

THE U.F.O. Investigator

FACTS ABOUT UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

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SUBMERGING UFO REPORTED

UFOs that dove into Lake Michigan, caused electro-magnetic (E-M) effects to cars, paced an automobile, apparently created "static electricity" in the air and frightened witnesses were observed in at least four states and England during the last three months. Among the witnesses were policemen, Coast Guardsmen, a harbor patrolman and an electronics engineer.

On the evening of June 20, numerous witnesses in and around the Michigan City, Indiana, area, bordering Lake Michigan, saw a series of multi-colored, maneuvering lights for a period of several hours.

The following entry was made in the Coast Guard log:

"20 June 1969-21:35 [9:35 p.m.]—Have unidentified objects under observation. Group [Chicago Coast Guard] notified this time and date."

The entry was signed by Coast Guardsman Vernon L. Kleman.

Robert Davenport, the Michigan City Coast Guard Station's Officer of the Day, had notified the Chicago station, but they didn't take the call seriously. What had the Michigan City people been drinking? Five minutes later Davenport received a call from Calumet City officials, who had been alerted by Chicago. What was going on? No significant change. The lights were still there.

"The objects appeared solid and yet were a source of their own light," Vernon Kleman stated in his report to NICAP. "They appeared as if from nowhere and could brighten up to a size much larger than when originally seen. They moved at a variety of speeds, some fast, some slow and at times they were stationary for a minute or more . . . The objects were colored white, green or orange and they changed colors at will . . . The objects were viewed over Gary, Indiana, Chicago, Illinois, and Lake Michigan."

At about the same time, another Coast Guardsman, Gus P. Tarantino, also noticed the objects, which he described as "solid with colored lights around them."

At 10:15, Davenport contacted Calumet Harbor personnel to inquire if they had noticed the lights. They had.

A few minutes later, Davenport, Kleman, Tarantino and a fourth Coast Guardsman, Charles Dolan, saw, from the large picture window in their radio room, a huge, brilliant, white object out over the lake. They rushed to turn off the inside and outside lights for a better view.

The roughly oval-shaped UFO appeared to have a rotating rim with red, green and yellow lights around its center. Increasing in intensity, the object was in view for about a minute before it "quickly diminished in size and brilliance" and disappeared.

"It seemed very close to the station," Kleman said.

The station's personnel continued to observe the maneuvering lights.

Object Enters Lake

"Once a smaller object seemed to enter the water," Kleman continued. "It was submerged for 4-6 seconds. Then it traveled straight upward at an excessive speed."

It was about 10:25 when members of the alerted Michigan City Police Department and Port Authority began to see the UFOs. Robert G. Howington, harbor policeman, said the objects he saw disappeared to the "northwest with terrific speed." Officer Ted Stantz saw lights that erratically "went back and forth across the sky." Policeman James R. Coughlin and others saw the objects at the same time.

UFO CLEARING HOUSE RECOMMENDED

"The formation of a central scientific clearing house and depository for UFO reports" and the disbandment of Project Blue Book was recommended by a panel of six prominent scientists recently. This idea, coupled with severe criticisms of the Condon report, were the highlights of a "Science and the UFO" Symposium, sponsored by the National Amateur Astronomers, Inc. (NAA), during its annual convention in Denver, Colorado, on August 22.

The panel also said that further UFO studies should be conducted exclusively by a team of scientists free from all governmental and Air Force influence, according to Kenneth Steinmetz, President of NAA. Other now reluctant scientists would aid and the public would regain lost confidence in the subject brought on by release of the Condon report if such a program were established.

Dr. J. Allen Hynek, prominent astronomer and chief UFO scientific consultant to the Air Force for 20 years, felt that a serious UFO study would be brought to its conclusion, but not until the negative impact of the Colorado study is successfully refuted, stated local newspaper accounts. He added that, if the Air Force accepts the Condon report, Project Blue Book may well be quickly dropped. (A Pentagon spokesman recently told NICAP that top Air Force officials are currently deciding whether or not to continue the Blue Book operation. "The Condon report will play an important part in their decision," he confirmed.)

As of June 30, Dr. Hynek's Air Force contract was not renewed because "we, at present, do not feel the need of a consultant."

Colorado Report Flaws Cited

Arizona physicist Dr. James E. McDonald, one of the most knowledgeable scientists on the UFO subject, said that there was "poor scientific argumentation" for Colorado's study and that the report "sets the problem back and has led people in Washington to believe they can forget about UFOs." Sightings are still persisting, he said.

Another flaw in the report, said Dr. David R. Saunders, a former member of the Colorado project, was the omission of many classic cases, some of which the project did study. Despite this, he added "we were doing a little better job than the report seems to indicate." In a letter to NICAP, Dr. Saunders said he also discussed the orthoteny—or straight line—theory, originally expounded by French Ufologist, Aime Michel.

"I did cite one line with 36 observations from [Ted Bloecher's] listing, extending from coast to coast," he wrote. "And I did observe that there might be some sort of a global pattern underlying the phenomenon—a pattern that could be used to infer the involvement of intelligence, at least." (See *Report on the UFO Wave of 1947*, by Ted Bloecher, available from NICAP.) Dr. Saunders emphasized, however, that his work on this aspect of the problem was not complete but was "still very much in progress."

There is impressive evidence of life on Mars, despite the recent Mariner 6 and 7 probes, Dr. Frank B. Salisbury, exobiologist and an expert on the red planet, stated. A main factor in his opinion was the seasonal variations in the planet's coloration. Dr. Salisbury also indicated that, due to the law of averages, "the probability of other life in the universe is high."

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THE **UFO INVESTIGATOR**

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Editorial

THANK YOU

We are greatly indebted to the members who so kindly responded to the Board and staff emergency letter. Thanks to your help we were able to pay most of the overdue bills which threatened us and to stay in operation. By continuing with our reduced staff and smaller office, we hope soon to be out of the red, for good.

We are also glad to report encouraging developments regarding the general situation. The scientists' symposium at Denver (see separate story) is having favorable results, causing many of the public to realize the UFO subject has not been buried. There has been an increase in helpful comments by some of the press media. (For example, see the recent Richmond News Leader editorial quoted in this issue). We have also had increased requests for NICAP broadcasts about UFOs. Other important steps are being taken by influential scientists and other concerned citizens to spotlight misleading explanations and debunking.

Sending you the emergency letter was embarrassing and an ordeal for Board and staff members. We know now from letters that many members still do not realize how hard we were hit by the Condon report. We have been in financial crises before, but this was almost fatal.

