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1966: Unidentified Flying Objects, January - March (folder
B48-21)

Gerald R. Ford Congressional Papers

U.F.O.
Reg Stitt, Benson

March 30, 1966

Mrs. Bernard Stitt
713 Hemphill
Ypsilanti, Michigan

Dear Mrs. Stitt,

Thank you for your letter of March 26th expressing your views
and thoughts on the subject of U.F.O.

Because of your interest, I am pleased to enclose copies of my
news releases which I thought you might like to have.

Sincerely,

Gerald R. Ford.M.C.

GRF:sk
Encl.

Wanted
note
send copy

718/Kempfull:

Ypsilanti Mich

March 26, 1966

Gerald R Ford
House Republican Leader
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr Ford:

I wish to commend you upon
the action you have taken
regarding the UFO situation.
A Congressional investigation
is in order, if not long overdue.

Americans won't have the
wool pulled over their eyes
forever. If no one knows
what these objects really
are let them say so.

Years of investigation has
not filled their "blue book"
with swamp gas, surely.

Kindergarten level answers
are no good. Our intellect
deserves more respect.

We are fortunate indeed to
have someone of your caliber
in a position to take a
strong stand on this subject.
I wish you every success!

Mrs Bernard Stitt

U. F. O.

Reg Heckrodt, R.

March 30, 1966

Mr. Roger V. Heckrodt
126 Bingham Street
Lansing, Michigan

Dear Mr. Heckrodt,

Thank you for your letter of March 26th expressing your ideas and opinions on the subject of UFO.

Because of your interest, I am enclosing copies of my press releases which I thought you might like to have.

Sincerely,

Gerald R. Ford. M. C.

GRF:ek
Encl.

*note
copy of J's
statement
collected for copy made.*

126 Bingham St.
Lansing, Mich.
March 26, 1966

Hon. Gerald Ford
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Ford:

I have studied and investigated the UFO phenomena for over three years now, and I have been a member of NICAP for over a year. Even though I have never seen a UFO, I am convinced that the objects which people have seen are real solid objects and not always gases, balloons or hallucinations. I have personally spoken with perhaps two dozen people who swear that they saw a real object which they did not recognize and furthermore, some of these people honestly believe that they saw a "flying saucer".

I am personally convinced that the Air Force is suppressing information concerning this subject and I will swear to this statement in a court of law. I am sick and tired of these so-called "experts" explaining these objects out of existence.

Please bring about a congressional investigation into this whole affair. Please try to make it a public investigation, and when you start calling for witnesses, start with the radar men who picked these objects up on their screens, and the pilots who have chased these objects; then call the "brass" in and see if they will call their own technicians liars.

If I sound bitter, I am. I am tired of living under a government which releases or suppresses at its own discretion.

Once more, please do everything you can to bring about a congressional investigation into this affair.

Sincerely yours,

Roger V. Heckrodt

Jeff U.F.O.
Barrow, R.

March 30, 1966

Mr. Robert Barrow
4167 Cleveland Road
Syracuse, New York 13215

Dear Mr. Barrow,

Thank you for your letter of March 26th expressing your views and thoughts on the subject of UFO.

I am pleased to enclose my press releases on this subject which I thought you might like to have.

Sincerely,

Gerald R. Ford M.C.

GRF:ak
Encl.

4167 Cleveland Road
Syracuse, New York 13215

Same

March 26, 1966

Congressman Gerald R. Ford, Jr.
(Rep., Michigan)
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Ford:

My deepest thanks to you for publicly expressing your opinion that hearings be held on unidentified flying objects. However, I hope that any hearings which occur are made public.

Having been a member of the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP) of 1536 Connecticut Ave., Washington, D.C., since 1964, I have come to the conclusion that the United States Air Force is censoring information on serious UFO sightings. NICAP holds in its files (available for Congressional inspection) much evidence of this fact and also that UFOs are real, solid objects.

If you have the opportunity, please examine a copy of Air Force Regulation 200-2, the official order for UFO investigations. This document, recently classified because it was receiving publicity, orders that information on UFOs be withheld from the public if they cannot be identified as familiar or known objects. Air Force personnel are forbidden from discussing UFOs in public. Besides this, radar scope photos of UFOs (of which there are hundreds) are classified and not available for public or Congressional inspection.

To illustrate just how far the Air Force will go to put down interest in this subject: Last summer, residents (hundreds) in eight southwestern states saw weird flashing objects speeding and hovering in the skies. In a desperate attempt to defeat interest in the subject, the Air Force dispatched quick explanations, stating that the UFOs were only misrepresentations of the planet Jupiter, and the stars Rigel, Capherla, Betelgeuse, and Aldabam.

Several astronomers, including Walter N. Webb and Robert Risser, checked their charts and discovered that these "stars" were only visible from the opposite side of the earth during the sightings!

