

THE U.F.O. Investigator

FACTS ABOUT UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

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Nov. Dec., 1967

AF-Colorado Contract Casts New Light On UFO Project

A photo-copy of the AF-University of Colorado contract, just obtained by NICAP, reveals important points not generally known about the U. of C. study of UFOs. Several interesting U. of C. suggestions are included as part of the agreement, also a curious recommendation by the AF Office of Scientific Research, which initiated the contract.

As shown in the first part of the contract, duplicated below, the official beginning of the project was Nov. 1, 1966, with payments to be made by the 1100th Support Group, Accounting and Finance Office, Bolling AFB, District of Columbia.

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NEGOTIATED CONTRACT		DEPARTMENT	EFFECTIVE DATE	SHEET NO.	NO. OF SHEETS
COST	RKG/bc	USAF	1 Nov. 1966	1	
REQ NO OR OTHER PURCHASE AUTH	NEGOTIATED PURBUANT TO U.S.C. 2304(A) (5)	DISCOUNT TERMS	CONTRACT NO.		
P.R. No: 66-802		NOT APPLICABLE	F44620-67-C-0035		
ISSUED BY Air Force Office of Scientific Research, Arlington, Va. 22209		MAIL INVOICES TO (Public Vouchers)			
INITIATOR: J. Thomas Ratchford, SRPS BUYER: R. K. Gillispie, SRKB		COGNIZANT DEFENSE CONTRACT AUDIT ACTIVITY			
CONTRACTOR (Name and Address)		PAYMENT WILL BE MADE BY			
THE REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER, COLORADO 80302		The 1100th Support Group Accounting and Finance Office Bolling AFB, DC 20332			

Sighting Evidence Grows

Among a number of interesting sightings delayed from publication by lack of space are two cases which add to the number of airline crews convinced of UFO reality.

One of the cases was reported by Capt. F.E.C. Underhill, a veteran pilot with 30 years flying time, 18 of them with the Royal Air Force. On Sept. 11, Capt. Underhill was piloting an Air Ferry Limited DC-6 west of Barcelona, Spain. At 5:35 p.m., GMT, Underhill, his co-pilot and a steward sighted a metallic-looking cone-shaped object approaching the plane from the west. Flying at a speed between 600 and 700 knots, the UFO crossed the aircraft's flight track, turned toward the plane, then sped away to the south.

"There was a definite solid object the like of which none of the crew...had ever seen before," Flight Officer Brian Dunlop stated.

Captain Underhill remarked that the UFO "must have been under control . . . it definitely altered course substantially."

The case was investigated by London NICAP member Julian J.A. Hennessey.

At 10:20 p.m., March 11, 1967, the pilot, co-pilot and hostess of a New Zealand National Airways plane saw a cluster of 10 or 12 "soft, glowing" amber-colored UFOs approach their aircraft, about 23 nautical miles from Ohakia on the Wellington to Auckland run

"When I first sighted the lights directly ahead of us," Captain Bruce L. Cathie said in his report, "I assumed them to be those of a small township. After a few seconds, I realized that they were moving directly towards us at a speed far in excess of any lights which would be miles ahead and 17,000 feet below us."

The pilot maneuvered the plane to the right, then left, in an unsuccessful attempt to keep the UFOs in sight as they "passed below and very slightly to port" of the plane.

Co-pilot T. Emmerton contacted Ohakia Terminal Control and was told that there was no other air traffic in the vicinity.

The leading light was larger and brighter than the others, which were at a slight angle to the rear of the leader. All of the lights appeared to be slightly pulsating.

Harrisburg Wave Continues

NICAP's Harrisburg Subcommittee, led by George Cook, is still investigating numerous sightings in the central Pennsylvania area.

At 9:40 p.m., August 10, near Harrisburg, a top official with the Bell Telephone Company and his son saw a huge object about 75 feet long with red, white and blue-green lights. It was hovering about 125 feet over a field. As he turned his car, the Bell official said, the UFO began pacing the vehicle, then crossed the highway and continued pacing on the opposite side.

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THE **UFO INVESTIGATOR**

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A NEW APPROACH

By

Maj. Donald E. Keyhoe, Director of NICAP

Some time ago, I received a letter from a NICAP member, James W. Cooper, a Honolulu attorney, who quoted this statement: "Before NICAP, it was the lure of the UFO mystery, the hope of finding a link with other worlds, that had kept me going. But that had been obscured in the fight against secrecy."

Although the words were mine (*Flying Saucers; Top Secret*, p. 139), I had half-forgotten them. Cooper followed up with some polite but still jolting criticism:

"I have great admiration for what you and your group are attempting to do, but you seem more tied up with fighting censors than the grand possibilities and adventure of what the flying saucers are, where they come from, etc.

"I suggest you start telling us what are the latest ideas, what is the latest thinking on the UFOs' origin and intentions toward us, any possible means of communication, what you know of our methods of trying to know more about the flying saucers . . . I am still solidly behind you, but don't let your problems with censorship blind you to the many other aspects."

Other members have asked us to reduce UFO reports, except the most interesting and important. One typical member told me, "I'm already convinced UFOs are real and I don't need more proof. What I want is to talk about implications—not as facts, but as possible or probable developments."

For years, even the most careful speculation was risky. We had to keep building massive evidence, a solid foundation for later discussions. And secrecy had to be spotlighted to make the public fully aware of officially hidden information.

But recently there has been a decided change in the public and press attitude. After long study, we have decided to publish careful discussions of various phases in the Investigator. We will draw on opinions and statements from recognized scientific, technical and other fields. We shall make the best survey we can of different aspects, based on the best authoritative opinions available.

We are already working on IV-4, but if possible we shall include the first discussion in that issue.

Besides this, we shall follow member suggestions that we reduce long exposures of frauds, opportunists, etc. and also try to keep down criticism of secrecy, except when it is absolutely unavoidable.