The Condon report hit us in two ways: 1. It quickly reduced public reporting of UFOs, though we knew sightings were still going on. 2. The lack of sighting publicity caused some members to lose interest.

Understandably, many members have urged us to ignore the CR. We did over-discuss the CR in the Investigator and will not repeat this, but it cannot be ignored. However, we have reason to believe the effects will steadily decrease.

When this is achieved, there will be important changes. Not long ago, NICAP's Director attended a private dinner at which the Air Line Pilots' Association honored General Lindbergh. The Director was told by a number of airline pilots present that they had impressive sightings and as soon as the ridicule ended they would make them public. An estimated several hundred cases would be involved, enough to start an avalanche of reports from the general public.

If you, our members, will just stick with us during this crucial period you can help to speed up the revival of public interest. You can help by convincing friends and acquaintances that the UFO subject is not dead. There are enough good sightings and facts in recent issues to surprise uninformed people, as a number of members have told us.

We shall continue to hold operating expenses to a minimum. We regretted having to lay off over half of our staff—dedicated people with valuable knowledge of UFOs and our investigations. They took it gamely, and we are glad they were able to find other jobs in a short time. Their loss has forced us to cut correspondence heavily and to hold up several promising projects, but by concentrating on The UFO Investigator, we shall be able to bring you all the important news and interesting sightings.

Again, many thanks for the encouraging letters and the contributions which brought us through.

SYMPOSIUM (Continued from Page 1)

"I [also] emphasized the point that it is very easy to find UFO sightings which can be explained as natural phenomena misinterpreted," Dr. Salisbury stated in a letter to NICAP. "Thus if a group wants to build a case for not being interested in the UFO (as the Condon Committee apparently did), it is perfectly easy to do so by spending much time and money and much effort on the investigation of trivial cases. On the other hand, as all members of the panel pointed out, there are numerous cases which cannot be so explained, and this is where the time and the money and the effort should be spent."

If some UFOs are extraterrestrial probes, stated Dr. James A. Harder, we could gain invaluable scientific knowledge from their methods of propulsion. Even if we do not make extraterrestrial contact, the civil engineering professor indicated, our own present technological development may soon evolve to the point where long-distance space travel would be made relatively easy.

A psychologist, Dr. R. Leo Sprinkle, was most direct in an opinion that earth is being "surveyed by spacecraft" from elsewhere in the universe. "We can't neglect any area of investigation," he remarked.

All of the scientists refuted Dr. Condon with the feeling that future UFO studies would further advance the cause of science.

BOOK COVERS HEARINGS

Aliens in the Skies, by John G. Fuller; G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1969, \$5.95.

Using the Congressional hearings on UFOs of July 29, 1968, as its basis this book by a respected journalist is a miniature but effective rebuttal to the Condon report.

Subtitled "The New UFO Battle of the Scientists" and "The Scientific Rebuttal to the Condon Committee Report," the work covers in detail the day-long testimony of the six scientists before the House Committee on Science and Astronautics, with former Rep. J. Edward Roush (D-Ind) as symposium Chairman. The book is particularly valuable because, for the first time, the body of the hearings, the most important and significant on the subject yet undertaken by Congress, is available to the public on a wide-scale basis.

"The . . . hearings . . . were significant," Fuller wrote, "because up to this point in history any other concentrated attention to the UFO subject in Congress, among officialdom, or in scientific circles, had been brushed off summarily."

Fuller stated that the "damnable puzzling" UFO phenomenon is also "one of the most important of the century."

"If UFOs are a result of mistaken identify," the author of *Incident at Exeter* and *The Interrupted Journey* added, "as some who have not thoroughly studied the evidence claim, then the phenomenon demands the most urgent attention of all. It would mean that literally hundreds of pilots, radar technicians, engineers, scientists, and intelligent laymen have been duped by their own senses to such a degree that it is a sheer wonder any sanity at all is left in the world."

Certain public misconceptions about UFOs (no pilot sightings; no radar trackings; no E-M effects; no physical evidence, etc.) are exploded and to ignore all the "detailed mass of information would be to indicate a completely closed mind."

The main bulk of the book covers the hearings themselves (see The UFO Investigator, Vol. IV, No. 7, July-August, 1968). Five of the six scientists, Dr. J. Allen Hynek, Dr. James E. McDonald, Dr. Robert M. L. Baker, Dr. James Harder and Dr. Robert Hall, clearly indicated that UFOs are a serious scientific problem that should receive top priority attention. Even the dissenter, astronomer Dr. Carl Sagan, left the door open for further investigation. He suggested that the Air Force discontinue its practice of throwing "in the garbage" valuable surveillance radar data that could help solve the UFO phenomenon.

Other scientists contributed papers to be read into the proceedings.

"Eleven out of 12 sober and articulate scientists have, in these hearings," Fuller concluded, "stated clearly that the UFO problem not only is unsolved, but urgently needs to be solved for a variety of reasons . . . Their argument and persuasion contain the ring of truth, not prejudice; the caution of the dissenter, not the arrogance of the officially endowed; the perception of the curious, not the dogma of the biased."

SIGHTINGS (Continued from Page 1)

"We saw about 9 or 10 such objects over a span of about two hours," Police Sgt. Lance M. Hilberg stated in his report to NICAP. "One seemed to approach very close. The others were quite high and very distant. All objects appeared very bright and solid. The closest one was extremely bright [and] faded away at tremendous speed—much faster than any aircraft . . ."

Officer Tony C. Ragle said he was cruising in his squad car when he got a call to assist personnel at the Port Authority. Looking through his windshield, he saw the large bright object that "hovered over Lake Michigan for approximately 90 seconds, then went up and darted toward Chicago."

Bill Allen, a photographer-reporter for The (Michigan City) News-Dispatch, saw an object over the lakefront at 11:30.

"It looked like [an] upside down saucer," he reported to NICAP, "with [a] pulsating red light around [the] bottom. [The] top was [an] orange-yellow color."

At 11:35, the Chicago Coast Guard Station called Davenport. This time they were serious. They had talked with Calumet Harbor personnel, who had confirmed the sightings. The Chicago group said they would check the local airports. At about 11:45, they called back to report that no known aircraft were in the vicinity.

"I've stood many observation watches," Kleman concluded in his report. "It's a part of my job, but this is the most unusual thing I have ever seen. The objects were not illusionary or any kind of reflection. In my opinion, they were material."

NICAP's Chicago area Subcommittee member Bill Laas investigated the sightings.

Automobile E-M Effects Reported

UFOs that caused E-M effects to automobiles were reported from three widely scattered areas over about a six-week period.

