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1968: Unidentified Flying Objects - Information (folder B131-28)

Gerald R. Ford Congressional Papers

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THE FINAL WORD ON

Flying Saucers?

At the U. of Colorado a new all-out attack on UFOs has been launched

— BY L. JEROME STANTON

Author of "Flying Saucers: Hoax or Reality"

Are we being spied upon and studied by intelligent beings from outer space, as we study the primitive aborigines of central Australia and New Guinea? Is the U.S. Air Force deliberately withholding information about flying saucers, for fear that releasing the truth would trigger a panic? Why do we still know so little about the true nature of unidentified flying objects? In this time when science says other intelligent life almost surely exists elsewhere in our galaxy, these questions are being asked by a great many people who formerly would have laughed off such thoughts as pure fantasy.

Almost 20 years ago a news story about "flying saucers" flashed over the press wires, startling our nation and much of the civilized world. From that moment, a world-wide interest in unidentified flying objects has stubbornly stayed alive, despite efforts of authorities and others to refute and debunk them.

Fortunately one new factor has entered the picture that bids fair to resolve some of our doubts and puzzlement. On October 7, 1966, a contract was awarded to the University of Colorado to conduct a scientific investigation of UFO sightings and report findings to the U.S. Air Force, with recommendations for future operation of the Air Force's own Project Blue Book UFO inquiry. The Colorado report will then be reviewed by the National Academy of Sciences. Funded at somewhat more than \$300,000, the study will analyze UFO reports, and actually assign scientists to the field to study UFOs at first hand, if that proves feasible. Guaranteed a completely free hand by the Air Force, the inquiry should do much to quiet the louder critics of Project Blue Book, and also to allay any public doubts and fears. It is, in fact, the first really scientific attack on the UFO enigma yet set in motion in the United States.

The critical problem of national security makes an all-out scientific attack on the UFO puzzle seem long overdue. But since the first reports of modern times, the subject has been beset by unstable notoriety-seekers, hoaxers and plain crack-pots, so that most serious scientists have shied away from the problem. The nearest approach to a scientific investigation, the 20-year USAF study called Project Blue Book, has been

extremely limited. Indeed, with a staff limited most of the time to one commissioned officer, one noncom and two clerks, it's amazing that Project Blue Book could do any job effectively.

The first modern sighting of a UFO occurred June 24th, 1947, near Mt. Rainier in Washington. A veteran private pilot named Kenneth Arnold, while flying his own light aircraft, saw nine large, silvery objects shaped like inverted plates or saucers, flying in a reversed-echelon formation. Arnold had described the objects as moving "like a saucer skipped across a pond," and from this a reporter devised the name "flying saucer."

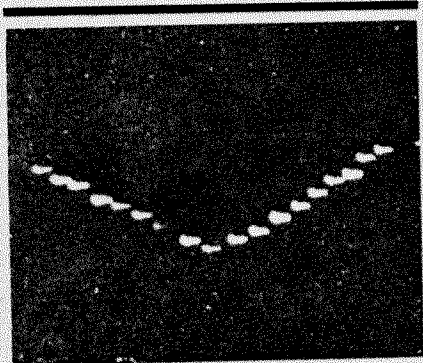
Flying saucers have been seen around the world

In the two decades since that episode, literally thousands of UFO sightings have been reported from all parts of the world.

In January, 1950, Major Donald E. Keyhoe, a retired Marine Corps officer, authored an article for "True" magazine, in which he insisted that flying saucers were real, physical objects, and that they came from some place not on our own planet Earth. The article touched off a sensation. But solid evidence such as good, close-up photographs or motion pictures (or debris of a crashed saucer!) proved impossible to get, and conclusions had to be based solely on the accounts of eye-witnesses.

The Air Force began the first official investigation of the more impressive reports a few weeks after the Arnold sighting, but the effort was reduced to practically nothing early in 1950. Then in 1951 a renewed surge of nation-wide interest and publicity compelled a widening of the inquiry.

By 1952, reports reached a dizzying peak. But time passed and public interest dwindled. In the following eight years UFOs continued to be reported over the U.S. and many other parts of the world. Press and radio now gave more attention to "contactee" accounts than to soberly factual episodes. Project Blue Book plodded on, although proposals to put a team of scientists in the field with instruments for direct observation of a UFO were never actually put into effect. So matters



A 1951 phenomenon that is still unexplained is the one known as the "Lubbock lights," which was sighted at Lubbock, Texas. It is one of the photographs the U. of Colorado may examine

stood until 1965, when a book "Anatomy of a Phenomenon," by Jacques Vallee, a French scientist living in the U.S., was published.

Soberly scientific in tone, it gave an unusually complete and authoritative summary of the entire history of the flying saucer-UFO phenomenon. It also opened the eyes of many people to the fact that sightings were world-wide.

Then in the early hours of August 2, 1965, authorities in adjacent parts of Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Kansas were flooded with calls reporting UFOs, many of the reports coming from police officers in highway patrol cars. One group of objects was seen for about 30 minutes flying in a diamond formation over the area around Shawnee, Okla. They were lights of indefinite shape, that changed color randomly from orange-red to white to blue-green and back again. Radar at Tinker and Carswell Air Force Bases in the area tracked four objects that coincided with objects seen by eye-witnesses, according to a statement issued by the Oklahoma Highway Patrol. The radar tracking was later denied by the Air Force, but the denial was contradicted by a nine-page report from the Oklahoma Department of Public Safety. The confusion was only increased when the Project Blue Book officer later reported solemnly that the stars Rigel, Capella and Aldebaran, and the planet Jupiter, seen under peculiar local weather conditions, had been the cause.

One sighting brings reports of others

The celebrated incident at Exeter, N. H., occurred during the early morning hours of September 3, 1965. Norman Muscarello, an 18-year-old Exeter resident, was badly frightened by a large object that swooped silently over the highway. He informed the local police and was driven back to the spot by Officer Bertrand. The object returned and was seen at close range and low level by both Muscarello and Bertrand, and by Officer David Hunt, in another patrol car. The object was circular, about 100 feet in diameter, and in addition to the over-all orange-red glow, showed a pattern of smaller, brighter lights that waxed and waned in regular rhythm.

The Exeter incident brought to light the case of the Halls. While undergoing treatment for a period of amnesia, Mr. and Mrs. Hall told their psychoanalyst a strange story of having been captured and interrogated by beings in a weird flying vehicle some two years before.

During 1966, in addition to many other reports from more remote parts of the world, a persistent



The photograph above, taken by Dan (left) and Grant Jaroslaw in the backyard of their home northeast of Detroit, is undergoing scientific analysis

series of peculiar lights was seen over Wanaque reservoir in Northern New Jersey. Similar lights were reported near Hillsdale, Mich., by many residents of the area, who loudly contradicted semi-official statements that marsh gas was responsible. Still more odd-shaped glowing lights were seen and photographed over Long Island. This time the official explanation put the blame on the star Sirius.

In January, 1967, two youngsters, Daniel and Grant Jaroslaw, in Harrison Township, northeast of Detroit, snapped photos of something that looked like a big hamburger and was the size of a helicopter. The photos were sent to Dr. J. Allen Hynek, chairman of the Astronomy Department at Northwestern University, who has investigated reported sightings for the Air Force. His comment at the time was that the photos did not "indicate an obvious hoax," but that they required analysis. Undoubtedly, the photos will also be shown to the University of Colorado group.

