

## CENTER INVESTIGATORS QUARTERLY NO.3 (DECEMBER, 1977)

The past six months have been very quiet UFO-wise all over the country, and numerous Investigators complained about a lack of work. There are signs, however, that the next six months will be far from quiet. The movie CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE THIRD KIND by Columbia Pictures is getting so much public attention that we may expect a rash of sightings reported to the Center, especially because the posters at the theaters mention the Center as the organization to write to for information, and thousands of flyers with UFO sighting report forms and the Center's address are being handed out at the theaters. Already now in the last week of November we have noticed an increase in our incoming mail and a lot of people refer to the movie and the publicity surrounding it as a reason for writing to the Center.

As has been the policy in the past, we will refer the close encounter cases that are older than one month to our Investigators and undoubtedly some Investigators will be asked by Allan Hendry to assist in the investigation of a current case. To be able to handle the possible flow of cases we want to make the following suggestions:

1. When you hear about a sighting in your area through other sources than the Center, inform us about the fact that you are investigating it, so that we won't refer another case to you at the same time (except when really necessary).
2. When you hear about several sightings in your area at the same time through other sources than the Center, concentrate on the investigation of the most promising ones, like the close encounters and the most recent cases. But be sure to inform us about them.
3. Try to be prompt with your case reports and be sure to prepare them according to the guidelines provided in the first CIQ. This will enable us to enter them quickly in UFOCAT, so that we will have an idea about the scope of the reported cases.

### SIZE OF THE CENTER'S INVESTIGATORS NETWORK

This being the last Center Investigators Quarterly of the year it seems a good opportunity to inform you about the size of the Center's Investigators Network and to point out some of the problems that go along with it. At present the network consists of 86 Investigators, including a number of trainees, people who have applied for a position as Center Investigator and who will first do a few investigations before they will be officially appointed. This is far fewer than the group that was originally on the list of the Center and the reason herefore is that several people did not respond to the April 13 letter by Dr. Hynek in which the re-organization of the Investigators Network was announced, and a few others informed us that they no longer had the time for investigating cases for the Center. The positive difference between the past and present situations is the fact that we are now in regular communication with 99% of our Investigators and that is certainly important.

We realize, however, that we have to expand our network to be able to investigate all the cases that are reported to us and that something has to change with respect to the geographical distribution of our Investigators.

Momentarily there are 18 states without a Center Investigator, while there are, for instance, four investigators in the Columbus, Ohio area. Below you will find a list of the states without a Center Investigator.

Arizona	Hawaii	Kentucky	Mississippi	Oklahoma	Tennessee
Delaware	Idaho	Louisiana	Montana	South Dakota	Vermont
Georgia	Kansas	Maine	North Dakota	Rhode Island	Wyoming

Of course in some of these states, as well as in others, we can rely on the help of MUFON Investigators, but we would prefer to have Center representatives in every state. We also have the problem that there are a few large states with only one or a few Investigators; e.g., Nevada, Nebraska, Utah and Iowa, each only one investigator. We continue to work with MUFON, whose cooperation we value, and the results of our investigations are available to MUFON.

One of the main objectives for next year will be the recruiting of new Center Investigators in these areas, which won't be a very easy task. The main thing is that we do not want to lower the quality of our network by appointing people that are not completely qualified to be a Center Investigator. We prefer to appoint only those people who have been recommended by present Investigators, so that we have some assurance that the person will be able to handle the job well. In those cases where people apply for a position as Investigator by themselves, we arrange for them to get some experience by giving them a few cases to follow up on before we appoint them officially. If possible we arrange it so that an applicant goes along with an already established Investigator, but obviously in the states without a Center Investigator this is not possible. If any of you have any suggestions in this respect, and know of qualified people in one of the states mentioned above, please let us know. We must say, though, that we do not want to entice Investigators from other UFO groups; cooperation and not competition is our aim.

#### RECOMMENDED LITERATURE

In the next CIQ we intend to give a list of recommended literature for several subjects. We are at this moment thinking of works on parapsychology, psychology, hypnosis, physics and astronomy, but maybe some of you have some suggestions of other fields that might be of interest to Investigators. The idea behind this is the fact that the UFO phenomenon and with it the investigation of it, seems to become more and more complicated. Especially abduction cases require often a more than superficial knowledge of such fields as parapsychology and psychology, and with the amount of literature on the market it is hard for the layman to make a choice on what to read to get a better idea of the different subjects. All suggestions for and questions about literature of UFO-related fields are welcome.

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#### INVESTIGATORS QUARTERLY REPORT AND THE NEXT CIQ

Your quarterly report for the period of October-December should be at the Center in the first half of January. You will receive the next Center Investigators Quarterly in the first week of March, 1978.

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