We believe the Investigator will become more interesting to the majority of members, but we shall not do anything, in any way, which we feel would jeopardize our reputation for serious, fact-finding operations and dedication to the truth.

SEASON'S GREETINGS

To All Our Members

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

From the Staff at NICAP

Hynek Takes Stronger Stand

UFOs may push mankind toward "the greatest adventure since dawning human intelligence turned outward to contemplate the universe," says Dr. J. Allen Hynek, the Air Force's chief UFO scientific consultant, in the December issue of "Playboy."

A long-time skeptic, the Northwestern astronomer has been making a series of surprisingly positive statements on the subject, calling for a serious scientific investigation, citing Air Force incompetence, and admitting that "there are at least 1,000 reports that remain completely unresolved in my own mind."

Entitled "The UFO Gap," the article compares Russian interest with that of the U.S. and, coincidentally, was published just before the announcement of the official Russian commission (see separate story). Although the Soviet position has apparently been negative, Hynek remarks that the problem had been considered in the U.S.S.R. before the formation of the commission.

"What little 'hard' information I have—and my intuition—tells me that the U.S.S.R. may have been studying UFOs with dispassionate thoroughness for years," he stated. "From my own official involvement, I know that the United States is only now beginning to consider treating the problem seriously."

Project Blue Book, he said, habitually modified its disposition of cases. Reports which an evaluator said could "possibly" be traced to natural explanations became cases that could "probably" be explained away in the project's public reports. The astronomer stated that, whether Air Force-sponsored or not, there should have been a full-scale UFO investigation "since the first wave of reports."

In conclusion, Dr. Hynek recommends that a central UFO center be established for the entire country. Using a central telephone exchange, witnesses could call any hour of the day or night to report sightings, which would then be filtered to separate the crank and misidentification reports from the reliable ones.

The present evidence for UFOs, Dr. Hynek wrote, "may indicate a possible connection with extraterrestrial life, the probable existence of which is generally accepted."



**New NICAP Assistant Director
Gordon I. R. Lore, Jr.**

Although most of the copy for this issue was written in time for the scheduled mailing date, November 28, we delayed publication hoping to receive answers to the questions sent to the Colorado Project. When the answers did not arrive, we completed the Air Force-Colorado contract story and substituted it at the last minute.

About one-fourth of the copy for the January issue has been written, and we are making every effort to send it to the printer well before January 16, so that it will be mailed by January 20 or sooner. Another "catch-up" issue is scheduled for the latter part of February, after which we shall resume bimonthly publication, making the next issue the March-April number, due either at the end of March or early in April.

It has been difficult to carry out this "catch-up" program because of various troubles caused by the financial crisis last summer. By advancing the deadlines for all issues, we expect to eliminate further delays from now on.

Thank you for your patience and understanding of our problem.

Continued From Page 1

Objects that shot off beams of light, landed, frightened witnesses and animals were observed in Arizona, India, Canada and Virginia.

Staff Sergeant Max Recod and his wife were driving along Route 66 south of Kingman, Arizona, at 11:43 p.m., February 16, 1967, when they saw a formation of four lights to the southwest moving slowly northeast over their car.

"The top light was red as were the right and bottom ones" Sgt. Recod stated in his report to NICAP, "while the one on the left was green."

The lights seemed to be attached to one object, which emitted a powerful beam of light from its bottom center. The beam traveled between the red and green lights and illuminated the desert floor. Then the lights disappeared temporarily.

Some minutes later, the UFO flew from behind a hill about a mile away and was followed by two more objects. All three were to step formation. One of the objects either landed or approached very closely to the ground. Then one of the remaining UFOs merged with the other, which disappeared.

On the evening of October 13, numerous residents of Laitkroh, India, reported seeing a UFO 20 to 30 feet in diameter that "spun like a top about 500 feet above the earth, emitting bright red and green colors," according to Indian newspaper accounts. After remaining stationary for several minutes, the object then changed position and again hovered and spun just over the ground.

The UFO was next seen a few minutes later in Dympep, two miles away. Here it landed in a stream close to a bungalow and "sucked and churned the water with . . . deafening explosions." Then it took off and sped away through the Lum Swer forest.

Police later reportedly found that "considerable damage had been done to the dense vegetation" in the forest.

An Indian Air Force wing was said to be investigating the sighting.

One of the sightings that came out of the Castro Valley area of California during a flurry of reports there in late Spring concerned an object that shot out, then withdrew, a flame from its bottom.

At approximately 10:30 p.m., May 25, Mr. and Mrs. M. Ofinowicz, of Castro Valley, were on their porch when they saw a bright red light flicker and grow larger.

"I saw only the bottom of the ship," Ofinowicz stated in his report to Paul Cerny, Chairman of NICAP's Bay Area Subcommittee. It was round and disk-like and about 50-60 feet in diameter, with a hole in the bottom, 3-4 feet round. A bright red flame . . . about 15-20 feet long, was shooting downward out of the opening in the center of the bottom . . ."

The UFO appeared to hover momentarily at about 5,000 feet. Then the flame was withdrawn back into the hole and the object zig-zagged from view.

"The bottom of the craft," Ofinowicz concluded, "which I could see very clearly looked as if it was made of heavy steel and was heavily riveted . . . The flame was reflected on the underside of the craft, making it clearly visible."

Cape Ann Sightings Reevaluated

The UFO sightings over Cape Ann, Massachusetts, on August 2 (see *The UFO Investigator*, Vol. IV, No. 2, pp. 3-4) have been reevaluated as flares by NICAP's Massachusetts Subcommittee Chairman Raymond Fowler, who investigated the reports.

The light strings "appearing and disappearing in sequence were flares dropped by a USAF bomber on a training mission," Fowler said in his detailed report. The solid object reported by two separate groups apparently resulted from an optical illusion.

