

THE U.F.O. Investigator

FACTS ABOUT UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

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HUGE UFOs REPORTED

Recent sightings of giant UFOs from the Russian astronomical observatory at Kazan have been revealed by a prominent Soviet scientist, Dr. Felix Zigel of the Moscow Aviation Institute. The astronomers at Kazan estimated the unknown crescent-shaped objects to be more than 1600 feet in diameter.

Dr. Zigel, a top-ranking member of the new Soviet Commission for investigating UFOs, has called for a "joint effort of all the scientists of the world" to determine the facts about unidentified flying objects.

"The possibility that UFOs are from another planet merits serious consideration," Dr. Zigel said. His public statement, disclosing the unusual Kazan sightings, was released at Moscow to the foreign press, obviously with official sanction.

From a group of over 200 reports, Dr. Zigel listed several which caused increased interest among Soviet scientists.

"On July 18, September 4, October 18 and other days in 1967, crescent-shaped UFOs were seen, mostly over southern parts of the Soviet Union. Reports ... came from the Mountain Astronomical Station near Kislovodsk and the astronomical observatory in Kazan, as well as from many private individuals."

Dr. Zigel, who lectures on astronomy at the Moscow Planetarium as well as conducting courses on higher mathematics at the Aviation Institute, analyzed the most characteristic sighting as follows:

"A luminous, orange-colored crescent flying with its outward bend forward. Its surface is only a little duller than that of the moon. The horns of the crescent throw out jets, sometimes with sparks." Sometimes, Zigel said, a bright disc preceded by a crescent is observed. And sometimes the crescent is preceded and flanked by objects as bright as first magnitude stars, which keep a constant distance from the crescent.

After the Kazan sightings, the observatory astronomers stated the diameter of the crescents was between 500 and 600 meters (1640 and 1840 feet) and their speed was about five kilometers (3.1 miles) per second, or 11,160 m.p.h.

"The UFO material thus far collected," said Dr. Zigel, "indicates that UFOs are real entities that cannot be identified with any known natural phenomena."

Earlier sightings listed by Zigel include these 1965 and 1966 cases:

At 9:35 p.m., July 26, 1965, Latvian astronomers Jan Melders and Esmeralda Vitolniek observed a large bright disc from an observation station at Ogra, Latvian S.S.R. Viewed through a telescope, the lens-shaped disc was estimated at 100 meters in diameter (about 325 feet). Three rotating balls also were seen around the disc. After 15-20 minutes, the balls and the large disc departed in different directions.

A daytime sighting, on October 20, 1966, was reported by V. I. Duginov, Director of the Kherson Hydrometeorological School. Director Duginov, with some 50 other observers, saw a disc-shaped object "about one-third the sun's diameter" moving eastward.

Radar confirmation of UFO reality was revealed by the head of a Latvian space tracking system, Robert Vitolniek. In the newspaper *Sovetskaya Latvia*, the tracking station chief reportedly said that UFOs are solid bodies which "generally appeared on radar screens as perfect circles and could not be artificial satellites or meteorological equipment."

Stressing that the UFO problem is global and therefore calls for global research, Dr. Zigel said such an organized study could make it possible to determine whether the objects are of protoplasmic origin or come from another planet.

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SURPRISE WARNING

In a courageous new declaration, Dr. J. Allen Hynek—AF Chief Scientific Consultant on UFOs—has made this surprising disclosure:

If the Colorado Project's conclusion is completely negative—denying UFO reality—he will "take the wraps off" his personal files of good unexplained cases and make them public.

If Hynek took this drastic step it would certainly be a bombshell. He has already revealed that he has over 1,000 cases he considers completely unresolved—a large number from impressive sources. (See previous issue, p. 2.) Publicly releasing all this unexplained evidence would have a tremendous impact for several reasons:

1. Dr. Hynek is a noted astrophysicist, Director of Dearborn Observatory. As the AF Chief Consultant for 18 years, he has had the longest experience in UFO evaluations of any scientist in the world.

2. He was an absolute and avowed skeptic. Revealing the mass of evidence which gradually changed his mind would have a powerful effect on the press and public, and probably many scientists.

3. The courage required to oppose the official debunking-and-denial policy would arouse public admiration and wide support.

Dr. Hynek's surprising declaration was made during a conversation with a Richmond News Leader reporter, during a January visit for a lecture. The reporter quickly relayed the information in time to make this issue.

"Perfect Case"

In a second surprise, Dr. Hynek also told the reporter he was working on a "perfect case" and was well along toward confirming it. He described a perfect case as one involving a photograph (or more than one) with the camera and film received intact, the picture(s) taken by a qualified photographer of impressive reputation, and the supporting testimony of at least two responsible witnesses. The AF consultant said he already has the first two elements and needs only the supporting testimony.

If Dr. Hynek does complete a "perfect case" and reveal it to the public, the AF project, in line with official policy, would presumably try to tear it down, instead of making an all-out scientific evaluation. If the case were strong enough to withstand attacks, however, it could force an explosive policy change.

In his discussion with the News-Leader reporter, the astrophysicist made no attempt to play down his former skepticism.

"At first," he said, "without any question at all I thought it was stuff and nonsense. But not any more. You could say my position ... (has changed) to taking the problem seriously."

Dr. Hynek did not hesitate to criticize present and past official investigations.

"There's not really even one case that's been given the full 'FBI treatment,'" he stated. "We haven't even given UFOs a good look ... The Air Force doesn't even have a cross-indexing system. All of this UFO material should go into electronic computers, and then correlation studies should be done on the sightings."

(On January 9, before his disclosures at Richmond, Dr. Hynek told an audience at Lycoming College, Pa., that the United Nations should establish a system through which "countries could compare and coordinate their UFO investigations and profit from each other's discoveries.")

Undoubtedly, the scientist's declaration about the Colorado Project will be interpreted by some as a deliberate warning. But it does not appear to have been an attempt to influence Dr. Condon or others on the project, since it was a spontaneous answer to a

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THE **UFO INVESTIGATOR**

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THE BIG YEAR

The year 1968 will bring some momentous developments in the UFO situation, judging from all that has happened in the last few months and certain crucial plans of which we have been confidentially informed.

To help speed these expected developments, NICAP is concentrating on several steps, including:

1. A drive to secure important "hidden" sightings, withheld because of pressure or from fear of ridicule. We know of several highly significant cases which would undoubtedly convince many skeptics if the impressive witnesses involved would only make their reports public.