It was between 10:15 and 10:30 p.m., August 5. Mrs. Toby McWhite was traveling on Route 50, 10 to 20 miles north of Raleigh, N.C., on her return trip home to Clarksville, Va., when her car headlights flickered and dimmed. The radio also faded into "nothing but static." The motor did not cut out, but Mrs. McWhite slammed on the brakes. Almost immediately she saw a large, shiny object that gave off a "bright glow underneath."

The frightened witness watched as the UFO moved in front of the car, then gained altitude and quickly vanished in the northeast. When the object disappeared, the car's lights and radio returned to normal function.

Mrs. McWhite sped back to Clarksville, where she and her husband, Benson, reported the incident to the Raleigh-Durham, N.C., airport and were told that no aircraft were reported in the area during the sighting.

Benson McWhite submitted the report to NICAP.

Randolph Whitcomb had just pulled off Route 137 onto Birches Road, near Waldo, Maine, at 1:45 a.m., July 21, when his car "radio went haywire," fading into static. Then he noticed that his car hood was reflecting a red glare.

Looking up, the witness saw a large, glowing red object hovering at a low altitude over the vehicle. Startled, Whitcomb raced the three miles home. The UFO paced him the entire distance and "moved off fast" as he turned into his driveway, said the July 23 edition of The Portland Press Herald.

More than a month earlier, a third automobile E-M effect case was reported from the Norfolk section of England.

At 12:25 a.m., June 19, Robin Peck, an electronics engineer, was in the vicinity of Bircham, between King's Lynn and Docking, when his car headlights and motor ceased functioning.

Peck got out of the car and lifted the hood. Then, he said, it was "as if the air were full of static electricity" and "he could feel his hair standing on end." Looking up, he was startled to see a blue, inverted mushroom-shaped object larger than a house hovering over some trees at an estimated 125 feet altitude and about a quarter of a mile away. After about a minute, the UFO darted away and disappeared.

Frightened, Peck jumped back into his car. The motor and lights now worked properly.

"There was something there, but I can't understand what it was," Peck told a reporter for The (Norfolk, England) Eastern Evening News. "It was a terrifying experience."

UFO Close Approach Frightens Family

Four days later a farming family 15 miles south of Hays, Kansas, was terrified when a UFO approached to within 200 feet of their front porch.

At 1:35 a.m., June 23, Darrell Werth and his father, Marvin, stepped out into their front yard to check the weather. They were concerned about their wheat crop, which was ready for harvesting. There was a bank of clouds in the northwest, but no apparent immediate threat of rain.

"As we began to walk back to the house," Darrell told NICAP, "I noticed a blinking light in the sky north of our home. The object had red, green and white lights flashing alternately and sometimes simultaneously as it moved at varying speeds to the east."

Mrs. Werth joined the two men. The family watched as "another light flashed back across the sky toward the west." The strange object quickly descended close to the ground, then ascended to an altitude of several hundred feet. As the shocked family watched, the UFO changed direction and headed straight toward them.

"Within two minutes the object was only 200 feet from our front porch," Darrell wrote. "It continued to dip and ascend again and fly back and forth in front of us. As the object rose high enough, its silhouette could be seen against the sky. It was wedge-shaped . . . a cone with the widest area on top. The light was . . . at the top . . . It did not make any noise as it passed in front of us. We stood transfixed, watching the object for . . . 15 minutes before it finally flew away in a northeasterly direction . . . We were left bewildered, speechless, and at a complete loss [to explain] what we had seen."

It is very important that NICAP receive all the good sighting reports possible, recent or old. If you know of a report, please send it as soon as possible. Don't sit on it. The sooner we receive good—and especially recent—sightings the better chance we will have of creating more much-needed interest.

ODDS FAVOR UFOs

In rejecting debunkers' claims that all UFOs have been explained, the Richmond News Leader joins the increasing number of newspapers which refuse to accept the Condon Report.

On Sept. 13, the News Leader published a long editorial headed "ODDS FAVOR UFOs," in which it emphasized that "the UFO controversy rages on."

Although the AF has been able to identify many of the sightings, said the News Leader, there still remained a hard core of UFO evidence that could not be explained away. Too many reliable witnesses were involved.

After explaining how the Colorado Project was set up, the newspaper went on:

"The Condon group officially decided that the flying saucer sensation was really much ado about nothing. Dr. Condon himself was quite explicit: he concluded that 'the UFO problem has been solved forever.' Even so, the Condon study conceded that many sightings had to be classed as 'unidentifieds'.

"Dr. Condon's 'forever' turned out to be no more than the twinkling of an eye," the News Leader asserted. In assessing the situation, the newspaper cited the 1968 Congressional UFO hearings and named "the six scientists with impeccable credentials" who vigorously refuted debunking claims and stressed that the U.S. Government has barely scratched the surface in determining what it is that 'credible witnesses' have been reporting from every corner of the world during the past 20 years.

"As Dr. Sagan points out," the News Leader said, "the odds certainly favor those who tend to believe that we are not alone . . . If only 10% of the 150 billion suns in our own galaxy support planets and if only one percent of these are capable of producing intelligent life, the UFOs could be coming from any of at least 150 million other worlds in our own galactic neighborhood.

"Look at it another way: If man can land on the moon only 5,000 years after climbing up from barbarism, somehow the idea of visitations from outer space seems less far-fetched. And even though we are learning fast, we may still be in the celestial kindergarten. We could even be among the duller and more backward of God's children. A good case for this latter theory can be found on the front page of any daily newspaper."

PRESIDENT ANTICIPATES LIFE BEYOND EARTH

The prediction by President Richard M. Nixon that we will land on other planets and discover life by the turn of the century has aroused new interest in UFOs.

"In the year 2,000 we on this earth will have visited new worlds where there will be a form of life," the Chief Executive was quoted as saying in the July 23 edition of *The New York Times*.

The President made the statement in an enthusiastic White House speech before a large gathering of international students on July 22, while the Apollo 11 astronauts were still speeding toward earth after successfully completing one of man's most triumphant and greatest achievements: a walk on the moon. Later, Vice-President Spiro T. Agnew urged that we step up our space program to include a manned landing on Mars by at least the last decade of this century. More recently, a Presidential special space task force offered three options for a Mars landing, two of them for the period between 1980 and 2,000 and the third for sometime in the 21st Century. It is up to the President to decide which of the options to accept. The task force did rule out a crash program to land a man on the red planet until, according to earlier reports, we fully explore the moon and make as full use as possible of its potentialities, even to the point of eventual colonization.