This is the reason why hearings must be made public. I have no doubts that Congress would be misled under closed hearings. If you have not already, please get in contact with Major Donald E. Keyhoe, (USMC, ret.) Director of NICAP for UFO evidence.

Also, you may wish to discuss your views on UFOs with Congressman James M. Hanley of Syracuse, N.Y., who is interested in the UFO subject. Again, thank you for making your views known in public. I am behind you all the way in hopes for hearings.

Sincerely,



Robert Barrow
Member, NICAP

LEGISLATIVE

UFO

(FINCH, DC.)

RE: SIGHTING

April 5, 1966

Mr. Carl Finch
3980 Coit Road
Grand Rapids, Michigan

Dear Mr. Finch:

I wish to acknowledge and thank you for your letter of March 30th concerning the unidentified flying object that you saw in 1943 in Grand Rapids.

I was interested to have your report of this and while I will not be collecting data myself for the investigation, I am pleased to know of your support for the inquiry because of this personal experience.

I thought you would be interested in the enclosed release.

Warmest personal regards.

Sincerely,

Gerald R. Ford, M.C.

GRF:jb

enc.

JFD
3980 Coit Rd. N.E.
Grand Rapids, Mich.
March 30, 1966

Mr. Gerald R. Ford Jr.
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Ford,

I can very well sympathize with people who see lighted flying objects and on reporting same, find no one believes them.

I saw such a flying object back in 1943, on a clear summer morning at 4 A.M. as I was coming home from work. I was at the corner of East Leonard and Houseman Ave. one of the highest points in Grand Rapids, when looking west I saw this flying saucer followed by a flame of orange, blue and yellow. It was moving slowly south, then turned sharply to the west and out of sight.

I called the Herald and Press neither seemed interested, at the Press office they said it might be a new plane the government was testing. We were at war and so I didn't mention it to any one again. But I am as curious as before, as to what it might be.

Wishing you well.

sincerely yours,

Carl French

LEGISLATIVE

UFO

(VAN ALSTYNE, F.)

RE: BASIS

April 4, 1966

Mrs. F. E. Van Alstyne
Belding,
Michigan

Dear Mrs. Van Alstyne:

I wish to acknowledge and thank you for your kind letter of March 25th and to let you know that I appreciated having your comments on the factors surrounding the appearance of the aerial phenomena in Michigan.

Thank you for your kind personal message of support and encouragement.

Warmest personal regards.

Sincerely,

Gerald R. Ford, M.C.

GRF:jb

which, I'm sure they are
looking forward to your
immediate response ~~and~~
its ultimate outcome.

I hope Venus isn't trying
to give us information, ~~or~~
intimidation, but merely
an atmospheric disturbance
^{or} occurrence which we need
not ~~at~~ this time.

you are to be congratulated
for your expediency in
response to a real need
and commended for your
alertness.

You shall always have
the admiration of your
Michigan people.

Sincerely yours

(Mrs. E. Van Alstyne) Malvina Angell
(VAN ALSTYNE, Van Alstyne)

UFO

Belding, Mich.
March 25, 1966.

My dear Senator;
I would fail me when
I endeavour to express my
thoughts regarding our
recent occurrence of natural
scientific phenomena, in
the lower Michigan area.
My first thought was
of the local, where a
new plant was one of
consideration, if not probable.
An arbor.

I too know that our
arbor is advanced in
climate, as the spring
flowers mature about
ten day or two weeks
previous to Grosse Ile, which
is surrounded with water.

and the robins arrive February
22, as surely as the sunrise.

I now live on a small
ranch, just east of Belding
in which there are two
or three marsh lands.

Therefore I do know what
it is and the activation
of its gas, as I have lived
years very close to nature,
and my thought, was magnetic
metals in natural erosion
deposits, which only research
could determine.

Lastly, it is a great
satisfaction to have our
representation in Washington
give the time, and be
interested the younger generation
now need to recapture a feeling
of serenity and peace of mind.

LEGISLATIVE

UFO

(KIPNES, A. R.)

RE: STATUS OF
INVESTIGATION

April 1, 1966

Mr. Allen R. Kipnes
1270 Ogg Hall
Madison, Wisconsin

Dear Mr. Kipnes:

Thank you for your letter of March 28th requesting information or opinion on the progress of Congressional committee investigations of Unidentified Flying Objects.

I regret that no investigation has been held and therefore no report will be available for your April 16 deadline. However some releases and a clipping are enclosed which indicate the status of the matter now and I hope they will be useful.

Kindest personal regards.

Sincerely,

Gerald R. Ford, M.C.

GRF:jb

enc.