2. Better utilization of our scientific and technical advisers and consultants, to search out patterns, unrealized clues, and to aid in evaluation of various reported phases of UFO operations. Shortage of help has kept us from using the services of these experts to the best advantage, but we are setting up a new program to secure the opinions and suggestions of these talented advisers, whose knowledge and experience covers practically every field linked with UFO investigations.

New Discussions

3. Mailing of the UFO Investigator on regular schedule, to inform our members and the press of the latest important incidents, so as to increase public acceptance of verified UFO evidence. (Our catch-up program is almost completed — the next issue, to be mailed the latter part of February, will finally put us on schedule, and thereafter the issues will be mailed bimonthly. For example, Vol. IV, No. 5, the March-April issue, will be sent to the printer the latter part of March, to be mailed in early April. During 1968, and later, issues will carry, besides new sightings and news of developments, discussions and "educated speculation" by respected authorities. Such speculation will be predicated on a basis of "IF the UFOs are real and intelligently controlled," and will cover such aspects as possible sources, possible communications, suggested types of extraterrestrial life, possible motives, impacts on our civilization, etc.

4. Speeding up of Volume II, THE UFO EVIDENCE, which is certain to have a powerful influence on the press and public, bringing up to date the most important evidence and crucial developments. (If we can secure at least one more full-time writer, we may be able to publish this vital new NICAP report in late spring. It is extremely important that it not be delayed any more than necessary.)

5. Carefully planned NICAP publicity, through the Investigator, special news releases, and broadcasts and lectures by NICAP Board and staff members and designated Subcommittee and Affiliate officials. This program will include the preparation of special visual material — sketches and slides for television use, news conferences, publication with NICAP-authorized magazine articles and special newspaper features, and at NICAP lectures. This visual material will be based on fully verified UFO reports investigated by NICAP, and will be prepared by professional artist members who have volunteered their services and who will work from detailed, confirmed reports.

6. A complete analysis of the contactee-reports problem, covering both hoaxes and claims unresolved so far, as well as any erroneous reports not known to be deliberate frauds or practical

jokes. The purposes of this analysis are: A. To prove that NICAP has investigated many of these reports --- instead of rejecting them outright, as contactees and their supporters often charge; B. To prove the damage to serious investigation caused by the preponderance of false contactee claims; C. To work out a standard method for NICAP checking and reporting on such claims. (TO DATE, WE HAVE NOT FOUND PROOF OF ANY CONTACTEE CLAIMS. THIS DOES NOT MEAN ACTUAL CONTACTS CANNOT OCCUR, AND IF ANY SUCH CLAIMS SHOULD BE PROVED TRUE, NICAP WILL PUBLICLY RELEASE ITS INVESTIGATION REPORTS. D. To preserve NICAP's hard-won reputation for careful UFO research, by insisting on factual evidence — whether in ordinary sighting cases or contactee claims.

Some of the above-stated goals will be discussed more fully in the next issue, including a careful examination of the contactee and "occupants" report problems.

HYNEK (Continued from page 1)

question by the Richmond newsman. However, the significance of his words cannot be minimized. Dr. Hynek urged and publicly endorsed the creation of the project. It now seems obvious that, knowing the extent of the massive, impressive evidence, he did not believe a completely negative conclusion—brushing off all the reports—would be possible. This expectation may still prove correct. Whether it does or not, Dr. Hynek is to be commended for the forthright statement of his deep convictions.

Some may still blame him for the role he played in helping the AF debunk the UFO reports. But far more important is his ability to change after years of skepticism—and, unavoidably, official pressure. He did not, like some others, keep a closed mind.

The higher officials who set the debunking policy now are faced with a hard decision: Shall they keep Dr. Hynek as the Chief UFO Consultant, or fire him for daring to speak his mind—and face a public barrage.

Regardless, Dr. Hynek has emerged as a man of stature. If he continues on this road, he will be hailed as a courageous fighter for the truth.

People Didn't Believe Us

The Air Force has admitted to Congress that many of the public do not believe its denial of UFO reality. This point came out in a House Appropriations Committee hearing on special AF studies for the fiscal year of 1967. Following is an excerpt labeled "Flying Saucers Study," which contains questions by Rep. Robert L. F. Sikes (D. Fla.) and Maj. Gen. Duward Crow, AF Budget Director.

Mr. Sikes. Where is the contract with the University of Colorado to study flying saucers being funded?

General Crow. That is in the R.D.T. & E. appropriation. I believe the amount for that is about \$300,000. (Since increased to about \$530,000.)

Mr. Sikes. I thought the Air Force had already decided there was nothing to flying saucers.

General Crow. Yes, sir, but a lot of people didn't believe us.

Mr. Sikes. Have you changed your opinion?

General Crow. No, sir. There are, however, some unexplained phenomena.

Mr. Sikes. Is it worth \$300,000 to find out if you were right?

General Crow. We were encouraged in this effort by a number of congressional inquiries, including a review by one congressional committee, sir. There is widespread interest, both in the Congress and in the Nation as a whole.

NICAP Membership NOT Closed

We have recently learned that many people believe NICAP consists only of the Board of Governors, the staff, field investigators and scientific and technical advisers and is not open to the general public.

While we do have a large number of advisers whose knowledge makes them invaluable in UFO investigations and evaluations, NICAP membership is open to anyone except subversives seeking to overthrow the U.S. Government and individuals and groups attempting to bolster false reports by falsely claiming NICAP support and approval.

HUGE UFOs (Continued from page 1)

"International scientific cooperation in the solution of this problem would long have become a reality had not sensationalism and irresponsible antiscientific assertions as regards the 'flying saucers' interfered with it. . . . Unfortunately, certain scientists both in the Soviet Union and the U.S. deny the very existence of the problem instead of trying to help solve it."

The USSR UFO Commission member said he has "profound respect" for such scientists as Drs. James E. McDonald, and J. Allen Hynek who are trying to attract public attention to the serious nature of the problem.

NICAP: Many U.S. scientists, though not believers in Communism, have high respect for distinguished colleagues in the USSR. These forthright disclosures by Dr. Zigel may have a helpful effect on some scientists who have refused to evaluate or even consider the verified UFO evidence.

British Jet Crew Spots UFO

A British jetliner crew, flying in clear skies over Italy on Nov. 15, 1967, watched an aluminum-colored, delta-shaped craft for 10 minutes.

Capt. H. Warburton-Gaskell, pilot of a British European Airways Comet airliner, was interviewed at London Airport by NICAP Investigator Julian Hennessey. He described spotting the UFO at 3:30 p.m. local time, while flying 500 mph at 27,000 feet over Florence, Italy, on a flight from London to Athens, Greece. The pilot described himself as "one who has always been skeptical of similar reports from others."