A 99th Bomb Wing aircraft from Westover Air Force Base dropped white flares northeast of Cape Ann, the direction in which the witnesses had reportedly made their observations. The yellow-red colors allegedly witnessed could have been a result of atmospheric conditions.

The Cape Ann case is an excellent example of how a good-sounding report can turn out to have a natural explanation. It also points out the necessity for a detailed and conscientious follow-up. NICAP regrets that this reevaluation did not reach us until after our last issue went to print.

"Flying Cross" UFOs Over Britain

Objects reported as "flying crosses"—usually thought to be errors or optical illusions—have recently been sighted in increasing numbers, especially in the British Isles, where a flurry of UFO reports occurred in October.

One of the most detailed reports, which may explain other "flying cross" sightings, took place at South Dorset, on October 26. It was about 11:30 a.m. when witness Angus Brooks observed a circular object with one long thin projection in front and three together at the rear.

The strange device flew near Brooks, he reported, then stopped. As it hovered, two of the rear arms swung to the sides making a cross shape.

After hovering about 22 minutes, the UFO swung the two arms back to the rear and climbed rapidly into the sky.

This is one of six similar reports from England, forwarded by NICAP investigator Julian Hennessey of London, who is in process of forming an English subcommittee.



Other sightings during the October "flap" included these preliminary reports from Mr. Hennessey:

October 24, Burton-on-Trent; a black cigar-shaped UFO with a bulbous front and tapered rear; October 25, Bebington, a fast-flying and unlighted object, torpedo-shaped and grayish white in color; October 25, Derby, an oblong silvery object reported by twelve Rolls Royce employees who saw it speeding across the sky; October 25, an elliptical gold-colored object sighted at high altitude over Aberdeen, Scotland; October 26, Skipton, a large round object with a blue glow, described as "the size of a double-decker bus;" October 26, a car-pacing case near Upton and High Erroll; October 26 or 27, at Bromborough, a round, silvery object which appeared almost to collide head-on with an airplane; October 27, Winchester, a UFO chase by two RAF lightning jet interceptors.

Detailed reports are expected later. At last count, Mr. Hennessey was checking more than 50 other sightings, some in Scotland and Ireland, but most in north England or in the south coast area.

University UFO Course

A memo from a former member of the controversial Robertson Panel indicates he is teaching a course on UFOs at Wesleyan University in Connecticut. A memorandum from Thornton Page, of the university's astronomy department and one of the early 1953 panel members who recommended that the national security agencies strip UFOs of their "aura of mystery" because they showed no threat to national security, confirmed that the semester-long course had 50 registered students.

Large Soviet UFO Project Started

A large-scale Soviet investigation of UFOs, headed by a Russian Air Force major general, was announced at Moscow on Nov. 11, 1967.

Maj. Gen. Anatoly Stolyerov, head of the new UFO Commission, gave foreign newsmen details of this surprising development, a complete about-face in Russia's official policy on UFOs.

The investigation will be carried out, Gen. Stolyerov said, by eighteen scientists and an unspecified number of Russian Air Force officers. Reports from all over Russia will be transmitted by a 200-observer network to the UFO Commission Headquarters in a Civil Defense building at Moscow.

"We expect thousands of (UFO) cases in the future," stated Gen. Stolyerov. He revealed that the commission is already studying a series of recent reports by Russian airline pilots and other reputable witnesses, including one sighting of a UFO speeding through the sky near the Black Sea.

By a coincidence, the possibility of such an intensive Soviet investigation has just been stated in a magazine article by Dr. J. Allen Hynek, AF Chief UFO Consultant. (Dec. issue, Playboy, page 143.)

Hidden Study Possible

In his article, Dr. Hynek mentions recurrent fears that the Russians might solve the UFO mystery ahead of the United States, and he indicates the resultant serious impact on America. The AF consultant also suggests that the Soviets may have been studying UFOs secretly for years, behind a screen of official scoffing at the subject.

In putting forward this idea, Hynek quotes Russian scientist Felix U. Zigel, author of an article in CMENA, in which Zigel strongly supports the hypothesis that unidentified flying objects actually exist.

"The correct approach," said Zigel, "is to submit the puzzling phenomenon of UFOs to a many-sided, careful scientific investigation."

Hynek points out that Zigel discusses five theories about the nature of UFOs. The fifth, that the UFOs are "flying apparatus of other planets, investigating the earth," is the only one to which Zigel offers no objections. Dr. Hynek stresses that Soviet scientists are not allowed speculation of this sort without approval and implies that Zigel probably knew of the serious Soviet interest and that an all-out investigation was being prepared -- if not already underway.

This is the first UFO investigation ever admitted by Moscow. However, as far back as 1952 the USAF had proof that sightings were being reported in Russia. Several of these cases were shown to NICAP's present director, who was then making an independent investigation, with the cooperation of AF Intelligence and Information officers who were planning to release their best UFO sightings to the public. (This plan was canceled later because of high-level pressure.)

Channels by which the Russian sightings reached the USAF were not officially disclosed, but indications were that at least a few came from British Intelligence sources inside Russia.

Until the new announcement, Soviet public statements about UFOs have varied from "U.S. attempts to frighten the Russian people, to optical illusions or inventions of sensational newspapers." But several times waves of sightings in the USSR have broken into print, and at least once Pravda scolded Russian citizens for getting excited over non-existent flying objects.

The Soviet announcement of a serious, full investigation contrasts strongly with increasing USAF debunking stories. When NICAP asked AFHQ its opinion of the new Russian program, an AF spokesman replied, "No comment."

But this new development cannot be so easily dismissed, especially since other governments have shown revived interest in UFOs. The Canadian Government a short time ago disclosed a hitherto secret investigation at Ottawa, controlled by the Royal Canadian Air Force. A project similar to that at Colorado is also being carried on at the University of Toronto. In England, members of Parliament recently discussed a special UFO investigation with the Prime Minister.

