

# UFO INVESTIGATOR



NICAP, 5012 Del Ray Avenue, Washington, D.C. 20014, (301) 654-8091

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## REDISCOVERING THE WHEEL

Our European friends have discovered that there really are such things as UFOs! Hello. The fuss this time is about what is being called the Spanish sighting.

There is no doubt that an experienced airline captain eyeballed two red objects that he felt were sufficiently menacing to his flight that he abandoned his destination and returned to the ground. Ground radar confirmed objects in the area of his plane. Ground radar saw them descend with the Spanish plane as it made an emergency landing at Valencia.

No one doubts these reports from responsible people. What is objectionable and misleading is the way these stories are reported in newspapers that go in for sensational accounts, big headlines and "artist's impressions" to jazz up the page.

For example, some of the phrases we see in newspaper accounts of this incident include the following: "One of the most terrifying encounters ever recorded." "Saved 115 people from *certain* disaster." "The captain realized his airliner was in *severe* danger." "Began descending at 5,000 ft. per minute, an extremely steep dive for passengers." And so on. The problem here, for those of us who are believers but are conservative, is to try to sort out the reality from the sensational press stories about it.

The editor of this article is an experienced pilot. He is also experienced with life in Mediterranean countries where people sometimes let their emotions come quickly to the surface.

We will do a follow up on this Spanish sighting. In the meantime, the best we can say is that an experienced pilot on an overwater night flight (Majorca to the Canary Islands) judged that he had a problem and did what any experienced pilot would do: he got back on the ground at the closest place, because it is a lot easier to figure things out from down there.

NICAP does not have any special insights or information as to what UFOs are. But we do think that sensational news stories are a disservice to the many who want to bring scientific investigation to bear on the subject of UFOs.

## MORE UFO SIGHTINGS PROBABLE

New Zealand newspapers report that next autumn we can expect a rush of new UFO sightings. Why? For observers in the Southern Hemisphere on October 30, 1980, Venus and Jupiter will rise in the eastern sky less than one degree apart. The next night they will rise less than one-ninth of a degree apart. Later they will move away from one another. Keep this in mind next autumn.

## THE CIA "FILES" ON UFOS

*This is the third installment in the series on UFOS, CIA and the Freedom of Information Act.*

In another example of repetition, identically worded letters are sent to five or six people outside the Agency (not to mention internal Agency distribution). Copies of each of these are put in the files even though the only thing about them that is different is the name and address of the recipient.

Also, consider the amount of overt, non-secret information that is bundled into those 879 pages. Since 1938 the U.S. Government has had an organization which listens to the voice radio broadcasts and TV of foreign countries. So does every other major nation in the world. There is nothing secret about this. Likewise, the U.S. regularly reads and translates selected articles from the press of major foreign powers. So do universities. There is nothing secret about this either.

From reading the CIA files one can see that starting about 1952 these overt translation organizations, which were under CIA administrative jurisdiction and therefore were "the CIA" had orders to be on the lookout for stories about UFOS. And what a pile of non-secret nothing they turned in: a radio station in Africa broadcasts that tribesmen had seen strange lights through the jungle canopy; a Thai newspaper says that fishermen report seeing a silver object in the sky. About a third of the CIA "file" on UFOS consists of this bilge.

Then there is the category of cover sheets and memorandums of transmittal. They run in this style: "This looks OK to me. Would you check it and if you see any big bloopers tell Steve. Otherwise, let her roll." Nor should we overlook the clippings from openly published magazines and newspapers. If you want, at ten cents a page you can get a copy of the article on UFOS and the CIA which appeared in the 3 September 1966 issue of the Saturday Review. That article is part of the CIA "file."

