I want to answer a key point in your letter. In the paragraph at the top of page three you quote from my letter to Congressman Brooks:

"The chief concern of NICAP Board members and officials is the increasing secrecy dangers -- NOT, at this time, final conclusions about the UFO's." From this, you conclude that you were misinformed as to NICAP's purpose, and that you were erroneously led to believe we had factual evidence.

First of all, NICAP does have -- and is prepared to produce -- massive, verified UFO evidence from hundreds of veteran pilots, tower operators, missile trackers, astronomers, radar experts, and other highly qualified observers. This evidence, visual, radar, photographic -- and combinations of these -- has been examined by our Board and our scientific and technical advisers. The majority conclusion is that the UFOs thus reported, tracked, photographed and pursued

by interceptors are controlled devices, superior to any known on earth, coming from an unknown source. Most of the majority further conclude that these UFO's are interplanetary machines engaged in observation of our world. For four years, we have sought an opportunity to present this evidence to Congress, and we will welcome the chance to produce it for you and your Subcommittee.

The only reason for not trying to reach final conclusions, in the expected appearance before your Subcommittee, was that we feared the time was too short for presenting all our evidence. I felt we might be cut short before we could prove the secrecy dangers and offer evidence for reducing them. Because of the Berlin crisis, we still consider the accidental-war danger of paramount importance, and the danger of a false Soviet claim serious enough to combat. The most satisfactory approach, from NICAP's viewpoint, would be a complete coverage of all phases in open hearings (except for details of how Krushchev might try to put over a false claim.)

Had we known of your firm intention to hold open hearings, and your belief that NICAP did have factual evidence, the proposed plan never would have been submitted. We would have supported your purpose and offered our evidence to be used as you felt best.

But we had had no word from you, though we hoped for your opinion of the NICAP Confidential Report sent to you, and other Members of Congress, in July, 1960. (In view of your letter of August 28th, I am now wondering if the NICAP Report failed to reach you, or if you were unable to examine it closely because of all the pressures then and later. This report indicated our factual evidence, NICAP conclusions and the increasing secrecy dangers. It was read by a number of Congressmen and none, so far, has considered it a malicious attack on the Air Force. If you did not receive a copy, we shall be glad to forward one now.)

Even though we had no direct word from you, we knew of your strong interest in UFO's from a letter you wrote your constituents, Mr. and Mrs. Julius Neuman. In this you said you had talked with high-ranking Air Force officers, in both open and closed sessions, but that in spite of apparently unimpeachable evidence they refused to give credence to the reports. When they were pressed about specific items, you commented, they said the UFO's were involved with the national security and could not be discussed publicly. (This last is one of the puzzling contradictions; usually, the Air Force insists no security is involved.) In this letter, you also said you would continue to seek the answers. When Congressman McCormack told me you were Chairman of a new UFO Subcommittee, I therefore was greatly encouraged. It seemed we were at last nearing our goal, even though Congressman McCormack did say the inquiry sessions probably would be closed. Then my attempt to reach you failed, and newspapers reported that hearings seemed to be blocked. This frustration -- another setback after four years' hard struggle -- plus new charges that NICAP was a secret "cover-up" group, caused the last-minute attempt to save the inquiry. The plan was revised a dozen times. Apparently the pressure, the need for hurried action and the

frustration caused an impression of anger you construed to indicate malice. I can only say I was completely unaware of it, and I believe the following facts will show our true feeling and intentions.

A. Joint meeting of Air Force and NICAP in closed Subcommittee sessions. This obviously caused the chief misunderstanding. Knowing many Air Force officers favored a policy change, we hoped for at least a discussion on releasing information to avert secrecy dangers -- with a gradual release of other UFO facts, if not all at once. If the Air Force representatives were so instructed by Headquarters, then there would have been no bickering at this joint meeting, but a sensible, private discussion of ways and means. This is what we have tried for since 1957. The other provisions were added in case the Air Force absolutely refused to discuss specific evidence.

B. No grandstanding, no public debates, were intended. NICAP never intended to release any executive-session developments.

C. You assumed, in your letter, that NICAP would not be answering many questions, if any, and that we could make the Air Force look bad in this way. Actually, the Air Force could ask NICAP hundreds of searching questions regarding every published or broadcast statement in the last four years. They could insist on NICAP evaluations of all our listed cases. They could insist on documented proof on every claim of censorship. We have naturally made some errors in four years -- though we have tried to correct them -- and these, too, could be pinpointed. I can think of many other questions they could ask -- which we would have to answer.