With foreign governments now seriously on record, it will be harder to put over debunking explanations in the U.S. In spite of Pentagon silence, such respectable foreign investigations are almost certain to have an impact on our official UFO policies. This should be particularly true of the USSR project because of its wide scope. If carried out as announced, this could prove one of the most important developments of recent years.

NICAP note: We shall try to learn, through the Soviet Embassy or directly through Moscow, whether the new commission will concentrate solely on Russian reports, or if it will also seek information from other countries. It would be interesting to know whether Soviet investigators -- in the new or a previously hidden project -- have evaluated the hundreds of U.S. reports which have been made public. While an official comment on this may not be likely, we hope that the new Soviet commission will release its general findings because of the importance of the UFO problem to the rest of the world.

US-Soviet Cooperation?

The Colorado Project is planning to pool information and techniques with the Soviets, according to Roscoe Drummond, syndicated columnist, who queried Dr. Condon after the USSR announced its large-scale UFO investigation. Quotes from the column follow:

"The head of the new Soviet commission . . . will be invited to the U.S. as a guest of the American group and (will be) offered access to everything on UFOs the U.S. scientists have gathered. Dr. Condon and his project manager, Rober J. Low, would like to develop a full exchange of data and a close working relationship with the Soviet investigators."

Mr. Drummond also credited NICAP with securing several Russian sightings: "The National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena has information on 17 reported sightings over Russia in recent years."

Canadian Divers Search For UFO

A flurry of UFO reports in Nova Scotia, Canada, early in October brought quick response from the Royal Canadian Navy and Air Force, with the latter revealing for the first time the existence of a special department for the investigation of UFOs.

According to the Halifax Chronicle-Herald, a spokesman for the RCAF said this department was "very interested" in the reports. "We get hundreds of reports every week," the newspaper quoted Squadron Leader Bain, "but the Shag Harbor incident is one of the few where we may get something concrete on it."

The main case involved a series of bright lights which had reportedly glided into the water off Shag Harbor in full view of residents. Within 20 minutes, several constables of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police were on the scene, attempting to reach the spot where the UFO supposedly submerged. They were joined by a Coast Guard boat and eight fishing vessels. A large patch of yellowish foam and bubbling water was found, unlike anything seen there before.

Navy divers searched the area for two days, but found nothing, according to press reports.

Among the reports from Nova Scotia, within a few days of the Shag Harbor incident, and investigated by the RCAF, was one of an object 55-60' long, with a row of red lights, flying at an estimated height of 500-600 feet. It was seen by five persons, who also reported interference on a television receiver at the same time. Four similar lights were seen streaking overhead an hour later.

Library Microfilms Clippings

The Library of Congress is microfilming several thousand UFO clippings, contained in two dozen large notebooks, prepared by the now-defunct Civilian Saucer Intelligence of New York, and added to the NICAP collection by Miss Isabel Davis. This work is part of a major project by the huge government library, in conjunction with the University of Colorado UFO study.

What To Do -- In A Close-Range UFO Sighting

During the last two years, there has been a rapid increase in reported close UFO approaches to aircraft, cars, and groups on foot, also a few cases involving small boats.

In one typical case, Dr. George Walton, a scientist, was driving in New Mexico with his wife when two glowing discs appeared beside their car. Trying to outrun them, Dr. Walton drove at 85 m.p.h., but the UFOs easily kept position, pacing the car several miles before climbing away. Case personally investigated by AF Chief UFO Consultant, Dr. J. Allen Hynek, and listed as unexplained.

Some encounter stories are false, but many reported by responsible witnesses have been checked and seem genuine. We have frequently been asked what to do in a close-range approach. The odds against your encountering a UFO, based on known reports, are extremely high. But if UFOs are actually making such approaches, it is reasonable to consider what action witnesses should take. The following suggestions are based on detailed reports and observers' reactions.

What should you do if a UFO comes down and starts pacing your car?

First, try not to panic. The purpose seems observation only; no attack stories have ever been verified. Ordinarily, don't try to race away; it probably would be useless and also risky.

High-Speed Chase

A Florida girl, Barbara Fawcett, panicked when a lighted UFO came down behind her car. When she accelerated to 100 m.p.h. the strange object quickly overtook her, but veered away as the lights of an oncoming car appeared.

In some circumstances, if a UFO is so close it appears to be trying to stop you, or seems about to land and block the road, you might be justified in trying to outrun it—especially if there is a town just ahead. (Usually, UFOs climb away as town lights become visible.)

But if you do race an unknown flying object, keep your eyes on the road—not the UFO. A panicky driver hitting high speeds is likely to go off the road or hit another car. In one racing report, being checked, a young driver was said to have skidded around a UFO and ditched, damaging his car.

In contrast, a Flying Tiger Airline representative kept his head when he encountered a large UFO hovering just above a Massachusetts highway. Though "a little afraid of the thing," he slowed, then cautiously drove under the object, watching in his rear mirror until it was out of sight.

Normally, it seems best to drive at moderate speed until the UFO departs or you reach a town. If lucky enough to have a citizen's-band or a ham radio or telephone in your car, get word to the nearest highway or county police station.

Signal Cars

If you see an oncoming car, flash your lights to attract attention to the UFO and prevent a suddenly frightened driver from swerving and hitting you. If you have a spotlight, you might point it across or up at the UFO. Scores of times, UFOs have been reported as veering away from beamed lights—searchlights, airliner landing lights, and police-car or private citizens' spotlights.

Whatever you do, don't jump from your moving car unless you are in actual, imminent danger. Some time ago, an English aviation writer and his companion leaped from their car when a descending UFO approached. We know of no instance where a UFO has collided with a car. In this case, it cleared the machine by a safe margin. The car stopped, undamaged, and its occupants were only shaken up, but it could have been serious.