Man, at best, can only guess at conditions on planets in other galaxies, but the most conservative estimate by astronomers of planets possibly capable of sustaining life has been placed at a few hundred million. Many of these bodies, scientists agree, could contain intelligent life. Even Dr. Carl Sagan, generally opposed to the idea that intelligent life may now be observing us, concedes that there may be civilizations on other planets much more highly developed than the human race.

It is obvious, then, that the President's prediction could be of the highest potential importance. The practical advantages of possible colonization on other planets and the knowledge derived from contact with intelligent life combined with the possibility of uniting mankind toward a common goal are obvious. It is encouraging that Mr. Nixon feels our space program should continue to forge ahead to challenging new frontiers.

NICAP BOOK READY SOON

Strange Effects from UFOs, the new NICAP publication now being prepared for the printer (see *The UFO Investigator*, Vol. IV, No. 12), has suffered a delay because of the financial crisis and sharp reduction in staff. It is now nearing completion, however, and we have enough advance orders for a first printing. The new publication target date, depending upon the delay at the printer, should be around November 1.

Besides the contents mentioned in the last issue, a special section on occupant reports will also be included. These will be directly connected with the three general areas covered in the publication—physiological effects, physical evidence and animal reactions.

Three bizarre reports, in particular, will be discussed in the publication by members of NICAP's Occupant Panel (see separate story), including a psychiatrist, a psychologist, an anthropologist and an astronomer. We plan to publish a future occupant reports publication, utilizing more extensively the excellent comments of this well-qualified panel.

Such extremely bizarre cases would have to have absolutely indisputable proof for full acceptance, but NICAP feels that they should be thoroughly investigated and explored by scientific advisers. (The fully detailed Ririe case and the Occupant Panel scientists' evaluations, reported in this issue, explain NICAP's approach to the more fantastic occupant claims).

Other reports in the publication range from 1969 cases back to early 1950s sightings of unusual interest. Special attention will be paid to presenting highly detailed reports when possible. Witness sketches, photographs, an extensive chronology, and a complete listing of source material will also be included.

If you have not ordered this important new publication, please do so now. Order blanks are enclosed. The price in the U.S. is \$3.00; Canada and Mexico, \$3.50; foreign, \$4.00.

HIDDEN REPORT

Pilot "Dog-Fights" A UFO

The following "hidden" report, withheld from publicity for over 12 years, was finally released by a former AF pilot for use on a syndicated television program. The show, entitled "Paul Harvey: A Conference on UFOs," was taped on Dec. 17, 1968, to be used as a special on ABC stations throughout the country. It included a discussion of UFO evidence by such expert panelists as Dr. J. Allen Hynek, Dr. James E. McDonald, NICAP Assistant Director Gordon Lore, Congressman J. Edward Roush, who chaired the July 1968 Congressional UFO hearings, and Dr. Eric Schwarz, psychiatrist, who has interviewed numerous UFO witnesses.

Unfortunately, nationwide publicity on the Condon Report caused the program to be held up, though it may be used later. However, the "hidden" report was put on record and now may be quoted.

The former AF pilot is now a captain on a major airline. Because of the airline's policy, he had to remain anonymous as he described—off camera—his 12-year-old sighting.

At the time of the encounter, he and another AF pilot were flying F-86-D jet interceptors over the central San Joaquin Valley of California. After the Castle AFB tower asked if he could detect a UFO he saw a circular, luminescent object which he estimated as between 50 and 100 feet in diameter. As he tried to close in, with the second F-86, the UFO dived into a cloud.

In an attempt to box in the unknown object one pilot flew above the cloud, the other below it. A "dog-fight" between cloud layers resulted, with the UFO ascending and descending vertically "at quite a speed."

For a brief period, the captain reported, he got a radar lock-on to the object. As this happened, the UFO appeared to contract and fade away. At other times, he said, the object apparently would allow them to approach to a certain distance and then maneuver up and down to keep them from getting too close. Near the end of the encounter, the UFO reversed the chase pattern, following the second F-86 before finally disappearing upward into the clouds.

Details of the sighting were reported to Castle AFB.

English Documentary

An hour-long UFO television documentary that will cover worldwide reports and news is now nearing completion by Kingstar Productions, London, England.

I. T. Itkonen, a Kingstar official, and a small TV crew have been circling the globe filming and talking with numerous UFO witnesses and experts. In July, the crew visited NICAP headquarters and video-taped an interview with Assistant Director Gordon Lore, who cited a few recent UFO reports and a roundup of NICAP activities. The crew had already been to numerous countries, including South Africa and South America.

The program, which Itkonen hopes will receive worldwide distribution, will be in direct contrast to the highly negative, "UFOs: Fact, Foe or Fantasy," a CBS-TV documentary telecast in May, 1966, according to the crew. Itkonen added that it should also have an impact on the Condon report.

Although no TV network in the United States has yet shown a strong advance interest, several networks in foreign countries, including Japan, have already bought rights to the program, Itkonen told NICAP.

We will attempt to keep you informed of the progress of this documentary.

Dr. James McDonald, University of Arizona physicist and outspoken supporter of scientific investigation of UFOs, is scheduled to appear during the coming months in a taped TV discussion of UFO sightings. Produced by NBC in Los Angeles, the program is part of the "On Campus" educational series run on various NBC stations around the country. The present schedule calls for the show to be aired in Cleveland on October 29 on WKYC-TV, and in New York City on November 26 on WNBC-TV. It is a 30-minute program hosted by Robert Wright.

NICAP PANEL STUDIES OCCUPANT REPORTS

(FIRST OF A SERIES)

The UFO occupant claims discussed in this series were selected by NICAP for evaluation by a panel of scientists in the fields of biology, physics, anthropology, psychology, astronomy and other specialties. Pending completion of the full report, these articles will serve as a preview, containing individual panel members' authorized opinions of several unusual cases.

If UFOs are extraterrestrial vehicles, it is reasonable to expect that some types will be occupied by intelligent beings, though some may be remote-controlled. Since 1956, NICAP has investigated many occupant reports. Some come from citizens of good repute and these have not been rejected. But we still do not have the indisputable evidence needed to prove occupant existence.

Some accounts of occupant behavior are so fantastic that most people will not even read them. In many cases there has been strong evidence, even proof—of publicity hoaxes or frauds. In checking such stories we have had to be extremely careful, so the press and the public would not think we accepted obvious fakes.