The only exceptions would be a very few cases, out of the hundreds, where witnesses have insisted on anonymity and, once or twice, on withholding identifying details. Here are the main items:

1. A sighting by a noted scientist and his laboratory staff, given to Rear Adm. Delmer S. Fahrney, former Navy missile chief, who was Chairman of the NICAP Board in 1957. I could give you this man's name off-the-record -- you would recognize it at once. Because of his prominence, and possibly because his laboratory has defense contracts, he has refused to release his name. Adm. Fahrney will confirm this; possibly he could persuade the scientist to appear in hearings. But without his permission, we cannot identify him publicly.

2. A report by a United Air Lines co-pilot who sighted and photographed a UFO from his DC-6 cockpit. We have the signed report and a kodachrome, but we had to promise anonymity before he would submit them. In regard to our routine form question about Air Force interrogation, he said he had not been questioned. (Apparently the captain decided not to report the UFO.) The co-pilot added, ". . . and I had better not be (questioned by the Air Force)." He indicated he feared trouble from his company if he made a public report. Again, I could show this report to you off-the-record, but we are bound not to let his name become public.

3. A close-range encounter with a large disc-shaped UFO

by a Navy commander flying from Anacostia Naval Air Station. I can give you the details on the record, as they were given to Admiral Fahrney, but we agreed not to identify the pilot.

4. Tracking of four UFO's at 3600 m.p.h. by CAA tower operators. Here also we can give you the report, on the record, with two exceptions -- the name of the CAA radar operator who signed the report, and the name of the airport. He actually gave us permission to use his name, but a CAA (now FAA) official whom I know told me the man would be in "hot water."

5. Another Navy case, the near-collision encounter with a giant flying-disk by a Navy Super-Constellation transport over the Atlantic. This report also was secured for NICAP through Admiral Fahrney and confirmed by Capt. J.O. Taylor, USN, Ret. The pilot's name cannot be released, though we know it -- he is a commander. This is an important case because a number of Navy airmen saw the UFO; they were interrogated by AF Intelligence, by Naval Intelligence; the pilot stated he was shown a folder of secret UFO photographs, one resembling the huge flying disk they had seen. If this Navy commander could be sure of no repercussions, I believe he might testify -- at least in closed sessions. I have tried to secure some such promise, with no success, but I would be willing to try again.

We have a few other "confidential" reports, mostly routine cases which we can show you privately. (We will continue to urge these witnesses to release their names.) This is the material referred to in paragraph three, page two of your letter. You can see we are not playing any "double game." We would give all possible details in either closed or open hearings, except the ones specifically mentioned above -- where the witnesses forbid it. Most of these men are patriotic -- they fear either repercussions or ridicule, as we can show you by various letters.

In regard to paragraph C of the proposed plan, I should perhaps have made clear that this is the Air Force language I was quoting. Frequently, they have stated that names, certain radar and aircraft details, Intelligence procedures, etc., are classified -- but that the main parts of the UFO reports are not classified. I was simply anticipating what I knew the Air Force would stipulate, and agreeing to it in advance. There was no trickery in these provisions, and it was not a matter of our trying to be "generous" or pretending such generosity. We were merely repeating the Air Force rules.

Also, I should like to clear up your impression that we were trying to force a mass of information out of the Air Force. Here again, I should have explained that we already have a great deal of the Air Force information. I have copies of the Project Grudge Report, covering cases 1-244, released in December 1949 and now reclassified Secret. In 1952-3, the Air Force released its most important cases to me (clearance sheet available) and discussed many others. Since then, we have secured or been informed of other Air Force UFO cases and general information, so that I feel we do not need any more evidence to prove our conclusions. What is needed

is that the Air Force should admit, to you and your Subcommittee, or to other Congressional committees also interested, that they do have this information, that much of it has been withheld, and their reasons for such withholding. After this, the Congressional committee concerned could decide whether withholding was right, or whether the national interest called for a new policy, and appropriate steps could be taken.

This is why the plan was devised -- to get the facts before you and the Subcommittee. NICAP would not ask for any withheld cases unknown to us. We could make a convincing case on the evidence we have, using material known to be in Air Force possession. If you wish, I will sign a statement -- subject to Board approval, which I think is certain -- that in any closed or open hearings we will not refer to a specific case, not a single case, about which we do not already have definite information. Also, that any evidences we cite will be only for the purpose stated: To get the facts before Congress, so as to reduce secrecy dangers and give the American people the facts about UFO's.