As matters now stand, there is anything but agreement, either within the body of the

general public, or among various groups of UFO buffs. At one extreme of the organized UFO groups are the clubs and individuals who swear they have had actual contact with intelligent beings who come in flying saucers.

At the other end of the gamut of UFO groups is NICAP, the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena, of Washington, D.C., with Major Keyhoe as Director, and Richard Hall as Assistant Director. With a membership of about 11,000 claimed, NICAP is the largest organization and has a hefty percentage of scientific, technical, military and law-enforcement personnel.

Somewhere in the middle is the Saucer and Unexplained Celestial Events Research Society, of Ft. Lee, N. J., and New York City. SAUCERS was founded in 1954, claims about 7,000 members and holds a broader view of UFO phenomena than does NICAP.

At present, NICAP scorns the contactees and their claims and believes that UFOs are real physical objects and that they are under the control of intelligent beings. NICAP has had

a long-term disagreement with the Air Force Project Blue Book method of investigation, but is now cooperating with the University of Colorado inquiry.

The SAUCERS organization believes that there is overwhelming evidence that so-called flying saucers are probably of extraterrestrial origin and most likely come from the planet Mars.

All believers agree the UFOs are very real

Beliefs of the farther-out saucer fans are more diffuse, but all agree that they are real. Many consider that UFOs come from planets of other suns than ours,

and are operated by beings more advanced than we. Many insist that the Visitors mean only Infinite Good, have visited earth many times in the past, and are the cause of many of our religious beliefs in gods, miracles and legends.

Is it possible to choose between these differing views? For many the answer apparently is "No!", and it will probably remain so until a saucer crashes in Central Park, or the University of Colorado presents its report. Unfortunately, UFOs seem to be far more reliable than earthly aircraft, for no authenticated debris of a crashed saucer has come to light.

Nevertheless, if you answer the door some night and find yourself confronted by a small, greenish individual who politely asks for the loan of a cup of uranium, don't slam the door; it may be the Martian ambassador — victim of the interplanetary equivalent of an empty gas tank. (THE END)



"Swamp gas" was the Air Force explanation for the Hillsdale, Mich., sightings. This photo was released by the town's civil defense director to refute the swamp gas theory

Russians Take an Interest in UFOs

Reuters

MOSCOW, Nov. 11—The Russians seem to be taking flying saucers seriously.

Air Force Gen. Anatoly Stolyerov has been named to head a new commission to study reports of flying saucers, it was learned today. The commission's creation marks a radical change in Russia's previously skeptical policy toward unidentified flying objects.

The commission has only a few cases under review at the moment, Stolyerov told reporters during a brief interview today.

"But we expect thousands

The Washington Post

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1967

GENERAL NEWS

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of cases in the future," he added.

Saucers generally have been regarded here as either optical illusions or the inventions of sensational newspapers in the West. No Soviet sightings have ever been published. But a story current in Moscow last spring was that scores of sightings were reported in

central Asia and the Caucasus.

An essay on unidentified flying objects that appeared here in April discussed the question seriously for the first time.

Soviet researcher Dr. F. Y. Zigel said he liked to think the objects were previously unknown natural phenomena, but he did not

rule out the possibility that they had come from other planets.

He rejected the outright dismissal of UFO as fiction.

"This view is very convenient," he said, "as it demands no intellectual effort and kills off the problems at birth."

Since the essay appeared, however, there has been vir-

tually no discussion of the problem.

Observers interpreted the appointment of an Air Force general to head the committee as a sign that Russia is seriously interested in an explanation of flying saucers — if only to dismiss them once and for all as optical illusions or the result of mass hysteria.

RUSSIA TO

STUDY

'SAUCERS'

MOSCOW, Sat.—Soviet authorities have set up a research institute to study unidentified flying objects, it was learned here last night.

Existence of the centre was revealed in a television program on flying saucers.

The institute is based in the capital and headed by a Major-General, whose name however was not given.

Its object was the gathering of all information likely to lead to an explanation of the numerous phenomena seen in the Soviet sky over the past years.

The institute's director, who took part in the broadcast, showed a series of photographs of unidentified objects, some taken by aircraft pilots and some by private citizens.

The photographs included one of an object clearly shaped like a saucer, with a kind of turret. Comparison with a picture of a Tupolev-104 aircraft showed the saucer was as large as the plane.

The picture was said to have been taken at Tiskits, in the Arctic Circle.

The Major-General appealed to anyone who had seen or photographed strange objects to report to the Moscow Aviation and Cosmonautic Centre.

Several thousand specialized observers were to be trained, he said, and hundreds of observation posts would be created, particularly in such places as airfields and observatories.

The institute's director added that a further program on "flying saucers" would be televised soon.—AFP

BRANKROK

Post

11-12-67

UFO INCIDENTS SPUR SOVIET

Probe Panel Hopes Science
Will Dispel 'Wild Ideas'

By BRUCE WINTERS
(Moscow Bureau of The Sun)

Moscow, Nov. 13—The scientific respectability given recently by Soviet authorities to reports of unidentified flying objects stems from an incident earlier this year when a crescent-shaped object was seen racing through the skies near the Black Sea.

The incident, together with others reported by reliable observers including commercial airline pilots, have led to the formation of a Government commission to study the reports in detail.

Consisting of eighteen scientists of various disciplines, Air Force officers, and 200 observers throughout the country, the agency has established headquarters in Moscow's civil defense museum under the direction of Porfiry A. Stolyarov, a retired Air Force major general.

An unidentified member of the commission was reported today to have said that "we feel the UFO's should be studied carefully. We have no preconceived ideas, but we believe the best way to prevent wild ideas from spreading is to approach the subject scientifically."

But even this cautious statement is a departure from the usual Soviet position that so-called "flying saucer" sightings are the invention of a sensation-seeking Western press.

Earlier this year, Dr. Fyodor Y. Zigel, an astronomer, suggested in a book titled "The Inhabited Cosmos" that a formal inquiry into unidentified flying objects would not be out of place.

Believes Them Natural

Although Dr. Zigel seemed to favor the theory that such objects were simply previously unknown natural phenomena, he did not completely rule out the possibility that they represented some form of extraterrestrial intelligence on missions of earth surveillance.

But he cautioned that to adopt such an "extreme view" uncritically "is very convenient as it demands no intellectual effort and kills off the problem at birth."

An almost total news blackout discourages public discussion of unidentified flying objects and the possibility of life elsewhere in the universe. Two years ago, however, official silence was broken, but quite embarrassingly.

On Cosmonauts Day in 1965, the Soviet news agency, Tass, reported that the Sternberg astronomical institute believed it had "received perhaps the first evidence that we are not alone in the universe."

The story quoted a member of the institute's staff as saying that "a super-civilization has been discovered."

The following day, the institute disavowed such an interpretation of the unidentified radio signals its observatory had received from outer space, rebuking the Tass coverage of the affair.

But the nature of scientists and newspapermen being as it is, the inquiries and the stories persist, as does the phenomenon.