Despite this, we realize that even highly bizarre occupant claims should not be rejected outright, solely because of their strangeness. As some of our advisers now emphasize, the behavior of beings from a different civilization would be likely to appear extremely strange to us, just as some of our behavior would seem weird, perhaps baffling, by their standards.

On this basis, even an apparently outlandish report might possibly be true, and if so it might yield a new clue to the UFO riddle.

To test this theory, we submitted to the occupant panel six bizarre reports investigated by NICAP. Since the less fantastic case-reports were not ready, the six claims were evaluated first—not because of their relative importance.

Before relating the first fantastic story and the panel members' opinions, we shall briefly cite a few of the less startling reports on record, for the benefit of new members unacquainted with occupant claims.

1. The William Squyres report, one of the earliest, listed by the Air Force as unexplained. On the early morning of August 25, 1952, Squyres was driving toward Pittsburg, Kansas, where he was a staff musician at station KOAM. Seven miles from the town, he saw a large elliptical craft, aluminum-colored and about 75 feet long, hovering near the ground. A human-like figure, Squyres reported, was visible through a forward window. When he approached the UFO it quickly took off, blowing ground vegetation around. KOAM officials verified the vegetation condition, and Air Force investigators confirmed this, rating Squyres reliability as "good." (Project Blue Book Special Report 14.)

The Father Gill Case

2. The report by Father William Gill, Anglican priest at Boianai, Papua, New Guinea. On two occasions in June, 1959, Father Gill and dozens of Papuans saw a disc-shaped device hovering near the shore. On a deck-like surface at the top, the priest said, were several beings who looked like normal humans and who responded to gestures by Father Gill and some of the Papuans. Other close-range sightings on New Guinea occurred on the same evenings. The reports were investigated first by the Royal Australian Air Force; because of Father Gill's reputation, they were considered authentic. In 1968, the priest was interviewed by Dr. James E. McDonald, outstanding scientific authority on UFOs, who was strongly impressed by the witness and his report.

3. The widely-publicized 1964 report by Police Officer Lonnie Zamora, Socorro, N.M. As most members know, Zamora broke off a car chase to check on a strange oval-shaped object with four landing-gear "legs" which was resting in a gully. Zamora reported that one of two beings nearby turned and looked at him, then both hurriedly boarded their craft and took off. Dr. J. Allen Hynek, AF Chief Scientific Consultant on UFOs for more than 20 years, personally investigated the case and said that Zamora was obviously frightened by what he had seen. A later official statement said Zamora had seen "an unidentified vehicle," but the AF would not speculate on its identity.

The occupant report which follows is in decided contrast with the three preceding cases. It may seem surprising that NICAP should publish the account in such detail, but the reasons will be apparent when the report is considered in the light of the panel scientists' comments.

The extensive NICAP investigation of the witnesses' claims was carried out by Mr. C. R. Ricks, of Idaho Falls, Idaho. The chief witnesses were two 23-year-old Navajo Indians, Willie Begay and Guy Tossie, who were employed at the Earl Hunter ranch near Ririe, Idaho. Besides long questioning periods with these men, Mr. Ricks interviewed state and local police officers and witnesses separately in the case.

The following report is the story told by the witnesses, describing the purported UFO encounter and occupants' actions. Until the remainder of the scientists' evaluations are received, NICAP will suspend judgment.

"Floating" Occupant Enters Car

The reported story follows:

On the night of Nov. 2, 1967, Willie Begay and Guy Tossie were driving south on Highway 26, near Ririe, Idaho. The night was clear and cold, with frost on the grass. It was about 9:30 and the Indians' 1956 Buick sedan was rolling at 30 m.p.h. when there was a sudden, blinding flash. At first, the men thought it was lightning. Then they saw a small domed UFO hovering about five feet from the ground, in front of the car.

The old Buick stopped, although Willie Begay had not put on the brakes. He later told Ricks he thought they were brought to a stop in some way by the strange device.

The UFO was flashing green and orange lights, apparently through holes in a ring which floated around the rim. A transparent dome covered most of the top, and two small figures could be seen inside. The dome swung open, as if hinged, and one of the occupants got out and came down, with a sort of "floating movement."

As he approached the car the flashing lights revealed the alien's appearance. His height was a little over three feet. His face had a rough look—like "scars, deep scars," as one of the Indians said. He had large "high" ears; his eyes were round, and his mouth was a slit with very thin lips or none at all. No nose could be seen in the roughness of the face.

In the UFO's flashing lights, the being's face looked green—evidently this color was more vivid than the alternating orange hue. (Later, local papers mistakenly reported the sighting of "little green men," unaware that both the Indians' faces also looked green in the glow from the hovering disc.)

As the strange being opened the left door, the frightened Indian hastily slid away. The creature climbed in, and in a moment the car began to move out into a wheat stubble field. There had been no E-M (Electromagnetic) interference effect; the headlights were still on and the engine was running. But neither witness could tell whether the alien actually drove the car. They thought it might have been pulled or "towed" by some force from the UFO, since the hovering disc maintained a fixed position "like the car was fastened to it."

Witness Runs for Help

The car stopped about 75 feet from the highway. Guy Tossie suddenly opened the door, jumped out and ran back to the highway. He said later he thought the second occupant pursued him, but if so Tossie must have outdistanced the alien being.

After Tossie had fled, the occupant in the car began jabbering at Willie Begay, but the sounds were unintelligible. (When Ricks questioned him later, Willie said the sounds were high and rapid "like women" or "like a bird." He made a chirruping, warbling sound in imitation. He also told Ricks that he was so frightened by this time that he thought he would pass out.)

Shortly after this the second occupant appeared near the car—possibly on returning from chasing Guy Tossie, though this was never certain. The other alien then left the car and both entered the UFO. The dome top

Continued on next page

closed and the object rose in a zigzag path, the flashing colors brightening as it ascended. At the same time a yellow light beamed down from the center of the bottom. It fluctuated like flame, but did not look exactly like flame. Willie Begay said he could hear a whirring sound and a rush of air as the UFO took off.

In the meantime, Guy Tossie had run down the highway a fifth of a mile, reaching the farm home of Willard Hammon. When he pounded on the door Mr. Hammon opened it and the "incoherent Indian" came inside. Tossie put his head in his hands and tried to explain what had happened, but nothing made sense. The Indian was still badly scared, but Hammon and his teenage son persuaded him to go back to the scene in their car. They found the Buick still in the field, with Willie Begay trembling in the front seat, his eyes tightly closed.

The elapsed time for the entire incident was about 15 minutes.