Capt. Gaskell said the object, when first seen, resembled a bright planet and was about 45° above the horizon. It took minutes, during which time the Comet flew more than 80 miles, to catch up with the UFO.

The object was a slender delta with a notch in the shortest side. It was the color of aluminum foil, very bright and free of shadows or details.

While the UFO's altitude was impossible to estimate, Capt. Gaskell said aircraft at 30,000 feet were leaving vapor trails, but the strange device was not. He got the impression that the UFO may have descended while under observation, though this could not be verified. The object finally disappeared overhead.

This report was initially reported through BEA channels to the Volunteer Flight Officer Network (VFON) operated by Herb Roth, of NICAP's Denver, Colo., Subcommittee. VFON rules require keeping names of airlines and witnesses confidential, but NICAP was able to obtain permission from Captain Gaskell to release all details of the case.

Canadian Northwest Sighting

On the same date as the British airline case, a spherical object glowing blue-green was sighted by an airport weather observer at Fort Simpson, N.W. Territories, Canada. The UFO's maneuvers included 90-degree turns and variations in speed, during the 30-second observation. The witness said he had never seen anything like the UFO. (Signed report at NICAP; observer asked name to be withheld.)

Iron Curtain Sighting

A Nov. 21, 1967 sighting over Sofia, Bulgaria, is one of the most detailed reports received since Iron Curtain countries recently began publicizing UFOs. About 5:10 p.m., a large unknown flying object appeared at a high altitude over the city. The UFO moved slowly, emitting a pale blue light. At first it looked like a large ball, larger than the sun. After several minutes, as it stopped directly over Sofia, it seemed to change temporarily to a trapezoid shape. (Several such reports have been made in the last year or so.) Then the flowing object resumed its round shape, resembling—according to an authorized account—an open parachute or a balloon.

Over the top a green light was visible in the shape of an arch, the glow creating a greenish halo with "sharp, fiery ribbons." After sunset, the UFO began to glow with a silvery-blue color, next an orange hue, before it "disappeared over the horizon in a red cloud."

Except for statements by highly-placed Bulgarian scientists, this unknown object might reasonably be considered a balloon at a great height, reflecting various colors of the sunset even though to observers on the ground no sunset was available.

But the scientists' statements rule out this possibility:

Dr. D. Simelczijew, Institute of Hydrology and Meteorology: "The appearance of the unidentified flying object was very interesting. It is difficult to say what it was, but we managed to confirm one very important thing. This object was moving against the wind—so it means it had its own power. The other unusual thing was that its presence did not upset our radio stations or television."

Not an Earth Satellite

Dr. B. Kowaczew, Scientific Secretary of the Astronomy Section of the Bulgarian Academy of Science: "I can assure that the unidentified flying object seen over Sofia was not any kind of earth satellite. It was moving much faster than a satellite and was emitting much stronger light. Changes of color seen in the object could be explained by the rays of the setting sun."

These are surprising and significant admissions for scientists of Iron Curtain nations. The first statement makes it plain that UFOs are known to have interfered with broadcasts in Bulgaria. And both statements rule out the conventional explanations so frequently issued in the United States.

If this policy is continued, it could have a powerful impact—not only in releasing important sighting details but also in its effect on those American scientists who refuse even to examine verified evidence by competent witnesses.

As a matter of special interest, news stories on this incident appeared not only in Bulgaria but in Poland (Nov. 23, 1967 issue of the "Dziennik Lodski") and possibly other Iron Curtain countries.

NICAP is grateful to our senior European representative, Julian Hennessey, who forwarded a translation of the Sofia report.

PHENOMENA CENTER OPENED

What may ultimately prove to be the prototype of a rapid-response UFO report center has been established at the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Called the Center for the Study of Short-Lived Natural Phenomena, the new facility is set up to receive reports of natural events whose rarity is such that they "might go unobserved or uninvestigated" if the Center were not in existence. On reviewing reports, the Center decides whether an immediate follow-up is required, and alerts scientists to take whatever steps seem appropriate.

Because of the variety of interesting reports of natural phenomena that come to NICAP's attention, NICAP is considering inviting scientists from the Center to visit NICAP and examine some of the cases on file. Such phenomena as fireballs, meteors and unusual clouds are reported to NICAP every month, and there may be considerable material of potential value to the scientific community in our records.

If government and industry some day take the initiative in UFO research and establish a high-level, strongly supported program of genuine investigation, a major center for quick receipt of sighting reports may be created. In such event, the Smithsonian Center could well be a useful precedent to pattern for the UFO center, and the experience gained by the Smithsonian scientists could be drawn upon by the personnel at the UFO operation. It is even possible that the Smithsonian Institution could be asked to help run the UFO center.

Persian Physicist Has UFO Theory

Possible contamination of other planets from our atomic and space experiments may be the main concern of UFO inhabitants, suggests Dr. Hashtrudi, a University of Tehran physical science professor, in a Spring 1967 edition of the Tehran Journal.

"In a world where disease virus has been destroyed," Dr. Hashtrudi stated, "it would not be permissible for the people of that planet to accept the calamities of another planet. Without a doubt this is their very concern and if there is an earthly space craft in flight with the means and possibility of such contamination they would destroy it."

The Tehran professor also said that "the probabilities are very great that the UFOs . . . are space craft dispatched to earth from inhabitants of a planet far from earth and well advanced and much more ancient than our own."

IMPORTANT NEW DETAILS ON FLYING CROSS

The British "flying cross" sighting, reported briefly in the last issue (IV-3), has assumed new significance because of the extensive aviation background of the observer and new details he has now supplied.

The witness in the "flying cross" case was Mr. Angus Brooks, for years a flying officer of the British Overseas Airline Corporation. In World War II, Mr. Brooks was a military photographic interpreter. Prior to this, he attended art school, acquiring experience which fortunately enabled him to make several precise sketches of the strange-looking device, as shown below.