If it is night, don't turn off your lights to help you escape. Usually, a UFO's lights or glow will reveal a car, anyway, and without your headlights driving would be risky.

No matter how frightened you are, don't fire at a UFO.

In one Utah case, Michael Campeadors emptied his pistol clip at a domed flying-disc a few yards above his car. The bullets ricocheted, he said, with no effect on the UFO.

Though there is no record of retaliatory action in such cases, it could happen. Aside from this, some one in a car or on the ground could be hit accidentally.

All the preceding concerns moving cars, but what if a UFO lands ahead of you or hovers close to the road? If you're not fully blocked, you might follow the example of Paul Friend, Lancaster, Ohio. When he spied a brightly-lit UFO directly ahead, he hit the brakes and managed to whip around it and back onto the highway. You could also try to back up and turn, if your engine did not stop.

Electromagnetic Interference

Numerous times, car ignitions have been cut off, also car radios and lights, apparently by electromagnetic interference from a nearby UFO. Jenó Udvardy, Vicksburg, Michigan, tried backing away from a low hovering disc squarely in his way. Then his engine stalled and stayed dead until the unknown device took off.

If this should happen, stay in your car and wait until your engine will start. Several witnesses report getting out, for a closer look, but even the bare possibility of high radiation makes this unwise. Besides this, some persons have described disturbing effects after being near a UFO.

One of them, William Wallace, Leominster, Massachusetts, said he was numbed, unable to move for half a minute, after getting out of his car to observe a hovering UFO. None of these conditions is definitely proved, but it would seem safer to stay in a car until more is known about UFOs and their possible effects.

Most of the above suggestions can be applied generally to witnesses on foot, and also observers in boats. In aircraft-UFO encounters there are many other factors, and since most veteran pilots already are aware of the UFO situation and encounters by fellow-pilots, there appears no need for NICAP suggestions. We shall, however, collect all available expert opinions concerning pilot actions in UFO encounters. If it seems advisable, we may publish this information later.

Note: If you should ever be involved in a close UFO approach, please send all possible information to NICAP: Location; time; estimated size, appearance, speed and maneuvers of the UFO(s), any EM or sound effects, other witnesses' names, etc. If you request it, we shall keep your name confidential, though it would be more helpful to add it to the long list of reputable witnesses.

NICAP Renewal System

Renewal notices are scheduled to be sent to each member whose subscription has just expired, but sometimes a flood of sighting reports or other mail causes a delay. Often, members say they would renew when due, without waiting for notices, if they were sure of their expiration dates. Here is how to calculate when you are due to renew:

If your membership-subscription began with Vol. III/No. 12 or a later issue, or if you have renewed since last April, you have been mailed a new type of membership card which indicates the last issue that you are due to receive. When you have received the issue shown on the card, your membership-subscription will be due for renewal.

NICAP's \$5.00 membership-subscription rate is based on six issues of The UFO Investigator. To date, it has not been calculated at an annual rate, since sometimes less than six issues have been published per year. However, we expect to change to an annual basis, with six issues per year, early in 1968. Vol. III, No. 4, is now being prepared for publication in January. We are planning to mail Vol. III, No. 5 before the end of February, after which issues will be published every two months.

All members will eventually receive the new type of card as they renew their old subscriptions. Meantime, those who wish to learn how far their membership extends will be sent the information on request.

We are very grateful to all the members who have sent in advance renewals.

Subcommittee Activities

A collection of three lectures by Dr. James McDonald is now available in bound form, courtesy of PA #1 Subcommittee. Copies of "UFOs—The Greatest Scientific Problem of Our Times" are \$1.00 each (less in quantity) from William Weitzel, 266 Congress Street, Bradford, Pa. 16701 . . . Interest is developing in foreign countries for NICAP Investigating Subcommittees, including England, The Netherlands, India and France .

Continued From Page 1

The complete U. of C. proposal, No. 66.1.253, dated October 4, 1966, was accepted by the AF as the basic policy. It was signed by Dr. Edward U. Condon, Scientific Director for the project, Wesley E. Brittin, Chairman, Department of Physics and Astrophysics, and Thurston E. Manning, Vice President and Dean of the Faculties.

Following are several key points indicated as representing the University's intentions and attitude toward the project.

Introduction

"The University of Colorado proposes, with Dr. Edward U. Condon, Department of Physics and Astrophysics serving as scientific director, to undertake a systematic study of the physical, psychological and social phenomena associated with reported observations of unidentified flying objects (as defined in AFR 80-17 of 19 September 1966)."

NICAP note: No explanation of the need to study "social phenomena" or any link with UFOs was given The former AF-UFO regulation, AFR 200-2, for years defined UFOs as unknown flying objects, excluding aircraft, balloons, and other conventional explanations. In AFR 80-17, which replaced AFR 200-2 six weeks before the Colorado Project began, *UFOs were redefined as: "any aerial phenomenon or object which is unknown or appears out of the ordinary to the observer."*

Objectives

Under this head, the most immediate aim was stated "to probe into the physical nature of UFOs." It was added, however, that it would be surprising to find only physical evidence, and that it is more reasonable to expect also a variety of visual and subjective impressions, requiring a study of "the role of the individual in UFO observing."

NICAP note: A psychological study of UFO witnesses to see why they report sightings, rather than concentrating on their reports, has been advocated a number of times by AF spokesmen, including Dr. J. Allen Hynek, Chief Scientific Consultant.

The U. of C. proposal continues:

"Can enough be learned about these phenomena and human reactions to them to make any generalization about the credibility of reports of UFO sightings? Since no sustained or large-scale study of this side of the problem has been attempted, it is difficult to make a forecast It may, for example, be found that no pattern emerges at all, that no generally applicable conclusions can be drawn. On the other hand, it may be found that this is a new scientific field to cultivate.