Police Investigate

After driving away from the spot, Mr. Hammon—and later the Indians—drove into Ririe, where they told the story to the local constable and a deputy sheriff. The deputy phoned the Idaho State Police, and Corporal Tom Harper was sent to investigate.

In Harper's official report, authorized for NICAP quotation, he stated that the Indians were still obviously scared. He noted that they had been drinking beer, but he emphasized that they were not drunk.

Later in the investigation, it was discovered that cattle in the area had stampeded and that dogs had been frightened by something that same night. This was confirmed by Mr. Ricks.

"I checked with Mrs. Claude Mann," he reported to NICAP. "Her cattle broke through a steel pipe gate that night. They ran for nearly two miles. After being rounded up, they again broke out of their pasture by tearing out a fence. This may have been coincidental and without significance [or] it may be relevant."

Mr. Ricks also interviewed a separate witness, Mrs. Elaine Quinn, who apparently saw the same UFO maneuvering in the area.

"Mrs. Quinn lives approximately six miles east of Ririe, up the Snake River valley," Ricks informed NICAP. "Her child got sick the night of November 2 and at 11:30 she left their home to drive to a nearby relative for medicine. She saw an orange light low in the sky to the east, above the valley floor and about two miles away. It appeared to be rotating and it flew with a zigzag pattern . . . She knew nothing of the Indian sighting until the next day. The color, rotation, zigzag flight and the time are items in common."

During his investigations, Mr. Ricks learned of a local resident who purportedly had a close encounter with a UFO and two strange beings the same night as the Indians' experience. After the incident, the witness was so badly upset he was afraid he might be losing his mind. Early next morning he told the story to a close friend and his wife, who were convinced that the encounter had actually happened. But though they reassured him about his sanity, he had an intense fear of being ridiculed and he had kept silent to avoid publicity.

Later, Ricks managed to meet the witness, but before this he was given the encounter details by the couple to whom the man had talked, on condition that his name would not be revealed. The story follows, as related to the couple by the witness.

Similar Corroborating Account

About 11:30 p.m. on November 2, 1967, he was driving between Ririe and Rigby, on State Highway 48, when a UFO came down in front of his pickup truck and stopped it. A small being got out of the device and tried to get into the truck, tapping on the window and scratching or tapping on the windshield. Mr. — thought he had lost his mind and was as terrified by this thought as the idea that the experience was real. Failing to get into the truck, the being on the ground entered the UFO and it departed.

Mr. — hurriedly drove home, so shaken that he was unable to sleep that night. It was about 7 a.m. when he confided in his two close friends. The husband was employed at the same plant as Mr. —, and after the witness had told his story they went to work together. Around nine o'clock the local radio station broadcast the report which the two Indians had given to the police. When Mr. — heard the news he "turned white as a sheet," according to his friend, and since then he has refused to discuss his encounter.

When Ricks first managed to meet Mr. —, the witness was disturbed on learning that Ricks knew of his experience.

"His manner was courteous, but he was brief," Ricks reported. "No, he did not want to tell me what he had experienced. Yes, he understood it might corroborate another experience and have far-reaching implications. But that was all."

Two weeks later, Ricks was able to see Mr. — again.

"This time," Ricks said, "he took me aside to avoid any eavesdropping. He explained that on November 2 he had just been divorced by his wife and he was emotionally distraught. Though he was not a drinker, he had gone to Ririe and had a few beers. His refusal to discuss the encounter was largely due to fear he would be accused of having been drunk and 'seeing things.'"

In summing up the interviews with Mr. —, Ricks said he was favorably impressed.

"Although he is employed as a semi-skilled laborer, he reads extensively, listens to classical and semi-classical music on a hi-fi set of his own building, and otherwise shows signs of an active intellect with average or above intelligence.

"He is very afraid that if his story comes out he will be ridiculed. I tried to reassure him that NICAP would not take unfair advantage of him, but he knows no one will if he does not repeat his story."

In regard to the Indians, after long interviews and careful checking with persons who knew them, Ricks stated:

"I am convinced that they do not have the desire nor the cleverness to build a fraud of this magnitude . . . They are simple, honest men and incapable of a perfectly executed hoax . . . They were reluctant witnesses, meaning they do not desire publicity, and almost all their information had to be extracted with direct questions."

Air Force Requests Sighting Roundup

In a final note, dated August 22, 1968, Mr. Ricks said that Air Force investigators had been in the area checking on a 1967 sighting about 90 miles south of Ririe.

"They asked the police chief of Shelley, Idaho to round up those who had had UFO experiences in that vicinity. (Reports were submitted to NICAP on these.) I was called to be questioned concerning the Ririe sighting. The appointment was for a specific hour, but no Air Force people showed up. I find it interesting that they planned to investigate UFO experiences nearly 1 year after their occurrence."

The following evaluations were made by six of the occupant panel scientists. In this article we are concentrating on their opinions of the Ririe report, with several comments on the occupant situation in general. Two of the scientists have asked that we omit their names, at least temporarily, in quoting their views.

Dr. Allen S. Mariner, psychiatrist, Canandaigua, N.Y.

"This, to me, is the most convincing case of [the six]. The single element which makes it so extremely convincing is the very strong emotional reaction of the witnesses, amounting to panic—surely an appropriate response in such a situation. Their consistency in cross-examination is another convincing element, as is the report of frightened animals in the area (a phenomenon to which I believe we should pay much attention.) I am naturally very much interested in the report of a similar experience by another witness and his complete avoidance of publicity . . . The fact that these witnesses may have had a beer or two does not impress me. Their panic reaction is not at all typical of reactions to alcohol; further, for two men to react with panic and to agree about the cause of their fright if the cause of their fright is not something real would be virtually unheard of."

Hallucination Discounted

At another point, Dr. Mariner stated: "The ingestion of alcohol per se does not produce hallucinations . . . (except) in delirium tremens, a gross and obvious psychotic condition. While alcohol does, of course, dim one's faculties and make one a less reliable observer of things in general, it simply does not produce the sort of phenomena with which we are dealing."

Regarding hallucinations in general, Dr. Mariner said: ". . . by and large, only very psychotic people have hallucinations (if the term is to be used in the usual sense). Further, virtually all psychotics disturbed enough to be hallucinating are so grossly disturbed that any reasonably intelligent observer could identify them as psychotics."

In conclusion, Dr. Mariner said that occupant reports should be looked at and evaluated along with all other UFO material. "To me it seems highly arbitrary and unscientific to eliminate one entire group of reports simply because of their bizarreness. And, after all, if UFOs exist (and I think they do) 'somebody must be driving'—and the 'somebodies' might very well occasionally (or even frequently) touch down for one purpose or another. To discredit such reports out of hand seems unrealistic."