VFO
1270 Ogg Hall
Madison, Wisconsin
March 28, 1966

House Republican Leader
Gerald R. Ford
House Office,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Honorable Mr. Ford:

I am presently a junior at the University of Wisconsin and at this time I am beginning a research project on the history of the sightings of the Unidentified Flying Objects. With the recent controversy in Michigan and Wisconsin of reported sightings I am primarily interested in obtaining the opinions of citizens, government officials, and scientific investigators. This report is a requirement for an advanced English course and will be judged on content and presentation. If you could at all, taking into consideration your heavy schedule, send me any information or opinion and the progress of the Congressional Committee investigations, it would be greatly appreciated. I will need the information by the sixteenth of April so that I can present the paper by the deadline date. Mr. Ford thank you very much for your precious time and thoughtful consideration. I am,

Sincerely yours,

Allen R. Kipnes

Allen R. Kipnes

LEGISLATIVE

UFO

(BEVERWYK, J.)

RE: INFO ON

April 1, 1966

Mrs. John Weverwyk
2361 Greenfield, S.W.
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49509

Dear Mrs. Beverwyk:

I wish to acknowledge and thank you for your message of March 28th relaying the information about the material available on UFO's.

I am pleased to have your commendation of the material that you mentioned in your note and I appreciate your passing this along to me.

Warmest personal regards,

Sincerely,

Gerald R. Ford, M.C.

GRFAjb

3/28/66

Mrs. John Beverwyk
2361 Greenfield S.W.
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49509

Since Mr. F. is interested in Flying Saucers
above sends this info:

1. A book on flying saucers by Major Donald
Kehoe can be purchased from Allen Book ~~XXXXX~~
Shop, 37 Fountain N.W., G. R., Michigan.
(Doesn't know name)
2. "Flying Saucer Conspiracy" by Major Donald
Kehoe
"They Knew Too Much About Flying Saucers"
(doesn't know author)
She purchased these two books thru

Light House (Book Store)
614 Sky View Drive
Nashville 6, Tennessee

The Light House owned by Courtney Smith
moved to Tampa, Florida about 4 years ago.

ew

Note: She tells us in April flying saucers
have a convention, because she saw 8
of them flying around the moon about
8 or 10 yrs. ago (the year of the polio
outbreak)

LEGISLATIVE

" UFO "

(RIVERS, REP. MENDEL)

RE: House UFO Investigation

March 28, 1966

Rep. L. Mendel Rivers, Chairman
Armed Services Committee
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

Dear Chairman Rivers:

No doubt you have noted the recent flurry of newspaper stories about unidentified flying objects (UFO's). I have taken special interest in these accounts because many of the latest reported sightings have been in my home state of Michigan.

The Air Force sent a consultant, astrophysicist Dr. J. Allen Hynek of Northwestern University, to Michigan to investigate the various reports; and he dismissed all of them as the product of college student pranks or swamp gas or an impression created by the rising crescent moon and the planet Venus. I do not agree that all of these reports can be or should be so easily explained away.

Because I think there may be substance to some of these reports and because I believe the American people are entitled to a more thorough explanation than has been given them by the Air Force to date, I am proposing that either the Science and Astronautics Committee or the Armed Services Committee of the House schedule hearings on the subject of UFO's and invite testimony from both the executive branch of the government and some of the persons who claim to have seen UFO's.

I enclose material which I think will be helpful to you in assessing the advisability of an investigation of UFO's.

May I first call to your attention a column by Roscoe Drummond, published last Sunday in which Mr. Drummond says, "Maybe all of these reported sightings are whimsical, imaginary or unreal; but we need a more credible and detached appraisal of the evidence than we are getting."

Rep. L. Mendel Rivers, Chairman
Page Two
March 25, 1966

Mr. Drummond goes on to state, "We need to get all the data drawn together in one place and examined far more objectively than anyone has done so far. A stable public opinion will come from a trust-worthy look at the evidence, not from belittling it.

"The time has come for the President or Congress to name an objective and respected panel to investigate, appraise, and report on all present and future evidence about what is going on."

I agree fully with Mr. Drummond's statements. I also suggest you scan the enclosed series of six articles by Bulkley Griffin of the Griffin-Larrabee News Bureau here. In the last of his articles, published last January, Mr. Griffin says, "A main conclusion can be briefly stated. It is that the Air Force is misleading the public by its continuing campaign to produce and maintain belief that all sightings can be explained away as misidentification of familiar objects, such as balloons, stars and aircraft."

I have just today received a number of telegrams urging a congressional investigation of UFO's. One is from retired Air Force Col. Harold R. Brown, Ardmore, Tennessee, who says, "I have seen UFO. Will be available to testify."

Another, from Mrs. Ethyle M. Davis, Eugene, Oregon, reads, "Nine out of ten people want truth of UFO's. Press your investigation to the fullest."

Ronald Collier of Los Angeles, who identifies himself as "a scientist from M.I.T.," urges that you "do everything in your power to make Air Force Project Blue Book (the AF name for its study and verdicts on UFO reports) known to the people." Are we to assume that everyone who says he has seen UFO's is an unreliable witness?

A UPI story out of Ann Arbor, Michigan, dated March 21, 1966, states that "at least 40 persons, including 12 policemen, said today that they saw a strange flying object guarded by four sister ships land in a swamp near here Sunday night."