NY TIMES 11-13-67

**Soviet Study of U.F.O.'s
Is Reported Under Way**

MOSCOW, Nov. 11 (AP)—
The Soviet Government has
set up a special commission
to investigate reports in this
country of unidentified flying
objects, informed sources re-
ported Saturday.

The commission was de-
scribed as under the direction
of Gen. Anatoli Stolyerov of
the Soviet Air Force, with an
office in Moscow.

Soviet authorities had dis-
missed reports of U.F.O.'s as
nonsense when they first
started getting attention in the
1950's. The press here did
not mention rumors of sight-
ings in the Caucasus, Siberia
and elsewhere.

A new attitude was indi-
cated last April when a scien-
tist, F. Zigel, reported that
Soviet radar screens had been
detecting unidentified objects
for 20 years.



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (PUBLIC AFFAIRS)

WASHINGTON, D.C. - 20301

PLEASE NOTE DATE

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 7, 1966

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AIR FORCE SELECTS UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO TO INVESTIGATE UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT REPORTS

The University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado, has been selected by the Air Force to conduct independent investigations into unidentified flying object (UFO) reports.

A research agreement, valued at approximately \$300,000, is being negotiated with the university by the Air Force Office of Scientific Research to analyze phenomena associated with UFO sightings and to make recommendations on the Air Force's methods of investigating and evaluating UFO reports -- a program known as Project Blue Book. A report is expected to be made to the Air Force in early 1968.

Dr. Edward U. Condon will direct the scientific phases of the work, while Robert J. Low will serve as project coordinator. Principal investigators working with Dr. Condon will be Dr. Franklin E. Roach and Dr. Stuart W. Cook.

Dr. Condon, former director of the National Bureau of Standards (NBS), is a professor of physics at Colorado and a fellow of the Joint Laboratory for Astrophysics which is co-sponsored by the university and NBS. Mr. Low is an assistant dean of the university's graduate school. Dr. Cook is chairman of the university's psychology department, and Dr. Roach is an astrophysicist with the Environmental Science Services Administration (ESSA).

Colorado is expected to select several other universities to take part in the research. These and other consultants will bring the number of scientists involved to over 100.

The National Academy of Sciences has indicated its willingness to assist by appointing a panel--at the time the Colorado report becomes available to the Air Force--to review the investigating team's work. This panel will not be part of the investigating team, but will provide a further independent check on the scientific validity of the method of investigation.

In announcing the selection, Air Force Secretary Harold Brown said, "We are more than pleased to be able to place this grant with respected individuals in a university of such high standing in the scientific community. Additionally, the location of the university should prove invaluable to the investigators, since the National Center for Atmospheric Research and the research headquarters of the Environmental Science Services Administration are located at Boulder. These organizations conduct research on the properties of man's natural environment, specializing in the physical characteristics of the atmosphere and the near-space medium."

MORE

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Air Force Project Blue Book files, as well as any other UFO information in the possession of the Air Force, will be made available to the team. Additionally, all Air Force installations within the U.S. will assist the team if requested. The investigators will, however, conduct their research independently of and without direction from the Air Force.

The decision to enter into a research agreement for this work was based on a recommendation of the Air Force Scientific Advisory Board which completed a review of the resources, methods and findings of Project Blue Book earlier this year. While complimenting the Air Force on the organization of Project Blue Book, the Board recommended that the program be expanded to include investigation of selected sightings by independent scientists.

Within the Department of Defense, the Air Force has the responsibility of investigating UFO reports. The Air Force has been investigating such reports since 1948 under its role of air defense of the United States, and the university's research does not alter Project Blue Book responsibilities of receiving, investigating and evaluating UFO reports.

END

(DOD Release No. 388-66, May 9, 1966, refers.)

AER — 80-17
80-17A

Page 5 Blue Books

Research And Development

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS (UFO)

This regulation establishes the Air Force program for investigating and analyzing UFOs over the United States. It provides for uniform investigative procedures and release of information. The investigations and analyses prescribed are related directly to the Air Force's responsibility for the air defense of the United States. The UFO Program requires prompt reporting and rapid evaluation of data for successful identification. Strict compliance with this regulation is mandatory.

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SECTION A—GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. **Explanation of Terms.** To insure proper and uniform usage of terms in UFO investigations, reports, and analyses, an explanation of common terms follows:

a. *Unidentified Flying Objects.* Any aerial phenomenon or object which is unknown or appears out of the ordinary to the observer.

b. *Familiar or Known Objects/Phenomena.* Aircraft, aircraft lights, astronomical bodies (meteors, planets, stars, comets, sun, moon), balloons, birds fireworks, missiles, rockets, satellites, searchlights, weather phenomena (clouds, contrails, dust devils), and other natural phenomena.

2. **Program Objectives.** Air Force interest in UFOs is two-fold: to determine if the UFO

is a possible threat to the United States and to use the scientific or technical data gained from study of UFO reports. To attain these objectives, it is necessary to explain or identify the stimulus which caused the observer to report his observation as an unidentified flying object.

a. *Air Defense.* The majority of UFOs reported to the Air Force have been conventional or familiar objects which present no threat to our security.

(1) It is possible that foreign countries may develop flying vehicles of revolutionary configuration or propulsion.

(2) Frequently, some alleged UFOs are determined to be aircraft. Air Defense Command (ADC) is responsible for identification

This regulation supersedes AFR 200-2, 20 July 1962

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of aircraft. Except as aircraft are determined to be the stimulus for a UFO report, aircraft are not to be reported under the provisions of this regulation.

b. *Technical and Scientific.* The Air Force will analyze reports of UFOs submitted to it to attain the program objectives. In this connection these facts are of importance:

(1) The need for further scientific knowledge in geophysics, astronomy, and physics of the upper atmosphere which may be provided by study and analysis of UFOs and similar aerial phenomena.

(2) The need to report all pertinent factors that have a direct bearing on scientific analysis and conclusions of UFO sightings.

(3) The need and the importance of complete case information. Analysis has explained all but a small percentage of the sightings which have been reported to the Air Force. The ones that have not been explained are carried statistically as "unidentified." Because of the human factors involved and because analysis of a UFO sighting depends primarily on a personal impression and interpretation by the observer rather than on scientific data or facts obtained under controlled conditions, the elimination of all unidentifieds is improbable. However, if more immediate, detailed, and objective data on the unidentifieds had been available and promptly reported, perhaps these, too, could have been identified.

3. Program Responsibilities:

a. *Program Monitor.* The Deputy Chief of Staff, Research and Development, is responsible for the overall program, evaluation of investigative procedures, and the conduct of separate scientific investigations.

b. *Resources.* The Air Force Systems Command will support the program with current resources within the Foreign Technology Division (FTD) at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, to continue the Project Blue Book effort. Other AFSC resources normally used by FTD for this effort will continue to be made available.

c. *Investigation.* Each commander of an Air Force base will provide a UFO investigative capability. When notice of a UFO sighting is received, an investigation will be implemented to determine the stimulus for the sighting. An Air Force base receiving the notice of a UFO sighting may not be the base nearest the locale of the sighting. In that event, the reported UFO sighting will be referred to the Air Force base nearest the sighting for action.

EXCEPTIONS: FTD at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, independently or with the help of pertinent Air Force activities, may conduct any other investigation to conclude its analysis or findings. HQ USAF may arrange for separate investigations.

d. *Analysis.* FTD will:

(1) Analyze and evaluate all information and evidence reported to bases on those UFOs which are not identified at the base level.

