

UFO INVESTIGATOR



NICAP REDEPLOYS

With the New Decade, New Strategy on Corporate Operations

NICAP is marching to a new drum.

On December 3, 1969, the Executive Committee of NICAP's Board of Governors met in special session to map new operational policy for NICAP during the 1970s. Enacted was a broad program to redefine and restructure NICAP's corporate affairs.

Among the changes called for were a standardized membership system, based on automated file maintenance and an annual renewal cycle; replacement of the old UFO Investigator with a drastically restyled monthly newsletter; and far-ranging planning of new services to NICAP members.

The renovation program was introduced to assure NICAP stable economic and administrative footing in coming years.

The 1960s had been a turbulent time for the UFO field. Extreme fluctuations in public interest and reported UFO activity characterized the decade. The relative quiet of 1960-64 was broken by an unexpected surge of sightings at mid-decade, which included the now classic "swamp gas" episode of 1966. This in turn stimulated widespread public debate, which led to the controversial Colorado Project and Condon Report. Then, as U.S. elections approached and social issues dominated the news, sighting reports -- and general interest -- reversed toward earlier levels.

For NICAP, the fickle trends proved difficult to cope with. In reviewing the corporation's internal business history, the Executive Committee noted continuing problems in such areas as funding and allocation of resources.

To help meet these problems, the Committee established strict new fiscal controls. With the aid of legal counsel, banking and accounting procedures were revised, and budgetary plans were initiated. In addition, overhead expenses were substantially reduced.

In taking the action, the Committee stated, "It is our conviction that (present) NICAP patrons -- and many more who have remained silent -- will welcome knowledge that a thorough house cleaning is now being undertaken under professional egis. . ."

One long-term proposal made by the Committee is a National Advisory Panel on Scientific and Technical Policy. This is envisioned as an adjunct to the Board of Governors to provide the needed expertise for effective guidance of NICAP's research effort. It is anticipated that once current business reforms are fully implemented, attention can be given to formation of the Panel and to related reconstruction of the research program. In the meantime, investigations and evaluations are being made in accordance with existing policy.

NICAP AND APRO CONFER

Cooperative Pact is Sought

NICAP and APRO, two of the major UFO research organizations in the world, have conferred for the first time on ways in which they might work together.

In exploratory talks in Washington, D.C., representatives of the two groups met informally last month to discuss the general status of their respective companies and the UFO movement. Accord was reached on the need for rethinking NICAP-APRO relations and the possibility of joint cooperation on scientific projects.

Both groups felt the past 23 years of UFO investigations had seen excesses in representation and interpretation of many events in the UFO field. Acknowledging their own errors in this respect, the group spokesmen agreed that increased conservatism was the only practical policy for the future. With accentuation of objective research, the spokesmen said, much of the controversy surrounding personalities and vested interests could be avoided.

No attempt was made at the conclave to work out details of any liaison the two organizations might enter into. Further negotiations will be necessary before any specific program can be mounted.

APRO, located in Tucson, Arizona, is the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization. Older but smaller than NICAP, it operates in much the same way as NICAP, although traditionally it has been regarded as more liberal in some of its policies.

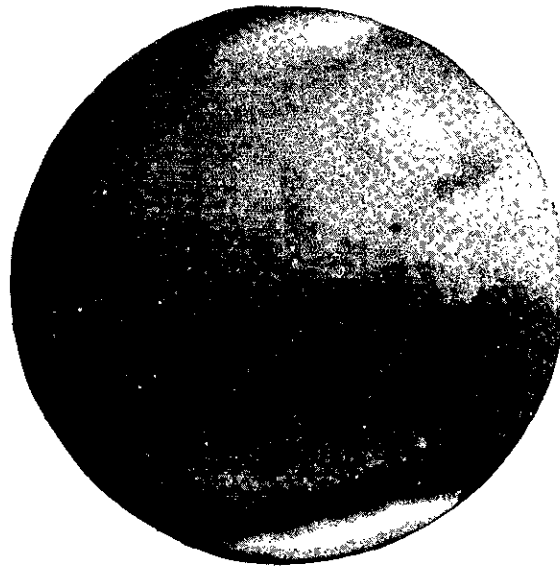
MAJOR KEYHOE RETIRES

Lore Takes Leave; Nixon Appointed

Major Donald E. Keyhoe, for 13 years Director of NICAP, has retired at age 72 as helmsman of the organization. Kept by heavy administrative duties from his writing and traveling interests, the Major stepped down with great regret. He said he hoped he would be able to better serve NICAP in a capacity free from the pressure of the Directorship.