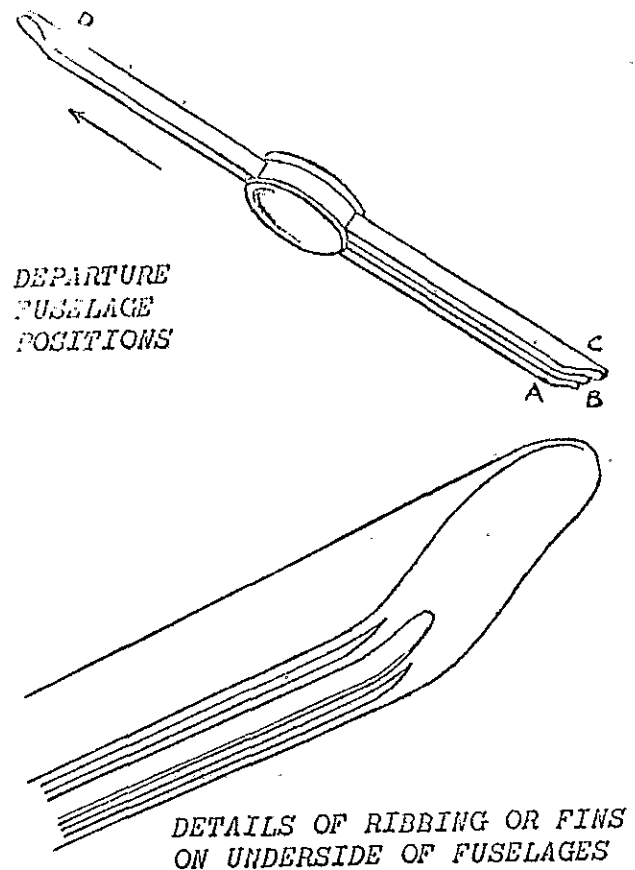
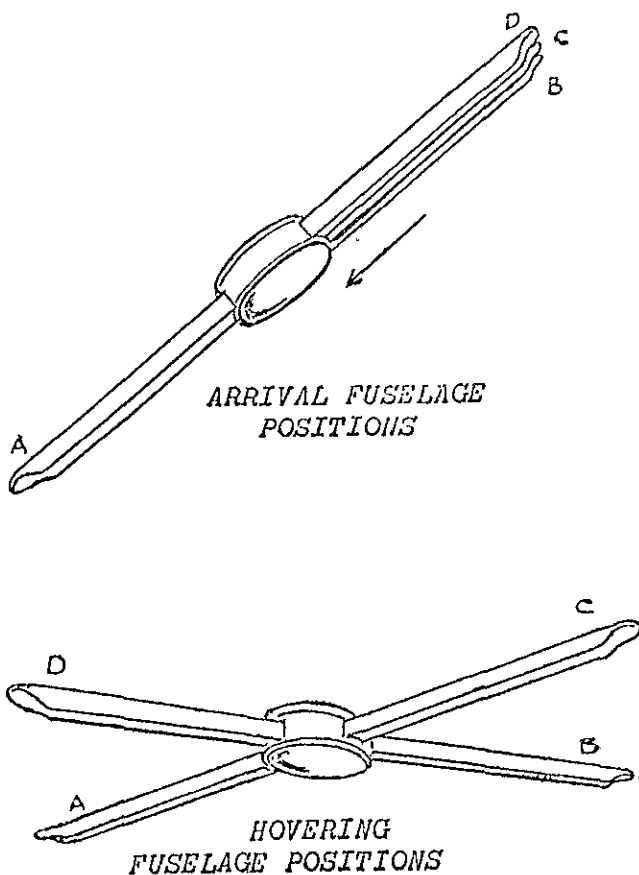
The flying-cross sighting occurred on Oct. 26, 1967. It was a clear, sunny day, and Mr. Brooks was walking near the south coast of England, accompanied by his two dogs. The aviation expert noticed a vapor trail high in the sky. The trail vanished and a strange-looking craft appeared from the same area, descending at great speed until it was 200-300 feet above the ground and approximately one-fourth of a mile distant.

observed at any time of the operators—no portholes or crew viewing windcreens at nose of fuselages. The nose cones of the fuselages were the reverse to our conventional types—the groove fins along the bases of the fuselages did not open or close."

The scene of the sighting was equidistant between Winfrith Atomic Station and the Portland Underwater Defence Station, and about a mile from a U.S. Air Force Communications Unit at Ringstead Bay.

During the UFO's descent and the period of hovering, Mr. Brooks' two dogs were extremely agitated. The "flying cross" UFO hovered in the same position for 22 minutes before it prepared to take off.

"Two of the fuselages moved around to line up with a centre third," reported Mr. Brooks, "and the 'craft' climbed with speed increasing . . . The lead fuselage on departure was a different one to the arrival 'lead.'"



Mr. Brooks' description was as follows:

"The shape of the 'craft' prior to levelling out to 'hover' position was of a central circular chamber (estimated 25 feet in diameter, 12 feet high) with a leading fuselage in the front and three separate fuselages together at the rear. (Each of the four was 75 feet long, 7 feet high, 8 feet wide.)

"On slowing to hover position, the two outer fuselages at the rear moved to position at side of craft to form four fuselages at equidistant position around the centre chamber. There were no visible power units and no noise of applied power for reverse thrust, movement of fuselages or for 'hovering.' On attaining 'hover,' the 'craft' rotated 90 degrees clockwise and then remained motionless, unaffected by very strong wind.

"From my position, the 'craft's' construction was of a translucent material—the colour of the 'craft' took on the colour of the sky above it and changed with clouds passing over it. There could have been a clear material at the top of fuselages and centre chamber. There were dark centre shadows along the bases of the fuselages and centre chamber. No movement was

(The report stated that one of the dogs, a large Alsatian, died a few weeks later, but there was no implication that this was connected with the UFO.)

Since the British Royal Observatory is investigating UFO reports, probably it will thoroughly evaluate this unusual case. We shall attempt to secure their evaluation through Mr. Julian Hennessey, NICAP's special investigator in England, who secured the original report from Mr. Brooks, at Owermoigne, Dorset.

As stated in the previous issue, five other "flying cross" UFOs were sighted over the British Isles in October, 1967. Over a period of years, there have been a few similar reports mostly without details or unconfirmed, and usually put down as errors or optical illusions.

But the six cases in October revived the question, and now with this detailed report from an unusually experienced and reputable observer, it appears that "flying cross" UFOs actually exist.

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THE COLORADO PROJECT REPORT

Although we have heard from Dr. Edward Condon and Mr. Robert Low of the Colorado UFO Project, we have not yet received answers to most of the questions submitted last fall.

Our main purpose was to learn to what extent NICAP evidence provided to the project had been actually investigated—numerous reports by scientists, commercial and military pilots, astronomers, military and civil control tower operators and radar experts, rocket and satellite trackers, and other competent and reputable sources.