(2) Use other Government agencies, private industrial companies, and contractor personnel to assist in analyzing and evaluating UFO reports, as necessary.

e. *Findings.* FTD, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, will prepare a final case report on each sighting reported to it after the data have been properly evaluated. If the final report is deemed significant, FTD will send the report of its findings to AFSC (SCFA), Andrews AFB, Wash DC 20331, which will send a report to HQ USAF (AFRDC), Wash DC 20330.

f. *Cooperation.* All Air Force activities will cooperate with UFO investigators to insure that pertinent information relative to investigations of UFO sightings are promptly obtained. When feasible, this will include furnishing air or ground transportation and other assistance.

SECTION B—PUBLIC RELATIONS, INFORMATION, CONTACTS, AND RELEASES

4. *Response to Public Interest.* The Secretary of the Air Force, Office of Information (SAF-OI), maintains contact with the public and the news media on all aspects of the UFO program and related activities. Private individuals or organizations desiring Air Force interviews, briefings, lectures, or private discussions on UFOs will be instructed to direct their requests to SAF-OI. Air Force members not officially connected with UFO investigations covered by this regulation will refrain from any action or comment on UFO reports which may mislead or cause the public to construe these opinions as official Air Force findings.

5. *Releasing Information.* SAF-OI is the agency responsible for releasing information to the public and to the news media.

a. *Congressional and Presidential Inquiries.* The Office of Legislative Liaison will:

(1) With the assistance of SAF-OI, an-

swer all Congressional and Presidential queries regarding UFOs forwarded to the Air Force.

(2) Process requests from Congressional sources in accordance with AFR 11-7.

b. *SAF-OI will:*

(1) Respond to correspondence from individuals requesting information on the UFO Program and evaluations of sightings.

(2) Release information on UFO sightings and results of investigations to the general public.

(3) Send correspondence queries which are purely technical and scientific to FTD for information on which to base a reply.

c. *Exceptions.* In response to local inquiries regarding UFOs reported in the vicinity of an Air Force base, the base commander may release information to the news media or the public after the sighting has been positively identified. If the stimulus for the sighting is difficult to identify at the base level, the commander may state that the sighting is under investigation and conclusions will be released by SAF-OI after the investigation is completed. The commander may also state that the Air Force will review and analyze the results of the investigation. Any further inquiries will be directed to SAF-OI.

SECTION C—PREPARING AND SUBMITTING REPORTS

6. General Information:

a. The Deputy Chief of Staff, Research and Development, USAF and the ADC have a direct and immediate interest in UFOs reported within the US. All Air Force activities will conduct UFO investigations to the extent necessary for reporting action (see paragraphs 9, 10, 11, and 12). Investigation may be carried beyond this point when the preparing officer believes the scientific or public relations aspect of the case warrants further investigation. In this case, the investigator will coordinate his continued investigation with FTD.

b. Paragraph 7 will be used as a guide for screenings, investigations, and reportings. Paragraph 11 is an outline of the reporting format.

c. Inquiries should be referred to SAF-OI (see paragraph 5).

d. If possible, an individual selected as a UFO investigator should have a scientific or technical background and experience as an investigator.

e. Reports required by this regulation are excluded from assignment of a reports control symbol in accordance with paragraph 3k, AFR 300-5.

7. *Guidance in Preparing Reports.* The usefulness of a UFO report depends largely on accuracy, timeliness, skill and resourcefulness of the person who receives the initial information and makes the report. Following are aids for screening, evaluating and reporting sightings:

a. Activities receiving initial reports of aerial objects and phenomena will screen the information to determine if the report concerns a valid UFO as defined in paragraph 1a. Reports not falling within that definition do not require further action. Aircraft flares, jet exhausts, condensation trails, blinking or steady lights observed at night, lights circling near airports and airways, and other aircraft phenomena should not be reported as they do not fall within the definition of a UFO.

EXCEPTION: Reports of known objects will be made to FTD when this information originally had been reported by local news media as a UFO and the witness has contacted the Air Force. (Do NOT solicit reports.) News releases should be included as an attachment with the report (see paragraph 8c).

b. Detailed study will be made of the logic, consistency, and authenticity of the observer's report. An interview with the observer, by persons preparing the report, is especially valuable in determining the reliability of the source and the validity of the information. Factors for particular attention are the observer's age, occupation, and education, and whether he has a technical or scientific background. A report that a witness is completely familiar with certain aspects of a sighting should indicate specific qualifications to substantiate such familiarity.

c. The following procedures will assist the investigating officer in completing the report and arriving at a conclusion as required in paragraph 11.

(1) When feasible, contact local aircraft control and warning (ACW) units, and pilots and crews of aircraft aloft at the time and place of sighting. Contact any persons or organizations that may have additional data on the UFO or can verify evidence—visual, electronic, or other.

(2) Consult military or civilian weather forecasters for data on tracks of weather

balloons or any unusual meteorological activity that may have a bearing on the stimulus for the UFO.

(3) Consult navigators and astronomers in the area to determine if any astronomical body or phenomenon might account for the sighting.

(4) Consult military and civilian tower operators, air operations units, and airlines to determine if the sighting could have been an aircraft. Local units of the Federal Aviation Agency (FAA) can be of assistance in this regard.

(5) Consult persons who may know of experimental aircraft of unusual configuration, rocket and guided missile firings, or aerial tests in the area.

(6) Consult local and State police, county sheriffs, forest rangers, and other civil officials who may have been in the area at the time of the sighting or have knowledge of other witnesses.

8. Transmittal of Reports:

a. *Timeliness.* Report all information on UFOs promptly. Electrical transmission with a "Priority" precedence is authorized.

b. *Submission of Reports.* Submit multiple-addressed electrical reports to:

(1) ADC.

(2) Nearest Air Division (Defense).

(3) FTD WPAFB. (First line of text: FOR TDETR.)

(4) CSAF. (First line of text: FOR AFRDC.)

(5) OSAF. (First line of text: FOR SAF-OI.)

c. *Written Reports.* In the event follow-up action requires a letter report, send it to FTD (TDETR), Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio 45433. FTD will send the reports to interested organizations in the US and to SAF-OI if required.

d. *Reports from Civilians.* Advise civilians to report UFOs to the nearest Air Force base.

e. *Negative or Inapplicable Data.* If specific information is lacking, refrain from using the words "negative" or "unidentified" unless all logical leads to obtain the information outlined in paragraph 11 have been exhausted. For example, the information on weather conditions in the area, as requested in paragraph 11g, is obtainable from the local military or civilian weather facility. Use the phrase "not applicable (NA)" only when the question really does not apply to the sighting under investigation.

10. *Comments of Investigating Officer.* This officer will make an initial analysis and com-

ment on the possible cause or identity of the stimulus in a supporting statement. He will make every effort to obtain pertinent items of information and to test all possible leads, clues, and hypotheses. The investigating officer who receives the initial report is in a better position to conduct an on-the-spot survey and follow-up than subsequent investigative personnel and analysts who may be far removed from the area and who may arrive too late to obtain vital data or information necessary for firm conclusions. The investigating officer's comments and conclusions will be in the last paragraph of the report submitted through channels. The reporting official will contact FTD (Area Code 513, 257-0916 or 257-6678) for verbal authority to continue investigations.