The title Director has been retired with him in recognition of the special devotion he gave to it. NICAP's chief executive officer is now President. Colonel Joseph Bryan III, Chairman of NICAP's Board of Governors, has assumed the position in an acting capacity, pending election of a new President.

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Guest Article**MARS: The Red Riddle Reduces**

by John B. Carlson

*Instructor in Astronomy, University of Maryland
Chairman, NICAP Capital Area Subcommittee*

Data from Mariner 6 and 7, the twin spacecraft that passed near Mars last summer, have now been sufficiently digested to help answer some of the more intriguing questions about the red planet. As expected, the data provide no basis for resolution of the most arresting question of all -- that of indigenous life -- but they do offer concrete clues to other elements of the mystery.

The biggest surprise to scientists was the discovery of three disparate types of topography. The first type, called "cratered terrain," had already been seen in photographs from the 1965 Mariner 4 mission, but the second type, "chaotic terrain," and the third, "featureless terrain," were largely unsuspected.

Hope that Mars would be found with landscape similar to Earth's was lost when Mariner 4 returned lunar-like pictures. Now, however, it appears that the Martian surface has even less in common with Earth or moon than originally thought.

According to Donald P. Heath, Director of Planetary Programs for NASA, "These three types of terrain show that the evolutionary history of Mars has been different from that of the moon, and possibly unique in the solar system."

Puzzled scientists speculate that the featureless areas are composed of a material that readily erodes, thereby losing the crater impressions in a relatively short time. But this is only a guess, because no evidence exists on the nature of Martian erosion, if indeed any occurs.

Another significant find from the Mariner data was the abundance of carbon dioxide. Not only is it the major constituent of the Martian atmosphere (approximately 90 per cent); it also accounts for the famous polar caps. In all probability, the caps are thin crusts of frozen carbon dioxide (dry ice) supported by cratered ground. Whether any water is also present is unknown, but present opinion favors only minimal amounts of it.

The so-called "canals" of Mars -- often cited as evidence of intelligent life there -- failed to turn up for the Mariner cameras. Like the tiny dots that form a conventional half-tone photograph, the geographical features that gave rise to the "canal" theory are now regarded as illusionary alignments of dark-floored craters or other dark areas.

Still of great interest to science are the familiar seasonal variations of the Martian face. These continual changes in surface areas and colors are unexplained.

NASA has named the investigation of these chameleonic phenomena as one of the primary purposes of the next Mariner mission -- another twin-payload excursion to the red planet. These spacecraft, scheduled to orbit Mars in November of 1971, will provide a comparatively close (1000 miles, versus 2100 for Mariner 6 and 7) look at the regions of variation. Mariner 9, for example, will photograph the same land frames every four days to permit detailed study of terrain changes.

What will be learned from Mariner 8 and 9 cannot be foretold, but what questions may remain beyond those missions will not likely go unanswered long. Already on the drawing boards for NASA is the ambitious Project Viking, slated to land an instrumented package on Mars in 1976.

Editorial

The last issue of the UFO Investigator (September-October 1969) was published in October. Under the system then in effect, the next issue (November-December 1969) would have followed in December. On December 3, however, NICAP's Executive Committee decided to abandon the old bimonthly schedule and introduce a new monthly publication of much different format and style. This is the first issue of the new edition.