Apparently it was felt that replying to some of these questions might be considered as giving advance information on the project's final conclusion. In order to remove any such feeling we are re-writing these questions regarding NICAP's submitted evidence, eliminating or rewording queries which might be so misconstrued.

We are reliably informed that only a few of these NICAP cases have actually been checked, so that over 95% are merely listed by the project. It is our opinion that NICAP has the right to know which reports have been actually investigated, though we do not ask the Project conclusions in these cases.

A second group of questions involved newspaper statements quoting Dr. Condon, indicating that he considered the UFO reports to be mainly nonsense and many of them from irresponsible sources. In one earlier instance, Dr. Condon informed us he had been misquoted, and our queries regarding more recent newspaper interviews were meant to clarify this situation.

Our questions to Project Administrator Low concerned several of his statements at a NICAP conference last October, involving Mr. Low, the director, and Assistant Director Gordon Lore, in regard to the impartiality of the University of Colorado UFO investigation sponsored by the Air Force.

As Dr. Condon and Mr. Low have fully agreed, NICAP was of valuable assistance in getting the project started and has since cooperated in field investigations and in other ways, to help fulfill the stated purpose of an impartial scientific probe.

We earnestly hope that our revised questions can be satisfactorily answered, even if not for publication in the Investigator as first expected, so that we may continue our cooperation to help insure a complete and impartial investigation.

FLYING CROSS (Continued from page 4)

From an aerodynamic standpoint, it would not be difficult to construct a craft such as the aviation expert describes. We already have aircraft with movable wings which can be swung back toward the fuselage to decrease air resistance and thus increase speed. The movable sections described by Mr. Brooks, however, do not appear to have this primary purpose, since they remained extended while the craft hovered.

Any discussion of the purpose must be pure guesswork. We might speculate that the movable sections, or "fuselages" as Mr. Brooks terms them, contained unusual observational equipment. It might be designed to secure scientific information about the atomic station; it could be photographic equipment, or electronic devices to monitor or record communications. Or there could be some motive beyond our present understanding.

Regardless, we shall now carefully reexamine recent and earlier "flying cross" reports for clues to the purpose and operation of this unusual type of UFO. If any members know of such reports, new or old, we shall appreciate receiving the information.

We are indebted to Mr. Hennessey for his prompt and efficient investigation of this sighting, as well as other important reports from the British Isles and also the European continent.

TALKS SCHEDULED

Assistant Director Gordon Lore has scheduled talks before two high-powered scientific and business groups in widely scattered sections of the country.

On March 16, Mr. Lore will participate in a debate sponsored by the Phoenix (Arizona) Executive Club. It is hoped that Dr. James E. McDonald will join him on the positive side. Two scientists will argue the negative position.

Sometime in May, Mr. Lore will speak before approximately 1,500 members of the Society of Automotive Engineers, National Business Aircraft Conference, in Wichita, Kansas.

Scientists Rebuff UFO Skeptic

An insistent opponent of UFO investigations, Professor William Markowitz, Marquette University, has been sharply criticized by several scientists who have studied the problem of Unidentified Flying Objects.

Prof. Markowitz' skeptical views were made known in the Sept. 15, 1967 issue of Science Magazine, the weekly publication for the American Association for the Advancement of Science. The first group of letters to the editor, including rebuttals by four scientists, appeared in the Dec. 8 issue. All the writers were unanimously opposed to Markowitz' claims and reasoning.

Posing the question of "whether objects seen were under extraterrestrial control," the Marquette physics professor said this was impossible.

"I agree that unidentified objects exist," he stated, and he did not try to explain them away. His primary claim was that the extraterrestrial explanation violated the laws of physics. After discussing the possible use of large rockets, and what he called the lack of evidence of communications, extraterrestrial visitors, the absence of (spacecraft) wreckage and what he termed lack of interest by the scientific press, he concluded:

"(1) The control of reported UFOs by extraterrestrial beings is contrary to the laws of physics. (2) The data published do not justify the holding of investigations."

The Rebuttals

The reactions:

William Powers, Northwestern University, associate of Dr. J. A. Hynek, Chief AF Consultant on UFOs: "His entire argument against the possibility of extraterrestrial control of UFOs rests on theoretical grounds, and bears no relationship to the contents of UFO reports. Markowitz has proven only that his own design does not explain reports of takeoffs or landings."

Jacques Vallee, Northwestern University, author of "Anatomy of a Phenomenon" (UFOs): ". . . he is deliberately selecting borderline cases in an effort to cast doubts on the validity of current official and private attempts at systematic data-gathering. . . . Markowitz is guided by one and only one idea: that one may not consider the 'intelligent control' hypothesis unless one is willing to abandon the rational processes upon which science is based. It is a disturbing fact that such grossly irrational arguments should still enjoy popularity in the scientific world . . ."

Richard Rosa, Avco Everett Research Laboratory: ". . . I find his arguments unconvincing. (1) I must agree that a satisfactory interstellar propulsion system is quite beyond the capability of our present technology. But his arguments in no way prove or imply that it is beyond someone else's—or even beyond what we will have 100 years from now."

Thomas Gibb, Jr., Tufts University Department of Chemistry: ". . . If scientists avoided topics which involve possible violations of the inviolable laws of physics we should have unsung memorabilia like (this): 'Marie, this phosphorescence violates the First Law; let's study berium sulfate instead.'". . . "I doubt very much that UFOs are under extraterrestrial control, but if they were so controlled I am sure we primitive bipeds could prove the contrary by citing our laws of physics."

Philip Steffey, Santa Monica, Calif. "The evidence against UFOs as space vehicles, based on Simon Newcomb's recent (1895) proof that an intra-Mercury planet cannot exist, is as convincing as Newcomb's demonstration, following accepted physical laws, that aircraft cannot fly . . ."

Isabel Garcia, Flushing, N.Y. "While reading Markowitz' article, I could not help thinking about some words I believe were written by Isaac Asimov: that when a respected scientist said something was probable, he was probably right, and if he said that something was impossible, he was probably wrong."

The opening of the pages of Science Magazine to discussion of Unidentified Flying Objects is the latest scientific recognition of UFOs as a serious problem. Because of the publication's high standing in the scientific community, this step could have major long-range significance.

LATE 1967 SIGHTINGS

Sighting reports for the last two months of 1967 are still pouring into the NICAP office. Following is a cross-section of cases, some still to be investigated and evaluated.