11. *Basic Reporting Data and Format.* Show the abbreviation "UFO" at the beginning of the text of all electrical reports and in the subject of any follow-up written reports. Include required data in all electrical reports, in the order shown below:

a. *Description of the Object(s):*

(1) Shape.

(2) Size compared to a known object.

(3) Color.

(4) Number.

(5) Formation, if more than one.

(6) Any discernible features or details.

(7) Tail, trail, or exhaust, including its

size.

(8) Sound.

(9) Other pertinent or unusual features.

b. *Description of Course of Object(s):*

(1) What first called the attention of observer(s) to the object(s)?

(2) Angle of elevation and azimuth of object(s) when first observed. (Use theodolite or compass measurement if possible.)

(3) Angle of elevation of object(s) upon disappearance. (Use theodolite or compass measurement if possible.)

(4) Description of flight path and maneuvers of object(s). (Use elevations and azimuth, not altitude.)

(5) How did the object(s) disappear? (Instantaneously to the North, for example.)

(6) How long were the object(s) visible? (Be specific—5 minutes, 1 hour, etc.)

c. *Manner of Observation:*

(1) Use one or any combination of the following items: Ground-visual, air-visual, ground-electronic, air-electronic. (If electronic, specify type of radar.)

(2) Statement as to optical aids (tele-

scopes, binoculars, etc.) used and description thereof.

(3) If the sighting occurred while airborne, give type of aircraft, identification number, altitude, heading, speed, and home station.

d. Time and Date of Sighting:

(1) Greenwich date-time group of sighting and local time.

(2) Light conditions (use one of the following terms: Night, day, dawn, dusk).

e. Location of Observer(s). Give exact latitude and longitude coordinates of each observer, and/or geographical position. In electrical reports, give a position with reference to a known landmark in addition to the coordinates. For example, use "2 mi N of Deeville"; "3 mi SW of Blue Lake," to preclude errors due to teletype garbling of figures.

f. Identifying Information on Observer(s):

(1) Civilian—Name, age, mailing address, occupation, education and estimate of reliability.

(2) Military—Name, grade, organization, duty, and estimate of reliability.

g. Weather and Winds-Aloft Conditions at Time and Place of Sightings:

(1) Observer(s) account of weather conditions.

(2) Report from nearest AWS or US Weather Bureau Office of wind direction and velocity in degrees and knots at surface, 6,000', 10,000', 16,000', 20,000', 30,000', 50,000', and 80,000', if available.

(3) Ceiling.

(4) Visibility.

(5) Amount of cloud cover.

(6) Thunderstorms in area and quadrant in which located.

(7) Vertical temperature gradient.

h. Any other unusual activity or condition, meteorological, astronomical, or otherwise, that might account for the sighting.

i. Interception or identification action taken (such action is authorized whenever feasible and in compliance with existing air defense directives).

j. Location, approximate altitude, and general direction of flight of any air traffic or balloon releases in the area that might possibly account for the sighting.

k. Position title and comments of the preparing officer, including his preliminary analysis of the possible cause of the sightings(s). (See paragraph 10.)

12. Reporting Physical Evidence:

a. Photographic:

(1) Still Photographs. Forward the original negative to FTD (TDETR), Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio 45433, and indicate the place, time, and date the photograph was taken.

(2) Motion Pictures. Obtain the original film. Examine the film strip for apparent cuts, alterations, obliterations, or defects. In the report comment on any irregularities, particularly in films received from other than official sources.

(3) Supplemental Photographic Information. Negatives and prints often are insufficient to provide certain valid data or permit firm conclusions. Information that aids in plotting or in estimating distances, apparent size and nature of object, probable velocity, and movements includes:

(a) Type and make of camera.

(b) Type, focal length, and make of lens.

(c) Brand and type of film.

(d) Shutter speed used.

(e) Lens opening used; that is, "f" stop.

(f) Filters used.

(g) Was tripod or solid stand used.

(h) Was "panning" used.

(i) Exact direction camera was pointing with relation to true North, and its angle with respect to the ground.

(4) Other Camera Data. If supplemental information is unobtainable, the minimum camera data required are the type of camera, and the smallest and largest "f" stop and shutter speed readings of the camera.

(5) Radar. Forward two copies of each still camera photographic print. Title radarscope photographic prints per AFR 95-7. Classify radarscope photographs per AFR 205-1.

NOTE: If possible, develop film before forwarding. Mark undeveloped film clearly to indicate this fact, to avoid destruction by exposure through mail channels to final addressees.

b. *Material.* Air Force echelons receiving suspected or actual UFO material will safeguard it to prevent any defacing or alterations which might reduce its value for intelligence examination and analysis.

c. *Photographs, Motion Pictures, and Negatives Submitted by Individuals.* Individuals often submit photographic and motion picture material as part of their UFO reports. All original material submitted will be returned to the individual after completion of necessary studies, analysis, and duplication by the Air Force.

AFR 80-17

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE

OFFICIAL

J. P. McCONNELL
General, U.S. Air Force
Chief of Staff

R. J. PUGH
Colonel, USAF
Director of Administrative Services

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CHANGE

AFR 80-17A

AIR FORCE REGULATION
NO. 80-17A

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
Washington, 8 November 1966

Research and Development

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS (UFO)

AFR 80-17, 19 September 1966, is changed as follows:

3c. *EXCEPTIONS*: FTD at Wright-Patterson . . . for separate investigations. The University of Colorado will, under a research agreement with the Air Force, conduct a study of UFOs. This program (to run approximately 15 months) will be conducted independently and without restrictions. The university will enlist the assistance of other conveniently located institutions that can field investigative teams. *All* UFO reports will be submitted to the University of Colorado, which will be given the fullest cooperation of all UFO Investigating Officers. Every effort will be made to keep all UFO reports unclassified. However, if it is necessary to classify a report because of method of detection or other factors not related to the UFO, a separate report including all possible information will be sent to the University of Colorado.

8b(6). University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado 80302, ATTN: Dr. Condon. (Mail copy of message form.)

8e. *Negative or Inapplicable Data*. Renumber as paragraph 9.

11k. Position title, name, rank, official address, telephone area code, office and home phone, and comments of the preparing officer, including his preliminary analysis of the possible cause of the sighting(s). (See paragraph 10.)

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE

OFFICIAL

R. J. PUGH
Colonel, USAF
Director of Administrative Services

J. P. McCONNELL
General, U. S. Air Force
Chief of Staff

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UFO INCIDENTS SPUR SOVIET

Probe Panel Hopes Science
Will Dispel 'Wild Ideas'

By BRUCE WINTERS

(Moscow Bureau of The Sun)

Moscow, Nov. 13—The scientific respectability given recently by Soviet authorities to reports of unidentified flying objects stems from an incident earlier this year when a crescent-shaped object was seen racing through the skies near the Black Sea.

The incident, together with others reported by reliable observers including commercial airline pilots, have led to the formation of a Government commission to study the reports in detail.

Consisting of eighteen scientists of various disciplines, Air Force officers, and 200 observers throughout the country, the agency has established headquarters in Moscow's civil defense museum under the direction of Porfiry A. Stolyarov, a retired Air Force major general.