"At a more abstract level, the problem is one of coping with the anxiety about UFOs that is thought to exist in some segments of society. Among responsible and rational citizens, it can be hoped that the study will become the nucleus of a growing community of opinion. Others, however, will undoubtedly maintain that, since the investigation has been undertaken, there must be a problem, something not explained or understood by those in authority. If the Air Force goes to the university community to undertake this project, they will say, it must feel troubled; otherwise, the undertaking would be unnecessary. In anticipation of such an interpretation, we should state at this point that we feel the study will not necessarily contribute to the nation's peace of mind."

NICAP note: The above paragraph suggests that only irresponsible and irrational citizens would ever consider that there must be an unexplained problem and that the AF must feel troubled about it. A large number of responsible Americans are already on record as believing this, including scientists, members of Congress, newspaper editors, ranking officers of the armed forces and other competent citizens.

The Colorado proposal indicates several cooperating agencies:

"We are counting heavily on the cooperation of the Institute for Environmental Research (IER had assigned Dr. Franklin Roach to the project.) Dr. Roach, as an expert in aurora and airglow, as well as in the instrumentation for observing these phenomena, is well-qualified to supervise a major portion of the effort."

Another agency, described as "an essential ingredient" in the investigation, is the National Center for Atmospheric Research, selected "to advance the purpose of the study." The Center, states the U. of C., has "men with skills—especially in optical meteorology—that are essential to the investigation."

NICAP note: We realize it is necessary to consider all possible explanations of UFO sightings, including atmospheric phenomena. But it is difficult to see why a "major portion" of the investigation should be linked with such phenomena and so strongly emphasized, unless aurora, air-glow and other atmospheric effects were considered the most probable explanations. Since none of the evidence had been submitted, let alone examined, any such conjecture could hardly be justified in a truly objective investigation.

The same comment applies to the U. of C. emphasis on the National Center for Atmospheric Research. This appears to imply that "optical meteorology" explanations might also be given more weight than physical answers, such as actual devices.

Reaction Tests

According to the agreement, the project would "lean away" from simply enlarging the amount of "opinion and impression." (NICAP: apparently this includes general evidence.) "We visualize many fruitful experimental and test situations" to simulate the physical phenomena and learn human reactions to them.

NICAP: We know that project psychologists have discussed such tests, but we have no reports on possible methods or results. It would seem difficult if not impossible to duplicate such cases as veteran pilots' encounters with UFO formations and other such reports by highly qualified observers.

On page 4 of the U. of C. agreement is this note:

"Because of the continuance of Project Blue Book for the handling of all reports, it is our understanding that the university is under no obligation to investigate reported sightings other than those that the principal investigators (Dr. Condon and Administrator Robert J. Low) select for study."

Since this was approved by the AF, it might be thought a means to exclude all but AF-supplied reports. However, the project has requested and received many others, including hundreds from NICAP.

In regard to methods, the U. of C. agreement states:

NICAP Listed

"We will examine the records of Project Blue Book; talk to members of its staff; consult with authorities and interested citizens' groups (such as the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena); prepare a standard interview schedule"

After this and a few field investigations, an operations plan would be set, subject to change if necessary. "We would expect all the while," this section ends, "to keep in close touch with staff members of Project Blue Book and the AF Office of Scientific Research."

Probably the most important U. of C. provision concerns impartiality in investigating:

"The work will be conducted under conditions of the strictest objectivity by investigators who, as carefully as can be determined, have no predilections or preconceived positions on the UFO question. This is essential if the public, the Congress, the Executive and the scientific community are to have confidence in the study."

NICAP note: We fully agree. If this announced objectivity were to be lost, or greatly diminished, the project's findings would be of little or no value. If the final conclusions were based on slanted investigation it would set off a worse controversy than ever.

Originally, the Colorado project was to end on January 31, 1968. A five-month extension has been approved, with added funds bringing the total to \$523,000. The final project report will be first reviewed by the National Academy of Sciences, then by the AF Office of Scientific Research. The final version is not expected to be made public until December, 1968, possibly later.

In reporting on this contract, NICAP does not offer it as any guide to the final conclusion. After a year's operation, conditions have changed, probably some of the scientists' opinions, too.

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One strange item, which we are still studying, concerns publicity to be given the Colorado project findings. For some reason— not explained—the AFOSR (AF Office of Scientific Research) urges quick publication of articles by project scientists, showing how they arrived at their conclusions. (These would be released as soon as possible after the final report is made public.)

In Section B.1, the AF first suggests articles for "appropriate professional journals." If these would not appear quickly enough, a faster method is prescribed.

The Publicity Plan

Further indicating its desire for immediate public statements by project scientists, the AF offers to speed them up by publishing articles as AFSOR Scientific Reports if they are of "such special significance or such immediate usefulness that they deserve publication in advance of the time (for professional journals)."

NICAP note: Why would the AF be so anxious to speed up the project scientists' public statements?

If the project conclusion were positive—a finding that UFOs are unknown devices under intelligent control—the pressure on the Government would be tremendous. Faced with such a problem, the AF and other agencies would probably study for weeks, under greatest secrecy, to evolve a plan for telling the public without causing a panic. Certainly the AF would not rush all the scientific evidence and proof into print. Instead, they would bottle up this information while they figured how to reverse previous official denials of UFO reality.

The project conclusion might suggest no definite answer but admit a serious problem and urge a new, large-scale investigation, possibly on a global level.

Here, too, the AF would not be likely to rush into print with project scientists refuting their claim that no problem exists.

The final conclusion might be negative, ignoring all the evidence from pilots, tower operators, radarmen, astronomers, and many other highly-qualified observers. In this case, UFOs would be labeled as non-recognition of atmospheric phenomena, meteors, etc., and as delusions, hoaxes and mistakes of various kinds.