Matt Surrell of Station WJR, Detroit, cites an eye witness account of a recent UFO sighting by Emile Grenier of Ann Arbor, an aeronautical engineer employed by Ford Motor Company. He points out that an aeronautical engineer can hardly be considered an untrustworthy witness.

Rep. L. Mendel Rivers, Chairman
Page Three
March 23, 1966

In the firm belief that the American public deserves a better explanation than that thus far given by the Air Force, I strongly recommend that there be a committee investigation of the UFO phenomena.

I think we owe it to the people to establish credibility regarding UFO's and to produce the greatest possible enlightenment on this subject.

Kindest personal regards.

Sincerely,

Gerald R. Ford, M.C.
GRF:plr

Enclosures.

bcc: Rep. William H. Bates, R-Mass.
Armed Services Committee

Rep. Joseph W. Martin, Jr., R-Mass.
Science and Astronautics Committee

Rep. James G. Fulton, R-Pennsylvania
Science and Astronautics Committee

LEGISLATIVE

" UFO "

(MILLER, REP. GEORGE P.)

RE: House UFO Investigation

March 28, 1966

Rep. George P. Miller, Chairman
Science and Astronautics Committee
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

Dear Chairman Miller:

No doubt you have noted the recent flurry of newspaper stories about unidentified flying objects (UFO's). I have taken special interest in these accounts because many of the latest reported sightings have been in my home state of Michigan.

The Air Force sent a consultant, astrophysicist Dr. J. Allen Hynek of Northwestern University, to Michigan to investigate the various reports; and he dismissed all of them as the product of college student pranks or swamp gas or an impression created by the rising crescent moon and the planet Venus. I do not agree that all of these reports can be or should be so easily explained away.

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I enclose material which I think will be helpful to you in assessing the advisability of an investigation of UFO's.

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Rep. George P. Miller, Chairman
Page Two
March 28, 1966

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Rep. George P. Miller, Chairman
Page Three
March 23, 1966

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Kindest personal regards.

Sincerely,

Gerald R. Ford, M.C.

GRF:plr

Enclosures

bcc: Rep. William H. Bates, R-Mass.
Armed Services Committee

Rep. Joseph W. Martin, Jr., R-Mass.
Science and Astronautics Committee

Rep. James G. Fulton, R-Pennsylvania
Science and Astronautics Committee

~~Misc requests~~ "UFO"

(HYMOFF, Ed)

re: UFO story

legislative
~~SECRET~~
~~SECRET~~

March 30, 1966

Mr. Edward Hymoff
50 Hooper Avenue
Atlantic Highlands, N.J. 07716

Dear Mr. Hymoff:

I have your letter of March 27 and appreciate your kind request. However, in view of a number of important considerations, including my official position in the House of Representatives, I do not feel that I should lend my "name to an as-told-to-me story about UFOs."

Again, I appreciate your interest and kind offer and I am certain you will understand my position.

Kindest personal regards.

Sincerely,

Gerald R. Ford, M. C.

GRF:mc

Edward Hymoff

50 HODDER AVENUE, ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS, NEW JERSEY 07716
TEL: 291-9250 AREA CODE 201

ms
March 27, 1966

Rep. Gerald Ford
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

Dear Congressman Ford:

As you know, the past week has seen quite a bit of comment and reporting about Unknown Flying Objects -- the UFOs.

You, Mr. Ford, have requested a Congressional investigation. I believe you are the first MC to do so.

The editor of SAGA magazine, a quality publication which ranks high along with TRUE and ARGOSY, has asked me to inquire if you would lend your name to an as-told-to-me story about UFOs? Your byline would preface the article.

The article in question would be a report similar to the attached lead story in the March issue of PAGEANT. However, it will cover the latest UFO sightings. It will of course be aimed toward promoting a serious investigation by the House of Representatives.

If you are agreeable, then I will write a first draft of the article and send it to you for your additional comments and editing. I will then revise it accordingly and send the revision back for final approval. I can assure you that this article will not be changed in the slightest once you have indicated final approval.

I believe that this article can be pitched as a reprint to READER'S DIGEST.

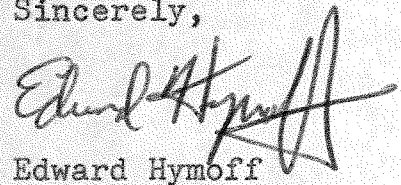
I am a free lance writer with many credentials and including an award-winning book among the four that I have written. Rep. Melvin Price and my own Congressman, Rep. James Howard, will vouch for my credentials and character as I have collaborated in the past with both gentlemen. I am also well known as a writer of aerospace topics and the author of the recently published textbook, Guidance and Control of Spacecraft, which is part of the Holt, Rinehart & Winston textbook series on space flight and space sciences.

.....2

I personally believe that the subject of UFOs should be seriously investigated if for no other reason than to dispel the fog of rumor and suspicion and create a climate of understanding during this, the space age.