### WHAT DO THE CIA FILES ON UFOS SHOW?

The early years of the 1950s is a period that not all NICAP members may remember clearly. Recently there have been a number of books which take the position that the Cold War was not really a threat to American security but rather was a misunderstanding by American leaders of the USSR's war damage and feeling of insecurity. In thinking about this matter one should keep in mind an important fact: those who write books interpreting the past are looking backward with the advantage of knowing how the story comes out. But when decision makers deal with the problems of their day there is very little assurance of what the future will hold.

Those who did not live through those days should be reminded of some events of the period that made a very deep impression not only on Washington leaders but on the American people and people of the Free World everywhere. The USSR developed the atom bomb and later the hydrogen bomb. China was taken over by a regime that was the enemy of our World War II ally. North Korea invaded and almost conquered South Korea. Britain was bankrupt and disappeared as a world power. Americans built and stocked bomb shelters in their backyards while the editorial pages debated whether, in case of attack, one should let his neighbor's family in or shoot them at the entrance.

Against this background in the closing months of 1952 the National Security Council issued instructions to Gen. Walter Bedell Smith. He was head of the Central Intelligence Agency. But he also held the higher and more authoritative position of Director of Central Intelligence of the United States Government. The Council instructed him to study the matter of UFOs, to see if they represented a threat to U.S. security and to make recommendations to the president.

#### INSTANT EXPERTS

Our organization and our newsletter have far more important things to do than get into pushing contests with others who comment on the UFO scene. We believe that the long lasting loyalty of our members is based, at least in part, on our continuing refusal to become involved in sensationalism or name calling.

The National Enquirer is a lively paper which attracts people who like entertainment and witty writing. But sometimes it does not do its homework. A recent article quotes a Baron Johannes von Buttlar: "We have all been duped in the cover-up of the century over UFO sightings." The article also says that a Canadian scientist, Wilbert B. Smith, wrote his government in November 1950 that he had learned: "the matter of UFOs is the most highly classified subject in the U.S. government, rating higher even than the H-bomb."

The article goes on to say that government investigators told CIA in 1949 that UFOs were almost certainly extra terrestrial visitors and that as a result CIA launched an investigation of UFOs under the name 'Project Grudge.

May we have hands, please, from those of you in the audience who remember that the U.S. Air Force started keeping book on UFOs in September 1947 using the identifying name Project SIGN. In February 1949 the identifying name was changed to Project GRUDGE but the purpose, to record information on UFO sightings was the same. Later, in the summer of 1951, the name was again changed to Project BLUE BOOK, but the purpose remained as before.

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#### MEMBERSHIP-RENEWAL APPLICATION

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### THE STATUS OF UFO INVESTIGATIONS

This is the title of a lecture that will be given by an Old Hand NICAP member and supporter, S. Bryan Morehouse, in Philadelphia on Thursday, 3 April 1980. The occasion is a meeting of the Engineers Club. If you are interested in his report and think you can afford \$7.00 for a Philadelphia dinner, we don't think you have to be a certified engineer. The number to call is (215) 592-3622, ask for Mr. Nelson Sellers.

In this age when everybody wants to be on the Johnny Carson program "S. B." Morehouse is a natural resource that we should all be trying to preserve. His academic and professional credentials are impressive: degrees, honors, membership in important organizations. But what we find even more impressive is that over the decades he has been in a quiet and modest way an important part of the glue which has held NICAP together through ups and downs.

So do the rest of you with your low three digit and four digit membership numbers and who regularly renew your memberships. If you have a speaker or a program for which you would like publicity, write us and we will see that it gets into an early newsletter.

### REPORT OF GREEK SIGHTING

We have a short note reporting the appearance of three UFOs over the city of Rethymnon, on the Greek island of Crete. The reports say that many of the people in the city saw them. The first three appeared at 7:30 p.m. local time (that would have been after sunset). These three are described as "taking different form" as they hovered over the city. Some four hours later another two UFOs were seen by the same persons who saw the first three. The later pair are described as having appeared suddenly and also to have disappeared suddenly.

We are checking with some of our Greek colleagues to see if we can get more precise information on these events.

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