The transition from the old schedule to the new has taken a long time -- much longer, in fact, than we had first hoped. Part of the problem was the difficulty in converting our membership files to a computer system at the same time we redesigned the newsletter. The two tasks put inordinate demands on our time and manpower.

We realize the hiatus has caused many NICAP members to wonder if they have been forgotten or if NICAP has ceased operations. For this we are supremely sorry. Had there been any way to avoid the delay, we would have taken it.

To express appreciation for the patience shown us, we shall endeavor to produce an interesting and informative newsletter that meets the best standards of journalism. It, and the other innovations in our new corporate program, will serve, we trust, to impart to our many friends our renewed sense of purpose and direction.

For all our past problems, we now face an expectant future. To those of you who share this expectancy, we invite your continued support. The mission in store is an adventure not to be missed.

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Published monthly at Washington, D.C. for members of NICAP. Correspondence and changes of address should be sent to NICAP, 1536 Connecticut Avenue, Washington, D.C. 20036.

Annual Membership Dues
United States, Canada, and Mexico..... \$10.00
Foreign..... \$12.00

Editor: Stuart Nixon

Pictured above is Mars as photographed by Mariner 7 from 535,650 miles out. Photo courtesy of NASA.

THE BOOK IS CLOSED

But Who Will Have the Last Word?

The Air Force has written the final chapter to its opus on the unidentified. On December 17, 1969, Air Force Secretary Robert C. Seamans, Jr. announced closure of Project Blue Book, the Government's 21-year-old investigation of UFOs. "Continuation of the Project," said Seamans, "cannot be justified either on the ground of national security or in the interest of science."

With the termination came rescission of AF Regulation 80-17, which provided for Blue Book's operation and related policies on public information. The regulation was promulgated in September of 1966 to facilitate Air Force support of the Colorado Project, which began the following month. AFR 80-17 superseded AFR 200-2, the old 1953 regulation for the UFO program.

Blue Book's doors closed literally at 3:30 p.m. EST on January 30, 1970, the day the Project office at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio was officially manned for the last time. The famous Blue Book files had already been packed in boxes and started on their trip south to Air Force archives at Maxwell AFB in Alabama. Lt. Col. Hector Quintanilla, chief Blue Book officer, was slated for a transfer assignment at Wright-Patterson until his retirement from the Air Force in April.

Demise of the Project proved no occasion for nostalgia. Having long contended that UFOs evidenced no threat to national defense, the Air Force had privately viewed its UFO assignment as something of a monkey on the back. Predictably, there was conjecture that the closure was just one more stratagem in a cover-up of government attempts to probe the UFO mystery. But Pentagon officials insisted the Air Force exit was just what it seemed -- final.

AIR FORCE TO REFER SIGHTERS

Police, Yes; NICAP, No

Citizens who approach the Air Force with sighting reports will now be referred to local law enforcement agencies. That is the word from Air Force headquarters on their post-Blue Book policy for handling UFO reports at the air base level.

Those citizens who feel their sightings would be of more interest to scientists than the police will be advised to contact "a responsible member of the scientific community." No specific scientist will be recommended.

The Air Force rejected a NICAP proposal to refer sighters to organizations like NICAP. While conceding the idea had "merit," the Pentagon said "implementation could be construed as Air Force endorsement of those particular agencies." The only solution -- maintaining a nonselective referral list -- would be impractical.

NICAP suggested the referral idea might be adopted without incurring charges of discrimination if the referral list was based on recommendations from outstanding scientists in the UFO field. The Air Force, however, declined to act on the suggestion.

AAAS AIRS UFO PROBLEM

Liberals Win Forum, but No Issues Resolved

Respectability for the UFO problem continues to grow, due in part to such events as the two-day symposium on UFOs held in Boston last December by the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). Embracing testimony from fourteen specialists, the symposium fulfilled its stated intent "to demonstrate the application of scientific methodology to a contemporary controversy, and to acquaint scientists with the wide variety of facts and interpretations."