(Dr. Mariner's detailed suggestions will be quoted, with his opinion of other bizarre cases, in the final full report—as will the detailed evaluations of the other scientists.)

Dr. F. J. Manalac, Psychiatric Director of a mental health clinic:

"In respect to the overall UFO question, these six cases would seem to lend support. They, by no means, resolve or prove the existence of beings on other planets. They indicated that the possibility of such phenomenon is very strong, however not conclusive.

"The differences in behavior reported would find its origin in the possible mission these humanoids had to accomplish . . . [One] explanation is that these humanoids were sent to come in contact with human beings. This would seem to be the case with the two Indians . . . They also tried to speak with these Indians as they did with the farmer (a case to be reviewed later). In the case of the two Indians, they [aliens] could not be understood; however the farmer stated the humanoids spoke clear English . . . Could there be more than one form of humanoid existence? Did they come from different planets?"

Dr. Manalac said he tended to accept the submitted reports.

"I find it hard to believe that so many people could hallucinate in such a grandiose and bizarre manner and have approximately the same content in their hallucinations . . . For some of the individuals it would have been impossible or highly improbable that they could have fabricated such a story and have the information they had and reported."

Commenting on UFO operations, Dr. Manalac added: "Their technical background would appear to be highly advanced in comparison to ours. Their mode of transportation is highly sophisticated. Their electrical technology would appear to be far in advance of ours."

Intensive Investigations Urged

In spite of tending to accept the reports, Dr. Manalac urged that NICAP take increased and thorough steps to learn more about occupant claimants to rule out possible fabrication. He suggested checking police records, service records, employment records, personal references (in writing) and other available information sources. Most of the other panel scientists agreed, and NICAP will do all it can to get the complete overall picture, through our subcommittees and special investigators.

Dr. Norman S. Wolf, radiation biologist. (Dr. Wolf holds an important post in a large university.)

"The most plausible case would seem to be the Ririe, Idaho contact because of the reported confirmation from another (albeit, reluctant) source. The similarities to the Bow and Arrow and Blackburn cases is commented on elsewhere (floating movement, unintelligible speech, aggressiveness, facial features). But why would the visitors attempt to communicate in their alien tongue? . . .

"The ability to converse in English versus attempts to communicate in a strange tongue (in the Ririe case) is a striking difference. The friendly or timid reaction on the part of the visitors in most reports contrasts with the apparent kidnap attempt in the Bow and Arrow case and aggressive behavior in the Ririe case. The description of the shape, size, sound and nature of the spacecraft vary more than any other set of items. This is acceptable (and so may be the behavior patterns) if the visitors are presumed to be from more than one planet—or more than one nation on a planet."

Dr. Wolf urged that in apparently important occupant cases they should be investigated by picked regional teams, perhaps including non-NICAP people such as a neutral psychiatrist or psychologist, a biologist and a physicist or astronomer.

Psychologist Credits Report

Dr. ——. This panel member is a distinguished psychologist attached to an internationally known university. We hope to have permission to disclose his name in the final full report.

"My considered judgment is that most of the people whose reports you submitted saw what they said they saw, but my scientific skepticism cries out for filmed or tape-recorded evidence.

"Because they [the Ririe Indian witnesses] were observed before and after the sighting, and were obviously terrified afterward, they are credible. The circumstances: one witness running for help, the other terrified, were highly convincing. So was their willingness to talk to police and their later reluctance to be named or sought out.

"This was a case of attempted communication, or a test of human reactions, or both. The humanoids were seen without head coverings . . . They could negotiate a long jump easily, and they controlled apparatus to steer and stop a car without electromagnetic interference. There is a great deal of information to digest . . .

"This is the most credible, yet the most fantastic case. The social implications are apparent: an unsuccessful effort at communication; individual terror in reaction; great technological power. What do the humanoids want to communicate? . . ."

After evaluating the submitted bizarre cases, Dr. — made several important points:

"My impression upon finishing these reports is that humanoids probably exist . . . The motives and methods of the humanoids are difficult to understand . . . The possibility exists that there is more than one humanoid culture investigating Earth."

Dr. Hugh S. Brown (M.D.): "It is interesting to me that in all [six] reports there has been only one person who has made a so-called contact. If two or more persons had made such a contact this would lend more substance to their report."

Witness Reliability Study Urged

"It seems to me that as such studies become available the first effort by any person investigating any so-called contact would be first to study the reliability of the witness, seek personal and/or medical information from every available source . . . to establish the honesty and reliability of that particular witness . . .

"My general impression is that the reports so far are pure invention, hallucination or there were ulterior motives present. I will be interested to see more reports as they come in however. I would urge a complete personal investigation of any witness as the number one important fact."

Dr. —, anthropologist with over 20 years' experience.

"I find it useful to consider an analogy with the prehistoric or proto-historic North American Indians upon arrival of the Europeans. Had there been some kind of Indian CIA collecting and analyzing all reports of European contacts, it is likely that the Indians would have been just as confused about European intentions as they actually seem to have been. They lacked the scientific, technical and geographical knowledge necessary for interpretation of the contacts and could never have guessed at the motivation behind the exploration and colonization activity. The desire to find a route to China, the importance of spices, gems and minerals in Europe, the European political situation, religious problems in Europe, etc., were all beyond Indian knowledge and would remain so until extensive and intensive communication developed.

"The types of vessels, clothing, equipment and behavior of the crews, their places of appearance and the routes they followed would not have been susceptible to analysis to a large extent. So it may be with UFOs and their occupants.

"Communication attempts. (Ririe). The inability of the occupants to communicate is not unusual, nor a sign of some kind of scientific or technological gap. The description of the talk of the occupants as bird noises, cooing, etc., would indicate a vocal mechanism different from ours. It may be physically impossible to reproduce human speech without special apparatus which may not always be available. This does not mean, however, that human speech cannot be understood when monitored by occupants.

"The UFO, the apparent ability to control the witnesses' car, and the characteristics of the occupants were not unusual in my experience, with the exception of the 'scarred' surface of the occupants' heads.

"The one problem in this case that overshadows its similarities to other cases is that of Navajo psychology. I do not pretend to be an expert on the Navajo, and certainly not on their psychology, but my recollection of fairly extensive reading on the subject was that they seemed to live in a world rather heavily populated with good and evil spirits."

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(NICAP: Despite this last comment, however, Dr. — rated the Ririe case as "probable," in a segment on credibility of the reports, because there appeared to be some corroboration.)