On Nov. 29, a brief UFO landing was reported by Mr. Percy McBride, Yarmouth, Nova Scotia. According to the witness, a flying object the size of a car descended from the sky about 2 a.m., landing in a clearing in some woods. The UFO was described as having a round back, a pointed (front?) end, and several lights. While on the ground, it emitted a noise like "five or six radios on full blast," McBride stated. One unusual angle reported was the UFO's quiet take-off, despite a discharge of flame.

Two U.S. private pilots driving near Clinton, Michigan, Dec. 14, had a close-approach night encounter with a delta (triangular) shaped device. The observers, Kenneth Kennedy, Marshall, Mich., and his son David Kennedy, Adrian, Mich., were traveling on Route 12 southwest of Ann Arbor when the UFO appeared. After hovering briefly, the object approached the witnesses at a low altitude. Then as it came overhead it changed course and moved off at high speed. Duration of the encounter, at 11:30 EST, was three minutes.

The Spheres Sequence

That same night, an hour and a half later, a similar close approach in Michigan involved three other motorists—Randall Baribeau, Henry Carrier and Alfred Leavitt, all residents of Saxon, Wisc. Headed for Saxon, the men were driving on Route 2 near the western tip of Michigan's Upper Peninsula, when they saw a spherical spinning object. The UFO was made visible by a white light on top and bottom and red and green lights around the middle.

As in the Clinton case, the object also approached the witnesses' car at low altitude, then stopped and hovered over a nearby field. During this phase, a peculiar operation took place.

While hovering, the UFO discharged from the bottom a smaller sphere that quickly emitted a still smaller round object. This in turn released another sphere which discharged a fourth. After holding position briefly near the big sphere, the four smaller ones reversed the discharging operation, each re-entering the next larger. The combined unit was then withdrawn into the main UFO, which swiftly went out of sight.

Airline Manager's Sightings

On Dec. 18, Michigan's western Upper Peninsula was again the scene of a UFO incident. The sighting took place at Ironwood, at 6:06 p.m., when four amber-lighted objects were seen by Gordon Holemo, manager of the North Central Airlines office at Ironwood Airport. The brightly lighted UFOs hovered in the sky about three minutes before they disappeared.

One of the first 1968 reports to be investigated by NICAP came from Hubert Coffman and Daniel Leonard, Exeter, Calif., southeast of Fresno. On Jan. 10, the witnesses stated, they saw a tremendous conical object, gray and apparently metallic, emerge from a cloud in the northwest sky. It had a wide base and a flat top. What appeared to be three square ports were visible in the lower portion. The top half was revolving, and a pulsating glow could be seen underneath the object.

Traveling at extremely high speed, the UFO was said to have flown across the sky in three seconds, passing through a second cloud and then disappearing in a third. Coffman was interviewed by a NICAP member and an Exeter policeman; both agreed he is an intelligent observer and seems to be a reliable witness.

NICAP STAFF MEMBER BOOKS

Both the NICAP Assistant Director Gordon Lore and former Assistant Director Richard Hall have written UFO books.

The title of the historical survey book by Mr. Lore and former staff member, Harold H. Deneault, Jr., has been changed to *Mysteries of the Skies; UFOs in Perspective*, and will be published by Prentice-Hall, Inc., Englewood Cliffs, N.J. in May or June. Advanced orders may be placed through the publisher.

Mr. Hall's book, co-authored with a late Board member, Professor Charles Maney, was privately printed in 1961. Entitled *Challenge of Unidentified Flying Objects*, the work may be purchased for \$3.00 from Donald Berliner, 2820 Shipley Terrace, S.E., Washington, D.C.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

For the benefit of newer members, we are indicating the backgrounds of the NICAP Board of Governors members:

Dr. Marcus Bach; Formerly head of the State Univ. of Iowa School of Religion. Author & playwright, member American Academy of Political & Social Sciences. PhD University of Iowa.

Rev. Albert H. Baller; Congregational Minister, Clinton, Mass. Author of children's books, graduate Nebraska Wesleyan Univ. & Boston University School of Theology.

Col. J. Bryan III, USAFR (Ret.) Writer & author, Richmond, Va. Former special asst. to Secretary of Air Force (1952-53), assigned to staff of Gen. Lauris Norstad, NATO (1959), editorial staff of national magazines.

Col. Robert Emerson, USAR; Research chemist, Emerson Testing Lab., Baton Rouge, La. Member American Chemical Society Speaker's Bureau, graduate Chemical Warfare School Edgewood Arsenal, General Staff College (Ft. Leavenworth), & other military schools.

Mr. Dewey J. Fournet; former major, USAF (Intelligence); former AFHQ Monitor of official UFO program; now a business analyst for a national corporation; Baton Rouge, La.

Mr. J. B. Hartranft, Jr.; President, Aircraft Owners & Pilots Assoc., Wash., D.C. Former Army Air Corps Lt. Col., founder of U.S. Air Guard (now Civil Air Patrol), graduate University of Penna.

Dr. Leslie K. Kaeburn; Emeritus Prof. of Medicine, Biophysicist, Univ. of Southern California. PhD (Engineering Physics), Univ. of London. Fellow, Institute of Physics & Physical Society of London. Research & consultant in bio-medical electronics.

Rear Adm. H. B. Knowles, USN (Ret.); Eliot, Maine. Veteran of both World War I & World War II. Held important submarine commands. Graduate U.S. Naval Academy. Connected with the investigation and study of UFOs for 15 years.

Dr. Charles P. Olivier; President, American Meteor Society, Narbeth, Pa. Prof. Emeritus of Astronomy, Univ. of Penna. Former Director of Flower & Cook Observatory. Contributor to Encyclopedia Britannica & Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory reports on meteors.

Dr. Bruce A. Rogers; Emeritus Prof. of Mechanical Engineering, A & M College of Texas. PhD (Physics & Metallurgy), Harvard Univ.; M.S. (Physics), Univ. of Chicago. Member, American Nuclear Society; American Institute of Mining, Metallurgy, & Petroleum Engineering; & Electrochemical Society.

THE COLORADO PROJECT REPORT

The final report on the University of Colorado's UFO investigation probably will not be made public before Christmas, according to a highly-placed source on the project.

The report may be 1,000 pages or longer, and will be composed of individual chapters contributed by project staff members, NICAP was told recently. It will include a computer study of about 10,000 cases.

A case book, consisting of 40 or 50 outstanding unexplained cases, analyzed in great detail, may be included as an appendix.

Some of the chapters are to be completed in April, with all them scheduled to be finished by June. Project Coordinator Robert Low will spend the summer assembling the separate chapters into a single report, after which the material will be studied by Dr. Condon, who will add his views and conclusions.