It would be logical to reinforce such a negative conclusion as swiftly as possible with all available scientific support. This would be especially important because, as national polls show, nearly 50% of the American people now reject the AF debunking explanations, accepting UFOs as real, though not necessarily from other planets.

Critics Fear Whitewash

In inserting Sections B.1 and B.2, the AF has prepared the way for a deluge of project scientists' statements supporting the final conclusion. As AFOSR documents, they could be released at once for nationwide press stories, backed up by articles in scientific journals. Even some critics of present AF policies, in Congress and the press, might be reluctant to oppose such an array of respected scientists.

Some critics who have been dubious from the start about an AF-financed project may now be convinced they were right. In writing Sections B.1 and B.2 into the contract, they may say, the AF must even then have been fairly sure of a negative conclusion—in short, a "whitewash."

NICAP EMPHATICALLY REJECTS THE IDEA THAT ALL THESE PROJECT SCIENTISTS WOULD EVER HAVE AGREED TO ANY SUCH SECRET DEAL.

We have met and worked with most of them, at Boulder, at NICAP headquarters, or in the field. We know, without the slightest doubt, that most if not all would never have joined the project under such conditions. If they learned of any such pressure later they would do everything possible to block it and reach an honest answer based on factual evidence.

But there is another possibility. At that time, relatively few influential scientists had publicly rejected the AF answers—though many have since done so. The AF representatives might have felt certain no group of reputable scientists would accept UFO reality. It may have seemed a safe gamble to prepare this extraordinary program to put over a negative answer.

But the Colorado scientists are not bound to follow the AF plan—though the contract strongly urges them to cooperate. Some would not support a negative answer—there is already disagreement among the scientists, as Project Administrator Robert J. Low admitted to the NICAP director and Assistant Director Lore in an October conference at Washington. At the very least, we can expect dissent from the final conclusion—no matter what it is—from several of the investigating scientists.

We will probably not know the final conclusion until late in '68, although Dr. Condon has the right to end the project on 30 days' notice. However, this is unlikely. The original plan was to end it on January 31, 1968, but this was extended to June 30 with added funds bringing the total to \$523,000.

The final report was supposed to go directly to the AFOSR but this has been modified to include a first review by the National Academy of Sciences. The Academy review board could accept the report without change. It could accept it with reservations. Or it could reject it completely. (Whether the review board could permit Project changes, or would have to send the disapproved report to AFOSR, has not been announced.)

The contract sets no time limit for the AF to review the report or, if it wishes, to prepare a rebuttal. It may be 1969 before the Project findings are known.

Meantime, NICAP will do all in its power to further an impartial scientific investigation.

In the previous issue, we announced we were submitting questions to the Colorado Project to learn how many NICAP reports have been investigated and to clarify several other points bearing on NICAP cooperation. The list was slightly delayed, and we have not yet received answers to the questions. Meanwhile, we think our report on the AF-Colorado contract will answer some members' queries and disclose little-known aspects of this project.

Project "Sign" Report

Further proof of Air Force withholding of UFO information has come to light with the declassification of the official Project SIGN report (also called Project SAUCER) on October 11, 1966. This famous document, originally dated for release "February 1949," is the first known report by an Air Force UFO investigation project. It has been unobtainable for almost 18 years, although DOD directive 5200.10 prescribes declassification of even "Secret" documents after 12 years.

Meanwhile, the Air Force has repeatedly made statements like the following by Richard H. Horner, then Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Research and Development, on the Armstrong Circle Theater television program of January 22, 1958: "During recent years there has been a mistaken belief that the Air Force has been hiding from the public information concerning Unidentified Flying Objects. Nothing could be further from the truth. And I do not qualify this in any way."

The reader may decide for himself how this statement, and many others by Air Force spokesmen to the same effect, squares with the 18-year "Secret" classification of the SIGN report.

Copies of the 44-page report are now available from Project Blue Book at \$11.00 (25 cents per page); however, David Branch, President of the Los Angeles NICAP Affiliate, has reproduced the report at his own expense and will supply it for \$1.95, postage included. (Check or money order to be sent to him at 1437 N. Alta Vista Blvd., Hollywood, Calif. 90046.)

Examination of the declassified report shows that information is still being withheld, for the report does not include the summaries of 243 domestic sightings which are supposed to appear as Appendix A. In August and in October, 1966, Mr. Branch wrote to Blue Book requesting this Appendix. He received the following reply, dated November 2, 1967, from Major David L. Stiles of the Community Relations Branch, Air Force Office of Information, Pentagon:

"The Project SIGN report mentioning these summaries was, as you will note, dated 1949. The Project Blue Book staff is too small to enable us to pull copies of each of these summaries and reproduce them. Only a limited number of copies were made at the time, and these have long since been exhausted."

This appears to indicate that Appendix A originally consisted not of a list of summaries of the cases, but of 243 actual summaries attached to the report. In either case, this is crucial data and should certainly be made available.

NICAP Captures Hoax Balloons

A recent three-day spree of lofting home-made "UFOs" over suburban Washington was abruptly deflated when a NICAP investigator caught several boys preparing to launch one of the candle-powered bags.

Prior to this, a NICAP prober had captured one of the balloons and retrieved other hoax materials left at the launch site. Involved in NICAP's investigation were officials of the Federal Aviation Agency, the Air Force, a local fire department and the police.

The hoax began on the evening of Nov. 8 when a NICAP member in Wheaton, Md., reported seeing a "box with a light" moving slowly over his house. Viewed by the member's father as well, the contrivance seemed to have tiny poles attached to it.