An unidentified member of the commission was reported today to have said that "we feel the UFO's should be studied carefully. We have no preconceived ideas, but we believe the best way to prevent wild ideas from spreading is to approach the subject scientifically."

But even this cautious statement is a departure from the usual Soviet position that so-called "flying saucer" sightings are the invention of a sensation-seeking Western press.

Earlier this year, Dr. Fyodor Y. Zigel, an astronomer, suggested in a book titled "The Inhabited Cosmos" that a formal inquiry into unidentified flying objects would not be out of place.

Believes Them Natural

Although Dr. Zigel seemed to favor the theory that such objects were simply previously unknown natural phenomena, he did not completely rule out the possibility that they represented some form of extraterrestrial intelligence on missions of earth surveillance.

But he cautioned that to adopt such an "extreme view" uncritically "is very convenient as it demands no intellectual effort and kills off the problem at birth."

An almost total news blackout discourages public discussion of unidentified flying objects and the possibility of life elsewhere in the universe. Two years ago, however, official silence was broken, but quite embarrassingly.

On Cosmonauts Day in 1965, the Soviet news agency, Tass, reported that the Sternberg astronomical institute believed it had "received perhaps the first evidence that we are not alone in the universe."

The story quoted a member of the institute's staff as saying that "a super-civilization has been discovered."

The following day, the institute disavowed such an interpretation of the unidentified radio signals its observatory had received from outer space, rebuking the Tass coverage of the affair.

But the nature of scientists and newspapermen being as it is, the inquiries and the stories persist, as does the phenomenon.

Russians Take an Interest in UFOs

Reuters

MOSCOW, Nov. 11—The Russians seem to be taking flying saucers seriously.

Air Force Gen. Anatoly Stolyerov has been named to head a new commission to study reports of flying saucers, it was learned today. The commission's creation marks a radical change in Russia's previously skeptical policy toward unidentified flying objects.

The commission has only a few cases under review at the moment, Stolyerov told reporters during a brief interview today.

"But we expect thousands

The Washington Post

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1967

GENERAL NEWS

A 25

of cases in the future," he added.

Saucers generally have been regarded here as either optical illusions or the inventions of sensational newspapers in the West. No Soviet sightings have ever been published. But a story current in Moscow last spring was that scores of sightings were reported in

central Asia and the Caucasus.

An essay on unidentified flying objects that appeared here in April discussed the question seriously for the first time.

Soviet researcher Dr. F. Y. Zigel said he liked to think the objects were previously unknown natural phenomena, but he did not

rule out the possibility that they had come from other planets.

He rejected the outright dismissal of UFO as fiction. He demands no intellectual effort

"This view is very convenient," he said, "as it demands no intellectual effort and kills off the problems at birth."

Since the essay appeared, however, there has been vir-

tually no discussion of the problem.

Observers interpreted the appointment of an Air Force general to head the committee as a sign that Russia is seriously interested in an explanation of flying saucers — if only to dismiss them once and for all as optical illusions or the result of mass hysteria.

RUSSIA TO STUDY 'SAUCERS'

MOSCOW, Sat.—Soviet authorities have set up a research institute to study unidentified flying objects, it was learned here last night.

Existence of the centre was revealed in a television program on flying saucers.

The institute is based in the capital and headed by a Major-General, whose name however was not given.

Its object was the gathering of all information likely to lead to an explanation of the numerous phenomena seen in the Soviet sky over the past years.

The institute's director, who took part in the broadcast, showed a series of photographs of unidentified objects, some taken by aircraft pilots and some by private citizens.

The photographs included one of an object clearly shaped like a saucer, with a kind of turret. Comparison with a picture of a Tupolev-104 aircraft showed the saucer was as large as the plane.

The picture was said to have been taken at Tiskits, in the Arctic Circle.

The Major-General appealed to anyone who had seen or photographed strange objects to report to the Moscow Aviation and Cosmonautic Centre.

Several thousand specialised observers were to be trained, he said, and hundreds of observation posts would be created, particularly in such places as airfields and observatories.

The institute's director added that a further program on "flying saucers" would be televised soon.—AFP

Вашингтон
Пост

Post

11-12-67

NY TIMES 11-13-67

Soviet Study of U.F.O.'s Is Reported Under Way

MOSCOW, Nov. 11 (AP)—The Soviet Government has set up a special commission to investigate reports in this country of unidentified flying objects, informed sources reported Saturday.

The commission was described as under the direction of Gen. Anatoli Stolyerov of the Soviet Air Force, with an office in Moscow.

Soviet authorities had dismissed reports of U.F.O.'s as nonsense when they first started getting attention in the 1950's. The press here did not mention rumors of sightings in the Caucasus, Siberia and elsewhere.

A new attitude was indicated last April when a scientist, F. Zigel, reported that Soviet radar screens had been detecting unidentified objects for 20 years.

NATIONAL INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE

ON AERIAL PHENOMENA

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20036

MAJOR DONALD E. KEYHOE
USMC (RET.) DIRECTOR

GORDON I. R. LORE, JR.
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

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For Immediate Release

Monday, Nov. 13, 1967

U.S. LAGS IN SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATION OF UFOS

The United States is in serious danger of being left far behind in the scientific investigation of Unidentified Flying Objects, according to the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP).

While the U.S. Air Force continues its official debunking policy, the USSR, Canada and Great Britain are taking strides to learn the nature of the strange craft which have been reported flying over all parts of the world for at least a quarter century.

The USSR has just announced a formal investigation of UFOs headed by Air Force General Anatoly Stolyerov, the Royal Canadian Air Force has admitted the existence of its previously secret UFO project in Ottawa, and questions have been placed before the House of Commons in London concerning UFO investigation practices of the Ministry of Defence.

Meanwhile, the official USAF investigation -- Project Bluebook -- nears its 21st birthday without a single achievement to its credit. The undermanned, unenthusiastic USAF project continues to make inadequate investigations, while refusing to consider any possibility that UFOs could be more than mistaken observations by unskilled observers. When asked about the impact of the Soviet announcement, an Air Force spokesman in the Pentagon had "no comment."

(more)

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

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(page 2 -- UFOs)

The Air Force consistently ignores the hundreds of detailed descriptions of strange objects reported by its own pilots, as well as by airline pilots, scientists, engineers, control tower operators, weather observers and radar experts.

Among the well known scientists calling for a greatly expanded investigation are Dr. James E. McDonald, senior physicist of the University of Arizona's Institute of Atmospheric Physics, who says, "An intensive analysis of hundreds of outstanding UFO reports... (has) led me to the conclusion that the UFO problem is one of exceedingly great scientific importance."

Even Project Bluebook's own chief civilian scientific consultant -- Dr. J. Allen Hynek, head of the Northwestern University astronomy department -- thinks that "mankind may be in for the greatest adventure since dawning human intelligence turned outward to contemplate the universe."

For the past 11 years, NICAP has been the world's only full-time, professional agency concentrating exclusively on the study of UFOs. Through its 11,000 members, 35 field investigation units and numerous special investigators, NICAP has gathered more than 10,000 reports of UFO sightings -- of which more than 2,000 are considered completely unexplainable in conventional terms.