"Crux" of UFO Problem

An astronomy lecturer at a Northeastern planetarium.

"It seems to me that one has to be impressed by any phenomenon—whatever it might be—that results in such severe fright and deep anxiety in those who have claimed to have observed it.

"I find I must agree with Dr. Jacques Vallee [author of *Anatomy of a Phenomenon*] when he said: 'Such reports (landings) represent the UFO mystery in its most crucial form because they confront us with a clear choice between the reality of an unprecedented phenomenon and the hypothesis that all witnesses are absolute liars of the most extreme psychological type.' It has become my feeling over the years that the occupant cases represent the crux of the UFO problem . . . I consider the [NICAP] panel study a true pioneering effort in this controversial area of the UFO problem.

"After carefully reading this case report, I regard the Ririe episode as one of the most convincing occupant reports on record. The significant things here are: (1) The credibility of the two Indian witnesses attested to by everyone who had anything to do with the case, (2) Two possible supporting sightings including another similar contact claim, and (3) numerous examples of frightened animals in the vicinity the same night."

Conclusion

Scientific evaluations of numerous occupant reports will have to be completed, then reviewed by the NICAP Board of Governors, before we decide whether definite conclusions can be reached.

A large number of NICAP members have shown a strong interest in occupant reports, and some have urged that we publish these on an equal basis with non-occupant UFO sightings.

There are other members who accept the evidence of UFO reality but are skeptical of occupant reports to date. A third group includes members who are interested in and curious about the UFO mystery, but not yet convinced that UFOs are space vehicles, and this group believes we should concentrate on reality evidence and avoid the occupant question until later.

To the second and third groups, perhaps to some of the first, the Ririe claim will seem unbelievable, even though most of the scientists reporting tend to accept the Indians' story.

Even if an occupant claim should be true, it might not be possible at present to establish absolutely conclusive proof. Without such proof, acceptance of such a claim could seriously jeopardize NICAP's hard-won reputation for careful, factual investigations.

Even in the Socorro and Father Gill cases, despite at least partial confirmation by the USAF and the Royal Australian Air Force, the witnesses have some times been subjected to ridicule. Unfortunately most of the press tend to lump all occupant reports together, including even the wildest "contactee" stories. If we accepted one single report without indisputable, documented proof, ridicule by the official and self-appointed debunkers could destroy us.

Nevertheless, NICAP recognizes the obligation to investigate and review occupant claims as fully and with as much objectivity as we would apply to non-occupant reports. Therefore we intend to do all we can to get the true answers—to establish validity or to uncover convincing evidence of delusions or deliberate hoaxes. This may be extremely difficult, especially in regard to the so-called "contactee" reports.

In most cases, "contactee" claimants depict noble beings from spiritually advanced worlds who are here to save us from our follies. Their stories often take on cultist, neo-religious aspects. Frequently, such claimants seek publicity, often for gain through writings and lectures.

In contrast, most non-contactee reports come from witnesses who are left frightened and disturbed by their alleged experiences. Usually they avoid publicity and make no attempt to profit financially. In a few cases there is evidence to suggest that some of the witnesses may be reporting actual encounters.

The occupant panel scientists have not been asked to conclude whether extraterrestrials actually have landed. This would require more documentation and unassailable testimony than is now available. Instead, they are asked to comment on the plausibility of single cases and other reports collectively, also to recommend better investigation methods.

Before the full report is completed, the panel will have been given a fair cross-section of all types of occupant claims. Releasing this report should help to reduce misunderstanding and enable the public to distinguish between credible-witness cases and probable hoaxes.

Meantime, we shall continue this preview series. Unless there is some extraordinary development which requires detailed coverage, the second article will appear in the next issue.

ARGOSY ARTICLE ANSWERED

"The Truth About Flying Saucers," by Renato Vesco, as told to John Ashton, in *Argosy Magazine*, August, 1969. A review.

One of the most ridiculous "explanations" of UFOs ever to be printed was featured in the August issue of *Argosy Magazine*. The author says that "flying saucers" are Canada's secret weapon, that a UFO fleet (built up with the secret cooperation of Great Britain) operates from underground "saucer ports" hidden in British Columbia's primeval forests—and that the United States Government is fully aware of all this and, in effect, condones it.

If this unbelievable story were true it would mean for years our government has covered up for England and Canada, allowing their "secret weapon" devices to fly at will over the United States, causing several deaths from UFO chases by our jets, injuries to airline passengers from pilots' violent evasions of dangerously close "saucers," and hundreds of scares from UFO close approaches to persons in cars, boats or in open areas.

In spite of these recorded incidents, the author says that the Canadian-operated devices are not meant to harm anyone, hence the "long-standing order to all U.S. Air Force pilots: Intercept—but do not fire upon."

Most people who have studied the UFO history (and probably many who haven't) will dismiss the story with a laugh, or maybe with disgust. We are reviewing it here in case any members may be asked about it by uninformed friends.

According to the author, who is described as an Italian aircraft engineer and aerospace "specialist," the UFOs were first developed by the Nazis. After a number of cloak-and-dagger operations by various Allied spies and counter-spies, he says, the "round-lightning" weapon became known to the British and after the war ended they obtained full details and proceeded with the British-Canadian scheme.

Some years ago, Dr. Hermann Oberth, co-designer of the German V-2 rocket, had a long discussion in Washington with the director of NICAP. In regard to the idea that UFOs were originally a secret German device, Oberth (then an unofficial NICAP adviser) proved it was impossible. The rumor, he said, might have resulted from an ineffective experimental helicopter with small jets on the rotor tips.

"At night, the rotating jets might have created the impression of a flying disc," Oberth stated. "But this craft was comparatively slow; it did not maneuver well—and it made an infernal noise. There was absolutely nothing built then or planned that could even remotely approach a genuine UFO."

We are not accusing the author of fabricating the story; he could have been misled or have deluded himself as other self-appointed debunkers have done. Either way, the details are incredible. Vesco says U.S. reconnaissance planes have photographed the secret UFO area many times. This would mean our government not only had hidden the truth for years, but had hit taxpayers for the \$500,000 Condon project to keep covering up for Britain and Canada. You can imagine public anger when this became known. Such a gigantic operation would soon have leaked out to the whole world, causing a furor in every country where the Canadian-British UFOs had been flown.

If in fact the British and Canadians had ever had such a device, it would have been shared with the U.S. for mutual protection, just as we have shared our Polaris subs and other defenses. It is an injustice to picture these loyal allies engaging in such a conspiracy.