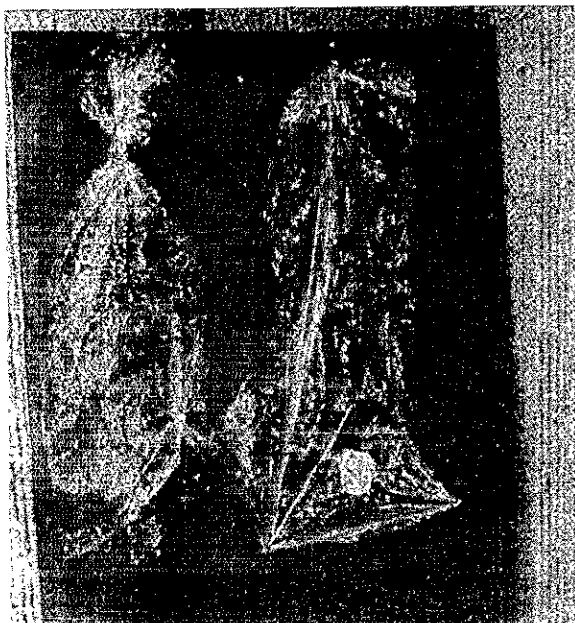
When the report was phoned to NICAP, it was relayed by a staff member to a NICAP consultant who lived within a mile of the area. In addition to his technical background, this consultant is an expert archer.

As soon as he received the NICAP report, he drove toward the point where the strange object had been sighted. After a few moments he spotted a slow-moving, glowing device in the night sky. Following as it drifted over some woods, he waited until it was low enough for a good shot, then got out his bow and took aim.

The object fell into a tree, and the archer recovered it intact. The "UFO" proved to be a common plastic laundry bag at the bottom of which was an X-shaped frame made of small tree branches. Mounted on this was a plastic cup with a small candle inside (see picture) which created enough hot air for the bag to lift. Because the bag was transparent, light from the candle had illuminated its interior, giving the glowing, box-like image seen by the witnesses. The "poles" were the tiny branches, and the "orange flame" was the candle.

The next night, NICAP representatives patrolled the neighborhood and observed another fake "UFO" drifting overhead. Because of its height, attempts to bring it down failed, but a search in a nearby field disclosed the launching spot, indicated by plastic cups, pieces of candles and burned matches.

Having located the launching site, a NICAP investigator watched the area the following night and spotted a group of boys preparing another fake UFO. As the NICAP man was questioning them, one boy's father appeared. His first reaction, that this was a harmless prank, quickly changed when the NICAP investigator explained the possible danger to aircraft pilots and passengers; if an unknown lighted object appeared in front of a fast-flying plane the pilot would hastily turn, dive or climb to avoid collision. Passengers with belts unfastened could be thrown from their seats and injured. And in a busy approach corridor, there could be a mid-air collision.



Blue Order Form

Enclosed with this issue is a blue membership and order form like the one sent with the previous Investigator. The original purpose in sending these forms was to secure new members who would be recruited and recommended by present members, also to increase orders for "THE UFO EVIDENCE."

Although we did receive some new memberships and orders, most of the forms were used for renewals. We were very glad to receive renewals so promptly, as otherwise reminders would have had to be sent. If you are due to renew now, please feel free to use the blue form, marking it: "Renewal."

We still hope, however, that many of our members will use this form to help us increase our membership. The original idea came from Mr. S. Bryon Morehouse, internationally known electric power authority, now Assistant to the Senior Vice President, Leeds and Northrup, Philadelphia. In sending a generous contribution during the crisis last summer, Mr. Morehouse wrote:

"Why don't you get your members working for you? I have never obtained another member or been encouraged to do so, but if I had a pad of printed application blanks with a form that someone could fill out and send with a check, I could get 10 applications in a relatively short time, and would be glad to do so. These would be mostly engineers and scientists. If you put on such a form a byline Recommended to Membership by Member, I believe you would be surprised at the number of salesmen you would have."

We greatly appreciate Mr. Morehouse's suggestion. If there is enough response to the single forms, we shall print some pads but meantime we shall be glad to send 5, 10 or more blue forms, on request, to members who wish to follow Mr. Morehouse's suggestion.

We also shall be glad to receive other suggestions on how to secure added income for speeding up Volume II and other planned projects, including an increase in field investigations of all important UFO cases.

Report On 1947 Wave Published

The Report on the UFO Wave of 1947, by Ted Bloecher, is a breath of fresh air in an atmosphere polluted by hack journalism, sensationalism and reprinted antiques.

Checks of sample cases have shown this book to be highly accurate, in sharp contrast to the great majority of current books. Moreover, it contains no speculation about the nature, motives or origins of UFOs, but merely provides the reader with an immense quantity of information. A careful reading of Bloecher's book will give a far clearer and more thorough picture of the 1947 flap than has been previously possible, and should result in some insight into subsequent events.

Five years was spent in research for this in-depth study of the two-month wave of sightings which started the modern era of UFOs and flying saucers. It is certain to be considered the definitive work on the topic, and should establish a new high standard for subsequent works.

Eight hundred and fifty cases are described in detail; more than 200 of them are dealt with in extensive chapters on patterns of appearance and behavior, outstanding witnesses and extra-visual evidence.

Numerous maps show the locations of sightings by weeks, with special emphasis on the Pacific Northwest. Included are photographs and a complete bibliography. The introduction is by Dr. James E. McDonald, of the University of Arizona's Institute of Atmospheric Physics.

Privately published by the author, the book is being sold through NICAP, with profits being shared. Price, \$5.00 including fourth class postage in U.S. First class, \$1.00 extra; foreign postage \$2.00 extra. Checks should be made out to: Ted Bloecher, and sent to: Ted Bloecher, c/o NICAP, 1536 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

URGENT!

Please send us your ZIP CODE at once!! The Post Office may refuse to deliver even first-class mail after January 1, 1968, if it lacks the ZIP CODE.