The completed report will be sent to the National Academy of Sciences, where a special committee will review its methodology and forward it to the USAF's Office of Scientific Research. It is not known how or when the Air Force will release the report as no date was set in the contract, and if the AF desires to delay publication into 1969 it apparently has the power to do so.

We are very grateful for the beautiful Christmas cards and New Year's greetings we received from many of our members. We only wish we could thank each of you personally for remembering us. We hope that 1968 will be a happy and prosperous year for all our members.

NICAP EVIDENCE CONVINCES SKEPTIC

A former skeptic now believes that UFOs are real after a visit to NICAP headquarters. In a Canadian magazine article entitled "At last: A Scientific Look at Those Messengers from Outer Space," Guy Simser, administrative staff member at Ottawa's Carleton University, stated:

"... a recent trip to... the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena... has brought a change in my attitude." (May 1967 edition of "The Commentator," a Toronto publication.)

NICAP, he says, over the years, has pushed "government officials, Congressmen and the public toward a non-Air Force, scientific study of the UFO sightings." This, he added, "is an impressive record of patience," particularly in regard to the struggle NICAP has had in attaining recognition of UFOs over the years.

Admitting to a high degree of skepticism before his NICAP visit, Mr. Simser says he had always "attributed the sightings to the whim of crackpots and to hallucinations." Now, however, the impressive evidence in the NICAP files and the work being done by the Colorado project has forced him to take another look.

"The NICAP people never fail to try to be fair and scientific," the author concludes. "This is shown by the caution and the qualifications used in discussing sightings and conclusions. On the whole, NICAP gives the impression of being composed of serious and sincere people upset by both the unexplained sightings and the government handling of the matter over the past 15 to 20 years.

"It is for this reason, then, that I am no longer a skeptic..."

CAMBRIDGE GROUP ASSISTS NICAP

A UFO fact-finding group at Cambridge University, England, has warned us that the name "NICAP" has been misused to bolster the standing of a British cultist organization. The following letter was received from the Cambridge University Group for the Investigation of Unidentified Flying Objects:

"It has just come to our notice that what was once the 'Midland Interplanetary Association' has taken up the name NICAP-GB (Great Britain), claiming to have your committee's approval. I can only conclude that this was done without your knowledge, especially since this body has already changed its name once before to 'British Interplanetary Association,' hoping to gain reflected glory from the highly respected British Interplanetary Society.

"This body has no claim at all to be capable of serious investigation nor to be competent to evaluate UFO reports critically, and in its espousment of cultist causes and its foolish attempts at publicity it can do your committee's reputation nothing but harm. Our investigation group in this university, in common with other serious groups in this country, would be grateful if you would officially deny any connection with "NICAP-GB."

The letter was signed by Mr. A. C. H. Durham, secretary of the Cambridge group. In our reply to Mr. Durham, we stated:

"We are grateful for calling this to our attention... We have given no such approval... and any claims to the contrary are utterly false."

We are asking the Cambridge group for details on their investigations and we hope to be able to report on their activities and findings in a future issue.

Office News

Offers of information and private briefings were sent to all members of the House Committee on Science and Astronautics, following the formal recommendation by Rep. Wyman (R., N.H.) that the Committee conduct a full investigation of UFOs.

John Meloney, N. H. #1 Subcommittee Chairman, has paid Headquarters another visit.

One of the several newly approved Subcommittee Chairmen, Robert Edwards, of Texas Subcommittee #2, visited Headquarters in October to have his first look at NICAP's offices and to discuss plans for bringing his investigative group to the public's attention in Texas.

Canadian Unit Head Ridicules UFOs

Canadian UFO investigation is being transferred by the Defense Department to the National Research Council's Space Research Facilities Branch, because "the military has found no sign that the UFOs threaten national security."

Dr. R. S. Rettie, chief of the new branch, said they would filter reports, and would also be concerned with reassuring the public. His extremely negative attitude is shown by such intolerant public statements as: "The whole business is awfully like the belief in witches and hobgoblins that went on for centuries. People want something to frighten them."

A quite different attitude has been expressed by Prof. Rupert MacNeill, of the Geology Department of Acadia University, Nova Scotia, Canada. "When you see these things and they are described, they are not just imagination," states Prof. MacNeill. He has received a large number of UFO reports since his recent appointment to the Meteorite Committee of the National Research Council.

Most of the reports, according to Prof. MacNeill, fall into two categories: round balls of fire, and elongated torpedo-shaped objects. He feels some reports may be of pieces of rockets or satellites "... but not so much of it as seen by so many people. In any case, this material would not come down and just hover; it would wham right in and probably burn up by extreme friction before it came down to our atmosphere."

CANADIAN UFO POLICY

A joint Canadian Armed Forces communique states that the Directorate of Operations in Ottawa, commanded by Colonel Robert Turner, is responsible for investigating UFO reports submitted through the Canadian Forces headquarters (CFHQ).

"CFHQ is responsible for processing any action required on these reports," the communique reads. "These reports are carefully studied with a view to determining whether there is any threat to national security involved, or whether any unique scientific information or advanced technology is exhibited which might be significant."

Similar to U.S. Air Force dispatches on the subject, the communique also states that the Department of National Defense accepts "the occasional inexplicable report" as some form of natural or man-made phenomenon, due to the commonplace errors frequently associated with witnesses observations. As to the possibility of extraterrestrial life, "there is at present insufficient information to make a judgment one way or the other."

Reports are also referred for further action to regional representatives in the provinces of Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia.

FIRST COLLEGE UFO FILTER CENTER

The first college UFO filter center in the nation has been organized at Franklin Pierce College in Rindge, New Hampshire, by NICAP's New Hampshire Subcommittee, headed by John Meloney. This 24-hour set-up has a central number where UFO witnesses may report their sightings.

The college's President, Frank S. DiPietro, and Dean, Dr. Clifford H. Coles, have given the project their full support and cooperation. Ten faculty members are involved in handling the reports.

"Anyone making a UFO sighting can call any hour of the day or night... and the report will receive instant attention," Meloney announced in The Manchester Union Leader. "If it is considered a good sighting by the Colorado project, a team of investigators will be on the scene within 24 hours. [Important sightings will also get prompt NICAP attention.] Should persons wish to mail their information, they may do so by sending it to Franklin Pierce College, UFO Filter Center, Rindge, N.H. Should a person desire, his name will be withheld from publication."