This material, and NICAP's facilities, are at the disposal of qualified scientific researchers.

#

UFO Enclosures

Library of Congress book	(UFO material)
Blue Book	"
Air Force Statement about UFO at Dexter, Michigan	"
March 25, 1966, News Release	(UFO statements)
March 28, 1966, News Release	"
April 3, 1966, News Release	"
April 21, 1966, News Release	"
April 16, 1967, Editorial from The New York Times	(UFO information)
April 17, 1967, Editorial from The Detroit Free Press	"
October 7, 1966, News Release	"
July 31, 1966, UFO Sighting	"
May 9, 1966, News Release	"
April 17, 1966, Ravenna, Ohio	"
September 3, 1965, Exeter, New Hampshire	"
March 2, 1965, Brooksville, Florida	"
April 24, 1964, Socorro, New Mexico	"
February 24, 1959, UFO over Pennsylvania	"
November 23, 1953, Kinross Incident	"
July 19/20 and 26/27, 1952, Washington, D. C.	"
January 7, 1948, The Mantell Case	"
June 24, 1957, Mt. Ranier, Washington	"
Air Force Regulations 80-17 and 80-17A <u>(Only in special cases; see page 5 of blue book)</u>	"

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A FRESH LOOK AT FLYING SAUCERS

IN an all-night restaurant in Corning, Calif., two police officers sat chatting over coffee near dawn on July 4. Suddenly the proprietor noticed a strange glow over a nearby freeway. Rushing outside, the men saw a large, metallic, cigar-shaped object between 300 feet and 500 feet in the air. "It had a huge, white light on the top," says Officer Jim Overton. "Down at the bottom it had a smaller, not so bright light. Around the center of this object was a band, either paint or a different kind of metal. It suddenly began to move with the most terrific burst of speed I've ever seen."

When the mysterious object disappeared a few minutes later, the shaken men returned to the restaurant, where they drew rough sketches of what they had seen. "I was kind of skeptical about these flying saucers being real, but you couldn't convince me otherwise now," says Overton. "I know what I saw."

Officer Overton is not alone in his conviction. More than 5,000,000 Americans, according to a recent Gallup poll, are certain that they have seen flying saucers or other UFOs (unidentified flying objects). Furthermore, Gallup reports, 46% of American adults believe that UFOs are something real. Scores of flying-saucer clubs are operating across the nation. They include small groups of semireligious eccentrics who worship saucer men and claim to have met them. They also include retired Marine Major Donald Keyhoe's serious and influential National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP), the source of some of the best-documented UFO sightings.

In recent months, a significant change has occurred: the subject has moved out of the realm of science fiction and crackpot claims. Discussions of UFOs have begun to appear in the pages of such respected journals as *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists* and *Science*. A few responsible scientists now put their reputations on the line by suggesting that saucers may be vehicles from outer space. The vast majority of their colleagues still scoff at this notion, but even some of the skeptics concede that serious investigation is needed.

Beyond Buffoonery

During the U.S. saucer era, which began when Pilot Kenneth Arnold reported seeing nine disk-like objects erratically moving through the air near Mount Rainier in 1947, an Air Force unit called Project Blue Book has logged and evaluated more than 11,000 sightings. In most cases, the investigators eventually identified the UFOs as aircraft, balloons, satellites, flocks of birds, light reflected off clouds or shiny surfaces, atmospheric phenomena, meteors, stars, planets and the aurora borealis. Only 6% of saucer reports are listed by Blue Book as "unidentified" or unexplained. But Blue Book staffers have often announced arbitrary—and incorrect—solutions to saucer mysteries. Sightings have been attributed to the Orion constellation when it was actually below the horizon and invisible, to advertising blimps or refueling military aircraft when none were in the vicinity. This reinforces the belief of saucer buffs that the Air Force has been guilty of not only negligence but even deliberate suppression of UFO information.

Physicist Edward Condon, a highly respected former director of the National Bureau of Standards, agreed last October to head an Air Force-financed scientific team at the University of Colorado that will attempt to evaluate some of Project Blue Book's most intriguing unidentified cases. At the same time, Astronomer J. Allen Hynek, director of Northwestern University's Dearborn Observatory and the Air Force's longtime consultant on UFOs, wrote a significant letter to *Science*. (Had he spoken out earlier, Hynek says, "I would have been regarded as a nut.") In the letter, he took his fellow scientists to task for dismissing UFOs with "buffoonery and caustic banter" and rejecting

the possibility that saucers are extraterrestrial. "As long as there are 'unidentified,'" he wrote, "the question must obviously remain open."

Meanwhile, James E. McDonald, a University of Arizona atmospheric physicist, studied the records of Project Blue Book, interviewed witnesses around the U.S. and in Australia. His conclusion places him farther out on the saucer's edge than any other U.S. scientist. "I think that UFOs are the No. 1 problem of world science," he says. "I'm afraid that the evidence points to no other acceptable hypothesis than the extraterrestrial. The amount of evidence is overwhelmingly real." Both Hynek and McDonald cite the example of earlier scientists who for years had little patience with recurring stories about stones that fell from the sky. Yet, in 1802, when churchmen, politicians and peasants witnessed an unusually heavy shower of fragments at L'Aigle, France, the French Academy of Sciences finally had to conclude that stones—actually meteorites—do indeed fall from the sky.

Other scientists who have reviewed UFO cases still agree with Astronomer Gerard Kuiper, a colleague of McDonald's at the University of Arizona, who insists that until better evidence is presented, the entire subject is "fanciful." Astronomer Carl Sagan of Harvard and the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory says that "at the present time, there is no evidence that unambiguously connects the various flying-saucer sightings with extraterrestrial activity."

Substitute for God

Saucers are not a new phenomenon. French Astronomer Jacques Vallee has found evidence of hundreds of ancient sightings. Livy described the Roman equivalent of a UFO wave in 218 B.C. Several drawings show tubes and spheres seen over Nürnberg in 1561. Saucer advocates even read UFO sightings into Shakespeare's *King Henry VI* ("Dazzle mine eyes, or do I see three suns") and into the Bible, where Ezekiel describes a strange craft coming from the sky and landing close to the Chebar River in Chaldea. During World War II, Allied pilots had numerous encounters with "foo-fighters," mysterious luminous globs that flew alongside their airplanes. In 1946, there were thousands of sightings in Sweden of what were first thought to be secret Russian missiles. In recent years, UFO waves have occurred in France, Britain, Brazil, Spain, Italy, North Africa and Australia, and occasional UFOs have been seen over most other nations.

One persuasive theory about saucers is that they are real only in the mind and that they correspond to a deep human need. Contemporary saucer sightings, wrote Carl Gustav Jung in a book published before his death in 1961, are an outgrowth of the troubled international situation and gradual erosion among Christians of belief in a God who can intervene to save man from his own folly. Hoping for some redeeming, supernatural event, said Jung, man may have turned to a God image: the UFO. The substitution, Jung suggested, is not difficult to understand. "God in his omniscience, omnipotence, and omnipresence is a totality symbol par excellence, something round, complete and perfect."

Similarly, Boston Psychiatrist Benjamin Simon believes that the UFOs have something for everybody. For the cosmic pessimists, saucers may represent some malignant force about to take over the world. To the ill, UFOs can represent the miracles they have been waiting for. For many, belief in the saucers provides an "oceanic or cosmic feeling of immersion in the total universe, a sort of nirvana."