Conservatives in the AAAS, led by Dr. Edward Condon of the now past Colorado Project on UFOs, sought to throttle the symposium on grounds that it was beneath the dignity of the Association. On record as regarding the UFO subject as "nonsense," Dr. Condon went so far as to invoke the aid of Vice President Spiro Agnew, a key government figure in the national space program. Agnew, however, failed to intercede, and the symposium went on as planned.

Moving forces behind the conclave were astronomer Dr. Thornton Page, of Wesleyan University; scientist Dr. Walter Roberts, former President of AAAS; physicist Dr. Philip Morrison, of Massachusetts Institute of Technology; and astronomer Dr. Carl Sagan, of Cornell University. The four men acted as a Special AAAS Committee to arrange the meeting.

For all the scientific talent present, the symposium produced no consensus on the UFO question. If anything, the climate was one of mixed reactions and general dissatisfaction with existing evidence and research. Although sympathy for the Condon Report was represented, most of the scientists saw the UFO problem as open-ended, still suffering from inconclusive data and insufficient investigation.

Most speakers gave some mention to the extraterrestrial hypothesis, but the focus of the symposium remained on the multiple ways in which perceptual experience is difficult to deal with scientifically. Behavioral scientists had as much to say as physical scientists, and the dialogue proved only to show that no firm conclusions are soon to be forthcoming from the majority of scientists who are curious about the UFO phenomenon.

KEYHOE RETIRES (continued from page 1)

Major Keyhoe was appointed NICAP Director early in 1957. His reputation as an authority on UFOs already earned, he guided the infant NICAP (founded in 1956) through lean years and fat as it worked to become acknowledged leader in serious UFO research.

In announcing the Major's decision to retire, Colonel Bryan said, "Major Keyhoe made enormous sacrifice in his commitment to NICAP. We cannot adequately express our appreciation."

In another development, Gordon I.R. Lore, Jr., former NICAP Assistant Director, took an indefinite leave of absence to devote more time to personal projects. Appointed to his post under the new title of Secretary-Treasurer was G. Stuart Nixon, previously a member of NICAP's Executive Staff. Nixon, since 1967 the coordinator of NICAP's photographic analysis program, was also given custodial charge of NICAP property.



MEMOS FOR MEMBERS

This issue of the newsletter was originally to have been dated January 1970. Our intention was to publish 12 times this year, per our new monthly schedule. The plan had to be changed, however, due to the work involved in simultaneously computerizing our membership files and revamping the newsletter. It was quite a job. For awhile we thought we would be able to publish in March or April, but even that proved impossible. We regret the delay very much and sincerely appreciate your patience. From now on, we will do our best to publish every month.

What do you think of the new UFO Investigator? We invite your reaction. Tell it like it is to: Editor, NICAP, 1536 Connecticut Ave., Washington, D.C. 20036.

Computerization of NICAP's membership files would not have been possible without the assistance of NICAP volunteers Judy Cox, Isabel Davis, and Diana Knop. They put in many late night hours to help expedite the task. A kind hand was also lent by NICAP bookkeeper Kathleen Price. To them all, our sincerest thank you.

GOOD GRIEF

Yes, we have adjusted our dues rate again. But this time you get something tangible for your money. The first and most important benefit is the new UFO Investigator. Once it is on schedule, you will receive it regularly every month. In addition, we are planning new membership services never offered before. As soon as resources permit, we will make these available to you -- at no additional charge.

A belated thank you to everyone who sent us a Christmas card. We almost ran out of space to display them in our front office.

The AAAS article on page 3 was prepared in part from material supplied by Raymond E. Fowler, Chairman of NICAP's Massachusetts Subcommittee, and Walter N. Webb, adviser to that Subcommittee. Both men attended the AAAS meeting as reporters for NICAP. We are grateful for their help.

Remember: you play a very important role in the effectiveness of our organization. We are severely handicapped without your help in obtaining sighting reports and keeping us informed of other developments in your area. We are not always able to acknowledge individually what you send us, but you can be sure it is appreciated and put to good use. So don't forget us when you learn about something concerning UFOs.