I hope that you can give me an early reply to this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Edward Hymoff". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Edward Hymoff

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PAGEANT

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JACK J. PODELL, Editorial Director

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'SOMEONE
UP THERE
IS
WATCHING US!'

BY EDWARD HYMOFF

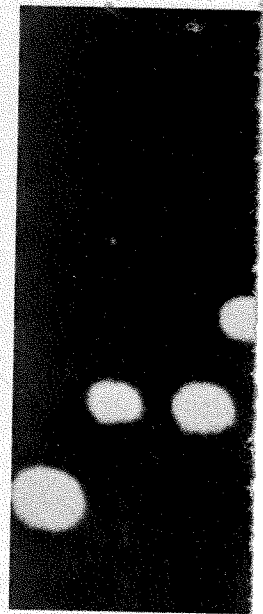
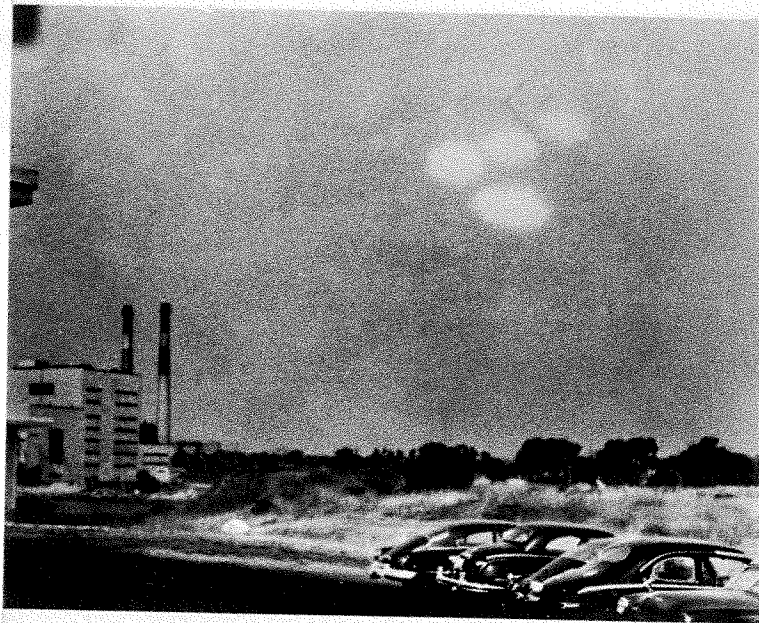
Many reputable scientists no longer sneer at 'flying saucers.' Military and airline pilots have seen these Unidentified Flying Objects. So have police officers, engineers, intelligence specialists, space experts, and astronomers. Even the U.S. Air Force admits it cannot explain 633 mysterious sightings. Now read the startling conclusions reached by an organization that has been set up to investigate the U.F.O. phenomenon



■ THE HOUNDS BEGAN to whine and mill around, obviously disturbed and frightened. James W. Flynn, a well-known dog trainer and highly respected resident of Fort Myers, Florida, pushed his way through the swampy Everglades and burst into a clearing where his hunting dogs were noisily moving about. Then Flynn saw it. It was a large, metallic machine, shaped like an inverted cone, and light emanated from four banks of portholes.

Flynn moved in closer to investigate. The last thing he remembers about that night last March was receiving a "sledgehammer blow" on the head. When he regained consciousness late in the day, his head ached painfully, the result of a mild concussion.

More than half a continent away, Police Officer Lonnie Zamora of Socorro, New Mexico, spotted a metallic machine and two small figures from a distance of 150 yards. Zamora left his patrol car and edged in closer. Suddenly the figures disappeared inside the strange, disk-shaped object. As Officer Zamora, a man with an impeccable record, drew closer to the machine, it emitted a roar. Flame spewed from its underside,



Coast Guardsman photographed these UFOs over Salem, Massachusetts, in 1952.

and it quickly lifted upward with a loud noise. Then the sound stopped, but the machine remained airborne and sped off.