These conclusions are partly based on Simon's work with Barney and Betty Hill, a Portsmouth, N.H., couple whose "abduction" by saucer men during an auto trip was described in the fast-selling book, *The Interrupted Journey* by

John Fuller. On their trip, Simon says, the Hills became increasingly concerned about the reception they might receive at restaurants and gas stations along their route: Betty is white, Barney a Negro. Their tension and fear reached a peak when they saw a glowing UFO from the highway. The sighting, Simon theorizes, served as a "day stimulus" for subsequent nightmares and wish-fulfillment fantasies. Betty, who is childless, described an obviously Freudian encounter with a humanoid who examined her and inserted a six-inch needle into her navel, explaining that it was a pregnancy test. Barney, who generally considers the Irish to be hostile toward Negroes, remembers being treated with respect by a humanoid who looked Irish.

The desire to believe in the existence of UFOs has made millions of Americans susceptible to UFO hoaxes: photographs contrived by darkroom manipulation or by simply tossing saucers, phonograph records or hubcaps in front of cameras. Many people accepted as evidence a photograph of a weird little creature that had supposedly emerged from his saucer and died. A few recognized it for what it was: a shaved monkey.

In addition to the known natural phenomena mentioned by the Air Force to explain sightings, scientists suggest that there are probably still unknown or unverified atmospheric effects that could account for most of the unidentified apparitions. Astronomer Donald Menzel, former director of the Harvard College Observatory, believes that atmospheric refractions sometimes both magnify and bend the light from bright stars, causing them to resemble large and erratically moving disks. Electrical Engineer Philip Klass, an editor of *Aviation Week & Space Technology*, speculates that many UFOs may be a form of ball lightning generated by an electric corona that sometimes occurs on high-tension power lines, near which saucers are often sighted.

Yet even these theories do not wholly explain all UFO sightings. At Colorado, Physicist Condon and his staff have investigated new reports, sifted through past Blue Book and NICAP files, and begun a computer-aided analysis of 2,000 sightings. For the moment, Condon has narrowed the study down to three sightings supported by ample photographic or eyewitness evidence. The first was made in daylight at McMinnville, Ore., on May 11, 1950 by Paul Trent, a farmer who spotted and photographed a saucer 20 ft. to 30 ft. in diameter hovering over his field. Trent's saucer, which resembled a garbage-can cover, is similar to one photographed over France in 1954. Negatives of his pictures, which are among the clearest UFO shots ever obtained, will be analyzed electronically for authenticity. Condon's second case involves several sightings in the vicinity of Levelland, Texas, on the night of Nov. 2, 1957, when glowing elliptical objects 200 ft. long hovered over highways, terrifying several motorists and causing their cars' ignition and lights to fail. A third apparently inexplicable case occurred off Trindade Isle, Brazil, during daylight on Jan. 16, 1958, when scientific personnel aboard a Brazilian navy ship spotted a Saturn-shaped UFO and photographed it four times.

In the Galactic Boondocks

If one accepts the reality of vehicles from outer space, one must assume the existence in the universe of a race more intelligent than man—certainly not difficult to believe. (In fact, it is much harder to think that in all the universe man is the only advanced being.) Next, one would have to assume that these intelligent creatures are interested in Earth, and some scientists find this assumption particularly unlikely. "If saucers have been coming here regularly," reasons Astronomer Sagan, "this attaches some peculiar significance to our planet. Let's remember that the earth is in the galactic boondocks. I really doubt that the city slickers of the universe are all that interested in us." Earth is merely a minor planet orbiting around one of the 100 billion stars in the Milky Way galaxy, which in turn is only an average member of a universe that may itself contain 100 billion galaxies. In his book, *Intelligent Life in the Universe*, written with Russian Astrophysicist I. S. Shklovsky, Sagan estimates that in the Milky Way alone there may be as

many as a million planets inhabited by advanced civilizations.

Yet distances between stars are so vast—the Milky Way is 100,000 light-years in diameter—that these civilizations are probably separated from one another by anywhere from 300 to 1,000 light-years, Sagan estimates (a light-year is the equivalent of 6 trillion miles). This deflates the argument of UFOlogists that saucers have begun observing the earth because of man's recent technological strides. High-powered, high-frequency radio-wave transmissions, presumably the only clear evidence of terrestrial civilization that could penetrate the atmosphere and be detected at great distances, began only two decades ago. Thus the first of these signals, which move at the speed of light, has by now traveled only 20 light-years away from the earth, passing only the relatively few stars that are near neighbors of the sun.

Toward the 30th Century

In the event that a civilization exists on some planet orbiting a nearby star, and has been able to detect transmissions from Earth, it is unlikely that any of its saucers have yet arrived to investigate. Even the nearest star, Proxima Centauri, is 4.3 light-years away. And because presumably no spaceship—or any matter—can travel at or beyond the velocity of light, which is the universal speed limit according to the Einstein theory of relativity, it would take considerably longer than 4.3 light-years to reach the earth from its nearest stellar neighbor. At the 17,500 m.p.h. that astronauts travel, it would take nearly 170,000 years.

What of the possibility that an advanced culture may somehow have learned to circumvent the Einstein limit, and thus be able to send craft to distant stars at incredible speeds? Says one physicist: "My God, could our whole science just be a fiction completely unrelated to what the UFOs might have? All this earthly science—*E=mc²* and all the rest that I so much believe in—could it really be something else?" Many laymen, baffled by the scientists anyway, might find the overthrow of all their lore quite entertaining. But most scientists insist that their laws are universal; even the motion of distant stars and the nuclear reactions within them appear to obey the laws of terrestrial science.

To saucer advocates who suggest that extraterrestrial beings accidentally discovered the earth's civilization during random exploration of the universe, Sagan has an answer: "If each of a million advanced technical civilizations in our galaxy launched at random an interstellar spacecraft each year, our solar system would, on the average, be visited only once every 100,000 years."

For vehicles guided by supposedly intelligent beings, the UFOs have exhibited remarkably ineffective and capricious behavior. Instead of concentrating around obvious examples of intelligent life on earth, such as large cities, they have been seen most often above deserts, farms and backwater towns. Their only reported communication has consisted of trite exchanges ("Don't be afraid") with relatively simple citizens or outright fanatics. But saucer buffs point out that man has studied the behavior of bees and learned their social order and "language" without even attempting to communicate directly with them.

The most telling argument against the reality of UFOs is that no proven physical evidence or hardware has ever been found to support the saucers' existence. And although astronomers photograph the sky incessantly, no UFO has ever left an image on their photographic plates.

Despite the lack of such evidence, many scientists favor the continuation of UFO investigations in the hope that they will lead to new discoveries about man's environment, while clearing up the uncertainty about saucers. But even after the most rigorous examination by contemporary science, it will be difficult to prove beyond doubt that there are no extraterrestrial saucers. Says Astronomer Hynek: "There is a tendency in the 20th century to forget that there will be a 21st century science, and indeed a 30th century science, from which vantage points our knowledge of the universe may appear quite different. We suffer, perhaps, from temporal provincialism, a form of arrogance that has always irritated posterity."