How many times have you written NICAP and received no answer? Probably more times than you care to recall. In recent years we have done a poor job of answering our mail, and we don't blame you if you are feeling rather discouraged by now.

Still, there may be hope. If we can't yet promise to reply personally when you write, at least we can work in that direction. For a starter, we offer the two columns below -- "Q/A" and "Feedback." Through these, we will be able to respond to the most interesting questions we get on UFOs and related subjects, and also provide space for other kinds of letters from you the reader.

So give us another try. If we don't print your letter, you will know that we either ran short on space or felt your comments were not of general interest to the membership as a whole.

Also, watch this column -- "The Clip Board" -- for membership news and other information we think you want to know.

The NICAP logo in the upper right-hand corner of the first page was created by Stuart Nixon and Fanny Philips. Mrs. Philips, longtime NICAP member and office volunteer, is a professional illustrator for the Smithsonian Institution. Her hard work on the logo -- and on the entire newsletter -- was unstinting, and we couldn't have done without it. Thanks also to NICAP member Ted Thoben of Connecticut for his suggestions on logo design.

Q/A

Queries for this column should be addressed to Q/A, in care of NICAP. NICAP reserves right to edit letters used.

I am very interested in the possibility of employment with NICAP. How do I apply for a staff position?

D.M./Pittsburgh, Pa.

Job vacancies at NICAP occur infrequently. Currently no staffing is being done. Whenever possible, hiring is done within the Washington, D.C., area to minimize the time and cost involved. However, resumes from other parts of the country are accepted, so interested persons are welcome to write.

I would appreciate any information regarding the character and activities of George Van Tassel, Giant Rock Airport, Yucca Valley, California.

T.S./Fairfield, Cal.

George Van Tassel is a "contactee." That is, he claims to have made personal contact with people from outer space. To help promote this and other sensational claims, he holds "flying saucer conventions" at the California airport where he operates a restaurant. NICAP regards such activities as wholly irrelevant to serious scientific research on UFOs.

FEEDBACK / Readers write

Letters for this column should be addressed to the Editor.

Dear Sir:

Many thanks for your letter answering my request for photographs. I was most interested in your present evaluations of UFO photographs. Basically, the conclusion that I tried to arrive at in the book which I have been writing is that photographs can be so convincingly faked that one by itself virtually never constitutes proof. Indeed, in the case of the Trindade Island photographs, as in my *Bioscience* article, I felt that I did a pretty good job of faking the pictures. I remained impressed in spite of this, mostly because it looked like a good story from the standpoint of the witnesses involved. Yet as you say, to be really impressed, one would at least like to be able to talk with a number of these witnesses personally. The only real arguments against the validity of the photographs that I had encountered were those of Menzel, and his arguments seem to be based on rumor and hearsay (the rumors passed to him by his astronomer friends in Brazil). So far as I could tell, the accounts published by the Lorenzens at least involved direct interviews with the witnesses, these interviews having been carried out by newspaper reporters and others. The purported government document is certainly interesting, but I have never quite been able to accept it wholeheartedly -- although it is impressive.

It would be an interesting situation if the UFOs exist, represent extraterrestrial intelligence of a high order, and yet no photographs have ever been taken. We would almost be forced to the conclusion that the UFO intelligences read the minds of their witnesses and

never show themselves to anyone with a loaded camera. These thoughts are difficult to live with, but people such as Michel are beginning to consider them. My mind remains completely open at the moment -- or perhaps it would be better to say completely empty, lacking any kind of good information upon which to base reasonable conclusions.

Sincerely,

Frank B. Salisbury, Head
Plant Science Department
Utah State University

BULLETIN

NICAP is now tax exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions made to NICAP after June 11, 1969, are tax deductible by the donors. A program is being planned for persons interested in helping NICAP under the provisions of this ruling. Watch the UFO Investigator for further details.

ON TAP FOR FUTURE ISSUES . . .

The Fourth Side Of The Bermuda Triangle

\$5,000 On ETI: The Bet Is Finally Taken

SSGDPA: A New NICAP Project