One of the first reports received was from Dean Coles. At 5:30 p.m., October 26, Dr. Coles and Philip Coombs saw, from the college campus, a white, cylindrical object with a "blunt end" traveling slowly.

Royal Observatory Collects Reports

The Royal Greenwich Observatory in England has announced that it is collecting UFO reports. Located at Herstmonceux Castle, Hailsham, Sussex, the world-famous astronomical institution is now collecting data on UFO reports from all over England. While it is not yet clear what disposition is being made of the reports, some very interesting sightings were received during October and November, at the time of the English "flap."

At Sedlescombe, a bright, spinning ball that moved in a circle, then vanished, was seen at 12:45 a.m. October 27, 1967.

At 4:30 a.m., Oct. 25, near South Maidstone, a bright object with jagged edges and three smaller UFOs were observed moving north behind a light cloud.

At 8:15 p.m. the next day, two large objects, later joined by a third, were seen moving around each other at Kedah.

Near Buxton, at 10:15 p.m., October 24, a UFO 30 feet in diameter was reported. It was described as having a yellow glow at the rear that apparently caused treetops to bend.

New Subcommittees Formed

Three new NICAP Subcommittees have been added to our growing list of field investigators throughout the country. Again, excellent scientific qualifications add much to a serious, sober investigation of the UFO phenomenon.

Texas Subcommittee Unit #2 is located at Arlington, near Forth Worth. Chairman Robert G. Edwards is Project Manager, Advanced Launch Systems, Missiles and Space Division, LTV Aerospace Corporation, Dallas. Other members include an aerospace engineer, a computer programmer, a quality control inspector, a senior design specialist at LTV and a project engineer for Norman Harwell Associates, Hurst, Texas.

Addition of another Subcommittee in New York gives NICAP complete coverage of most of the state. Chairman of New York Unit #6 is Norman C. Folden, Senior Associate Systems Analyst, IBM, Kingston, N.Y., who is a 1957 graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point. The other three members of the small but highly qualified group are also IBM employees—two senior associate engineers and an associate programmer.

Illinois Subcommittee Unit #3 has been organized in Rockford, nearly straddling the Wisconsin border in the middle of the state. Chairman Harold K. Watton, Jr., has gathered an impressive array of talent, including an airline pilot, an astronomer, a college vice-president, psychologist, lawyer, chemist, biologist, physicist, mathematician and engineer.

Technically-qualified members who are interested in joining proposed U.S. subcommittees are invited to send background resumes to NICAP Headquarters, where we will coordinate them with plans for subcommittees in: Huntsville, Ala.; Phoenix, Ariz.; Hamilton, Ontario, Canada; Wilmington, Del.; Atlanta, Ga.; Decatur, Ill.; Ft. Wayne, Ind.; Ashland, Ky.; Lafayette, La.; Bar Harbor, Me.; Amherst, Mass.; Ann Arbor, Mich.; Kansas City, Mo.; Las Vegas, Nev.; Red Bank, N.J.; Albuquerque, N.Mex.; Newburgh, N.Y.; Fayetteville, N.Car.; Wellington, Ohio; Greenville, S.Car.; Louisville, Ky.; El Paso, Tex.; and Huntington, W.Va.

BEEPING REPORTS

The strange "beepings" which have excited citizens in the Pacific Northwest, and other areas, were the subject of a recent two-page story in Look Magazine. Unfortunately, Look failed to mention all the hard work done by the Seattle Subcommittee's June Larson and her assistants who have been investigating scores of "beep" cases.

NICAP is still collecting "beeping" reports—as has the Colorado Project, with the Seattle Subcommittee's aid. We hope to have enough material for a comprehensive story on this puzzling problem at a later date. Meantime, we shall be glad to receive bona fide "beep" reports from members or other sources.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA UFO COURSE

Two professors on Davis campus of the University of California have inaugurated a non-credit course on UFOs. Designed "to explore the wide ramifications, sociological and technological, of the search for and possible existence of UFOs," the course is structured primarily as a discussion based upon readings from current UFO literature. Students are not expected to reach predetermined conclusions, but are provided general guidelines for consideration of the subject.

In explaining the course, the leaders, Prof. Dennis Livingston of the Political Science Department, and Prof. Paul Moller, of the Engineering Department, offer three premises:

"A) Even if UFOs do not exist as objective phenomena, attitudes held about them by the mass public and natural scientists are worthy of investigation by social scientists for what these attitudes reveal regarding the anxieties of modern man;

B) If UFOs do have an independent existence, whether as living creatures, mental phenomena, or extraterrestrial spacecraft, then the fact of this existence poses fundamental questions for the presently understood and accepted laws of the physical and biological sciences;

C) In particular, if UFOs are craft under the direct or remote control of alien beings, questions are raised regarding the future (and past) of the human race."

The course's reading list includes 26 sources on UFOs and related subjects, plus four sources on science fiction. NICAP's special report, The UFO Evidence, is among the primary sources and is on sale at the campus bookstore.

The class first met Thursday evening, January 4. Attendance was 60 students, the largest turnout ever for one of the experimental courses. The classes last approximately two hours.

Professor Moller has been working during recent years on a UFO-like experimental vehicle that achieves lift by forcing air from its underside. The prototype he demonstrated publicly last April was 14 feet in diameter and designed to hold two people. Powered by two outboard motors, it was able to rise several feet and hover for a number of minutes. Moller is now concentrating on more refined versions and is looking to the day when his device will have commercial application.

New Style for AF Letters

We look forward to more examples of Major Quintanilla's delightful informality.

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS FOREIGN TECHNOLOGY DIVISION (AF/FTO)
WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, OHIO 45433



REPLY TO
ATTN OF: TDEU/UFO

SUBJECT: UFO Information

AUG 15 1967

TO: P. Flatley
677 East 29th Street
Brooklyn, New York 11210

Dear Flatley:

Reference your undated strip of paper. I can prove that the Air Force does exist, but you can't prove that flying saucers are real. Evidently, the asphalt jungle of Brooklyn is beginning to get to you. Why don't you take a walk out in the country and look at the wonders of nature and quit living in a dream world. The Air Force will keep on protecting you from these mythical flying saucers.

Sincerely,


MAJOR QUINTANILLA, P., Major, USAF
Chief, Project Blue Book

If you're planning to move, please send us your new address as soon as possible. After every issue, scores of copies are returned by the Post Office, marked "Moved, left no address."

In sending checks to NICAP, please be sure to indicate the purpose: A new membership, a renewal, an for "The UFO Evidence," or a combination.