At the top of page two of your letter, you suggest that NICAP may be motivated by "past gripes" against the Air Force. I hope that by now you will have cleared us of the "malice" charge. However, I should like to add these thoughts: In 1957, the Board Chairman, Adm. Fahrney, set this policy: "We will make a factual investigation; we will offer the Air Force our cooperation; if they reject the offer, we will not blast back; they probably don't like the policy any more than we do. Certain groups may try to use NICAP to stir up a fight with the Air Force; we must avoid such traps and follow a quiet, dignified course." Several times, NICAP has been in a position to "open up" against the Air Force; in one instance, I appeared on a nationwide television program for what I assumed would be a moderate, factual UFO discussion with the Air Force spokesman. In addition to ridiculing witnesses (even Air Force observers) and contradicting statements by Members of Congress, the spokesman attacked NICAP repeatedly. I refrained from answering sharply, and was afterward commended for this by the program moderator and many others who viewed the discussion. Later, I was criticized for not "hitting back" -- by some who suspect NICAP is a cover-up group. (Tape and transcript of the cited program are available to you.) I can produce other proof that we have tried to avoid attacks -- a policy that has won many Air Force members into supporting NICAP.

In your letter, Congressman Karth, you suggested that we might give the press any UFO information we have which the Air Force is keeping secret, if it does not involve national security. We could have done this long ago. We have enough dramatic, factual information in our files to secure continuing news stories if we released all the evidence. But without the full background, this could be a disservice to the American people. Certain cases could be selected, grouped for sensational effect, giving a false impression and possibly causing unjustified fears. We could also have selected cases which would have put the Air Force in a bad position, if we had wished to. Instead, we have had only a few news releases, most of them dealing with factual reports, carefully written not to cause trouble.

I could cite other proof of NICAP's moderate policy and avoidance of hostility toward the Air Force, but this letter is already too long. NICAP may have been unwise even to suggest any hearings plan, and from the effect on you I seem to have blundered badly in the wording, but I can only repeat that we were sincere, not motivated by petty Service rivalry. If ridiculing the Air Force were the sole purpose of NICAP, it could never have gained its distinguished Board, panel of advisers and its 4500 members who include well-known, responsible citizens in all fifty states. If defaming the Air Force had been the sole motive I would not have served even a day as Director, let alone four hard years during which I suffered heavy financial loss and put a serious burden on my family. If I did not believe it urgent to reduce the secrecy dangers and give the American people the facts about UFO's I would long ago have returned to the easier, happier and more rewarding work of writing in general fields.

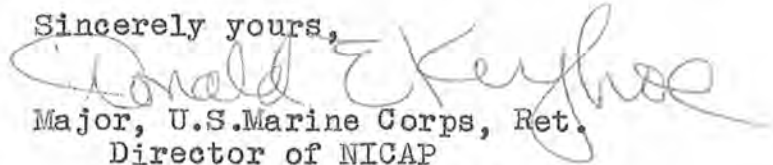
Your statement that you do not fear public alarm is encouraging; I meant to state this earlier. I am sure the public would not panic over an announcement that we are being observed by an unknown civilization, if it were also made clear there is no proof of any danger from this unknown world.

We are preparing a new, complete record of all our UFO evidence (including duplicates of much Air Force material) which we will be ready to submit to you before the next session. Meantime, we stand ready to cooperate in any way you feel would be correct procedure in the best interests of the public -- a private discussion, or closed or open meetings.

I sincerely regret that I did not have a chance to talk with you personally, as I did with Congressman McCormack, for I am sure you would not have had the wrong impression about NICAP and myself. I realize the great pressures near the end of the session, but I earnestly hope you will grant me a few minutes before you leave Washington, to answer any questions you may have, to let me indicate the type of evidence available -- and to remove any doubts you may still have about NICAP. I am sure that Board Member Hartranft would also appreciate meeting you, and if you have time to set an appointment I know that Vice Adm. Hillenkoetter would make every effort to come down from New York. (The earlier appointment with Representative Brooks was canceled.)

Regardless, I thank you again for your frank letter. Though it did hurt, it has put me doubly on guard against taking any important steps under such heavy pressure and tension.

Sincerely yours,


Major, U.S. Marine Corps, Ret.
Director of NICAP

P.S. I should like to send copies of this letter to Congressman McCormack and Brooks and your Subcommittee members, if you have no objection. But I shall wait and phone your office after you have had time to read this letter. DEK.

September 19, 1961

Major Donald E. Keyhoe, Director
Nat'l Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena
1536 Connecticut Avenue, N. W.
Washington 6, D. C.

Dear Major Keyhoe:

It isn't against Congressional protocol to have joint meetings in executive session. However, it is against Congressional protocol to have two witnesses cross-examining each other. The interrogation is conducted by members of the committee to all witnesses but the witnesses themselves are not permitted to engage in a free-for-all. The committee members can and usually do, ask all questions pertinent to the inquiry. The witnesses in turn make any and all statements that they feel are pertinent to the hearing. This procedure is considerably different from the one you originally proposed.

Now that we better understand each other, I would hope we could properly proceed with a hearing early next year - providing the new chairman authorizes hearings.

Thanking you for your correspondence, I am

Sincerely yours,

Joseph E. Karth

JEK:sd