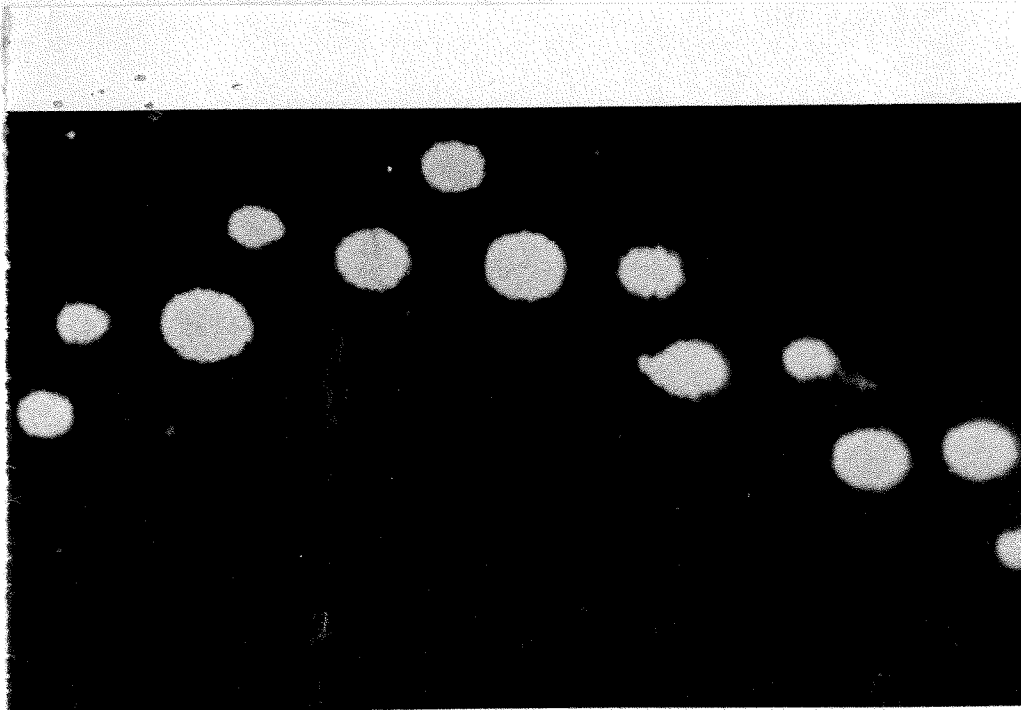
Both of these incidents occurred within the space of a year. Both were later investigated by knowledgeable men. The spot in the Florida Everglades where James Flynn had observed a cone-shaped machine was fringed with burned underbrush and tree foliage. The spot where Officer Zamora had spotted the disk-shaped object was bare except for metal shavings and indentations in the ground where the machine had rested.

Since James Flynn reported his odd adventure in March 1965, hundreds of thousands of Americans in all parts of the nation have reported seeing "strange things" in flight. To the experts, these objects are referred to as UFOs or Unidentified

Flying Objects. Newspaper headlines often refer to them, however, as "flying saucers." But no matter what they are called, evidence is growing that there is something to these sightings of mysterious airborne objects. Scientists no longer dismiss these reports as the product of inebriation or too-vivid imaginations.

UFO sightings have been reported from France and Australia. People in Latin America have seen them. They have been sighted in the antarctic. Observers have ranged from natives living in the brush to pilots, who are in a better position to comment on what they have seen. For example, radio-television star Arthur Godfrey, who flies his own plane, encountered a UFO during a night flight last June. What he saw was corroborated by his copilot, Frank Munciello.

Near Philadelphia a brilliantly



In 1951 this strange formation of flying disks was spotted above Lubbock, Texas.

lighted object suddenly appeared off the right wing of Godfrey's twin-engine aircraft. He quickly banked to the left to avoid a possible collision. Then he radioed the Federal Aeronautics Administration tower at Philadelphia.

"Any traffic scheduled near us?" he asked.

"None," the tower told him.

"Well, there's darned well something up here," Godfrey replied. As he and Munciello watched the strange object, it reversed course, quickly circled behind the aircraft, and came up alongside the left wing. Godfrey, a veteran pilot, turned sharply and tried to pull away. But the UFO banked with him, matching his every maneuver.

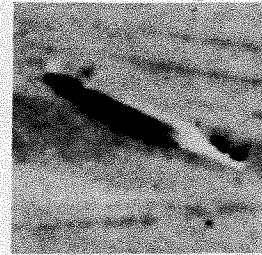
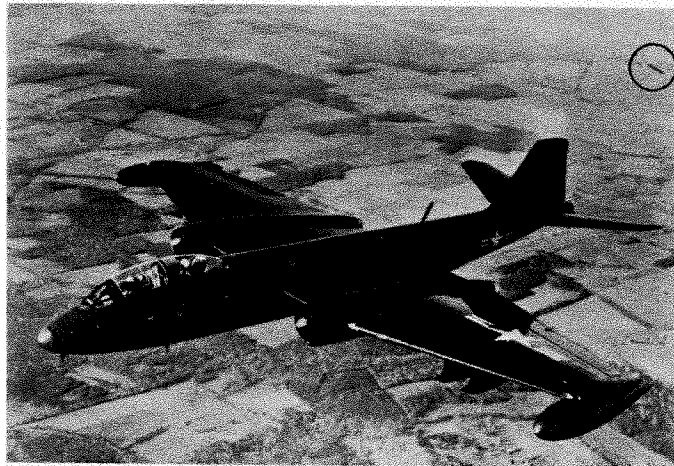
"It stayed there on the left wing no matter what I did," Godfrey later reported, admitting that both he and his copilot were frightened by the

UFO's close proximity. Then it veered away and disappeared.

Whatever it was that Godfrey saw, it made a convert of him. Today he is among the ranks of those who believe that someone, something up there is watching us—and, on occasion, visiting our planet.

The subject of UFOs first came to public attention shortly after World War II, when a great number of sightings were reported from various parts of the United States. The U.S. Air Force maintained a discreet silence but instituted a program called Project Bluebook to study what suddenly had threatened to become a major defense problem. If UFOs could slip through our air defense system, people wondered, then couldn't the Russians?

Officially, the Pentagon would neither admit nor deny the existence of UFOs, and for years the results of



Left: In 1957 the Air Force photographed UFO (circled) trailing one of its bombers. Examination of enlargement (above) revealed only that the mystery object was relatively tiny and in all probability was solid.

Project Bluebook have been kept under tight security. Meanwhile, the number of sightings from various parts of the world continued to increase, and thoughtful people in many countries began asking questions for which there still are no concrete answers.

At the same time what might best be described as a "lunatic fringe" began to pop up. Men and women reported encounters with "flying saucers," "spaceships," and "extra-terrestrial creatures." They claimed that they had met beings from other worlds, that they had traveled in these spaceships upon the invitation of spacemen, who resembled everything from human beings to little green creatures.

All-night radio disc jockeys were the first to lend credence to these stories. Possibly for want of anything better to discuss, they began inviting these flying saucer experts to air their experiences in outer space. These stories of fantasy and fiction took hold, however, and various organizations were formed by people who claimed they had met spacemen. The late George Adamski

became the first of this group to virtually earn a living telling about his experiences with beings from outer space.

People began to write books about similar experiences, and the tales have grown more preposterous with each passing year. Last November an advertisement appeared in one magazine for a book in which the author disclosed that the earth is hollow and that this huge underground world is the "true home of flying saucers." In fact, he writes about a super-race that exists in this world, a world discovered by Adm. Richard E. Byrd during one of his expeditions to the North Pole. The book also states that the news of this discovery was suppressed by the U.S. Government in order to prevent other nations from exploring the inner world and claiming it.

Because of these wild stories, most Americans have never taken UFOs seriously—at least not until reputable scientists began openly discussing the possibilities of life on other planets. New York Times science reporter Walter Sullivan's *We Are Not Alone* caught the nation's fancy with

"SOMEONE UP THERE IS WATCHING US!"

its discussion of the search for "intelligent life on other worlds." About the same time that Sullivan's work appeared, a French astronomer named Jacques Vallee published a book called *Anatomy of a Phenomenon*, which claims that only a lack of authentic research may be at the bottom of inability to place UFOs in perspective. Vallee is a consultant to the U.S. space program, and his book was deemed so important that Rep. Roman C. Pucinski (D., Illinois) inserted references to it in the *Congressional Record*.

Meanwhile a continuing study of UFOs has been conducted by the Washington, D.C., headquarters of a private citizens' group — the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP). Unlike many of the spurious "saucer groups" throughout the nation, NICAP's impressive membership list of prominent scientists, military officers, and business executives has lent credibility to the search for answers to the UFO mystery. For years NICAP officials have been seeking a full-scale Congressional investigation of UFOs to air the facts behind the flying saucer headlines.

Among former members of NICAP's board of directors is Adm. R. H. Hillenkoetter (U.S.N., Ret.), once the director of the Central Intelligence Agency. Admiral Hillenkoetter says that UFOs are not secret U.S. or Soviet devices. The nation's former spy chief further believes that if UFOs are extraterrestrial, then there's nothing to do but wait for them to contact us.

Officially, the U.S. Air Force doesn't believe in UFOs, basing its skepticism on the investigations of more than 9000 reported sightings of UFOs by Project Bluebook, which is charged with analyzing aerial phenomena. "There is nothing to indicate that any of these phenomena are extraterrestrial in nature,"

claims Maj. Hector Quintanilla Jr., a 42-year-old Air Force physicist who is currently in charge of Project Bluebook. Quintanilla admits, however, that there are 663 unsolved cases involving flying saucer sightings for which the Air Force can offer no explanations. NICAP, on the other hand, doesn't accept this official military dismissal of UFOs; the group completely rejects the Air Force officer's claim that none of the sightings "has ever given any indication of being a threat to our national security or of being beyond the range of present-day scientific knowledge or of being extraterrestrial."

Other scientists are less positive than Major Quintanilla. For instance, astronomer Dr. J. Allen Hynek, director of Northwestern University's observatory and former director of Project Bluebook, has admitted that there must be something to the UFO sightings. "The level of intelligence of the observers and reporters of UFOs is certainly at least average and, in many cases, decidedly above average," he said. "In some cases, embarrassingly above average."

Many of this "embarrassingly above average" group of UFO watchers are members of NICAP. They include such men as Albert Chop, a National Aeronautics and Space Administration official at Manned Spacecraft Headquarters in Houston; J. B. Hartranft Jr., head of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association; Rear Adm. H. B. Knowles, (U.S.N., Ret.); Dr. Charles A. Maney, professor emeritus of physics and astronomy, Defiance College, Ohio; Dr. Charles P. Oliver, professor emeritus of astronomy, University of Pennsylvania; and Dewey J. Fournet Jr., a former UFO expert for the Air Force.

NICAP's official position is that the Air Force is censoring news and suppressing facts about UFOs. In

THE SAUCER PSYCHOSIS:

Evidence compiled by the United States Air Force's Project Bluebook in its 18-year history places all Unidentified Flying Objects in one of the following ten categories:

- High-flying balloons.
- High-flying aircraft, illuminated by the sun after it has set.
- Nighttime reflections in the atmosphere of distant light sources on the ground.
- Satellites, both United States and Soviet.
- Meteorites, fireworks, flares, chaff, and pieces of satellite decay.
- Birds.
- The planets Venus and Jupiter or other cosmic bodies.
- Searchlights reflected from cloud layers, etc.
- Jet engine exhausts, condensation trails.
- Hoaxes or mirages.

One of the actual hoaxes that attracted national attention occurred in early July 1953, when a story went out over national press association wires claiming that a "spaceman" from a flying saucer had been run over and killed on a highway in Georgia. A man produced the body of a 21-inch four-pound creature resembling a tiny man.

Subsequent investigation proved that the creature was simply a monkey that had all its hair shaved off and had its tail amputated.

1964, and again last year, the organization tried to launch a Congressional investigation by mailing out copies of a 184-page report entitled "The UFO Evidence" to all Senators and Representatives. This report, which covers approximately 750 UFO sightings, is rather a remarkable document that does much to dispel the notion that UFOs are something to be laughed at. Surveying all the evidence at hand, NICAP concludes that UFOs are real, that they are "most likely spaceships," and that "they appear to be intelligently controlled."

The NICAP survey points out that not all UFOs are shaped like saucers. In 58 per cent of the sightings observers reported seeing a saucer or disk-like shape, with eight per cent reporting a cigar shape and 24 per cent just a bright flash of light. The

cigar-shaped UFOs are the largest, and NICAP suspects that they are "mother ships" that unload the smaller UFOs and then collect them for the ride home.

UFOs are usually silver-colored or white. They rarely make noise. The NICAP report says they move so fast and turn so sharply that apparently their creators have discovered some way to overcome the laws of gravity. After they fly over an area, a gossamer substance called "angel's hair" and resembling a spider web often comes floating down. NICAP has checked into every claim made by those who have said they have been for a ride in a spaceship. None could be verified.

Despite NICAP's heavily documented report and subsequent investigations, the UFO controversy continues. One reason is that the

MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE

The man had perpetrated the hoax in order to win a bet.

Most of the sightings regarded as hoaxes seem to stem from a desire for personal publicity, such as the incident which took place in Florida in March 1965, when a man reported seeing a strange machine and a robotlike man using a flash-type camera. A message purportedly dropped by the stranger was easily translated into English, and no abnormal disturbances were found at the alleged landing site.

The *Saucer News* also reported hoaxes stemming from trickery, such as one in Virginia during January 1965, when a man tricked seven teen-agers into thinking they

had actually seen a little man from outer space.

Another sighting in May 1964 in Lawrence, Massachusetts, could not be verified. But the fact that it happened two days before a scheduled lecture on UFOs by a veteran saucer researcher from New England gave the incident the look of a rigged publicity stunt.

Despite the hoaxes, tricks, and publicity stunts, there remain enough instances of unsolved UFO sightings to give even the Air Force pause. These may well remain unsolved — unless, somehow, consistent clamor roused by the many serious, intelligent people now involved in UFO organizations eventually brings the truth to light.

United States now has a space tracking program capable of picking up virtually every piece of junk orbiting the earth. More than 1100 man-made objects—satellites, spacecraft, capsules, and assorted bits and pieces of them—have been placed in orbit since Russia launched Sputnik I on October 4, 1957. Tabulations prepared by the Goddard Space Flight Center at Greenbelt, Maryland, show that more than 250 of these objects were launched by the United States and its allies and that only about 100 were orbited by the Soviets.

All of this traffic in orbit around the earth has been tracked by the North American Air Defense Command's Space Detection and Tracking System (SPADATS). The question often arises among UFO watchers: What else is SPADATS tracking?

Last August UFOs were sighted by hundreds of thousands of people in eight states. Some of these sightings were made by Air Force radar equipment, and word leaked out to the public, despite regulations about divulging this information. Air Force Regulation 200-2 curtails all news about sightings made by electronic equipment manned by our defense establishment.

Meanwhile, UFO watchers in other countries have formed their own organizations. Strangely enough, news about UFOs occasionally filters through the Iron Curtain, even though the official Communist line is that flying saucers don't exist.

And so it goes. The Air Force says no. NICAP says yes. Meanwhile the only ones who could supply a full answer may be up there watching us and laughing. ■ ■