

December 21, 1977

Honorable Frank Press
Director
Office of Science and Technology
Policy
Executive Office of the President
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Frank:

In response to your letter of September 14, 1977, regarding NASA's possible role in UFO matters, we are fully prepared at this time to continue responding to public inquiries along the same lines as we have in the past. If some new element of hard evidence is brought to our attention, in the future, it would be entirely appropriate for a NASA laboratory to analyze and report upon an otherwise unexplained organic or inorganic sample; we stand ready to respond to any *bona fide* physical evidence from credible sources. We intend to leave the door clearly open for such a possibility.

We have given considerable thought to the question of what else the United States might and should do in the area of UFO research. There is an absence of tangible or physical evidence available for thorough laboratory analysis. And because of the absence of such evidence, we have not been able to devise a sound scientific procedure for investigating these phenomena. To proceed on a research task without a disciplinary framework and an exploratory technique in mind would be wasteful and probably unproductive. I do not feel that we could mount a research effort without a better starting point than we have been able to identify thus far. I would therefore propose that NASA take no steps to establish a research activity in this area or to convene a symposium on this subject.

I wish in no way to indicate that NASA has come to any conclusion about these phenomena as such; institutionally, we retain an open mind, a keen sense of scientific curiosity, and a willingness to analyze technical problems within our competence.

Very truly yours,

Robert A Frosch
Administrator

The preceding letter addressed to OSTP chief Frank Press by NASA administrator Robert Frosch is self-explanatory.

A victory for the UFO field lies in the fact that NASA has now agreed to examine "bona fide evidence from credible sources". In doing so they have in effect passed the buck back to the independent UFO groups. The initiative is now ours.

For a very brief period following the initial White House request to NASA, APRO consultant Dr. Richard Henry was involved, but shortly the responsibility (for developing a preliminary evaluation as to what NASA's position in this matter should be) was transferred to Mr. Dave Williamson who, incidentally, his negative remarks published in the press notwithstanding, has a very thorough knowledge of UFO lore and politics.

Our own opinion, based on conversations with NASA and OSTP people, is that the main reason for NASA's caution is that they already are under considerable pressure relevant to the space shuttle program and simply do not want to undertake an additional "hot potato".

New Committee

Dear APRO:

We have inaugurated a committee in St. Louis that will investigate national and worldwide occurrences of animal mutilations and associated phenomena. We are cooperating with the UFO Study Group of Greater St. Louis and other organizations.

We are equally interested in cases with unusual or anomalous features or characteristics.

We are interested in data of any kind or in any form—either case histories or statistical. Any strange or unusual activity in mutilation areas should also be reported, be that activity aerial (such as aircraft), or on the ground (such as unusual or suspicious persons). Unusual animal activity should also be reported.

Your cooperation is very much welcomed and confidentiality will be respected if requested.

Signed: Robert Murphy, Chairman, NCAM, 533-6276, 4861 Wabada Place, St. Louis, MO 63113; Steve Erdmann, Field Investigator, 353-8836, 5125 South Compton Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63111.

NOTE: Upon request all field investigators and correspondents or people on exchange lists will be sent a copy of the NCAM REPORTER telling of our periodic findings. \$8.00 - six issues for subscribers.

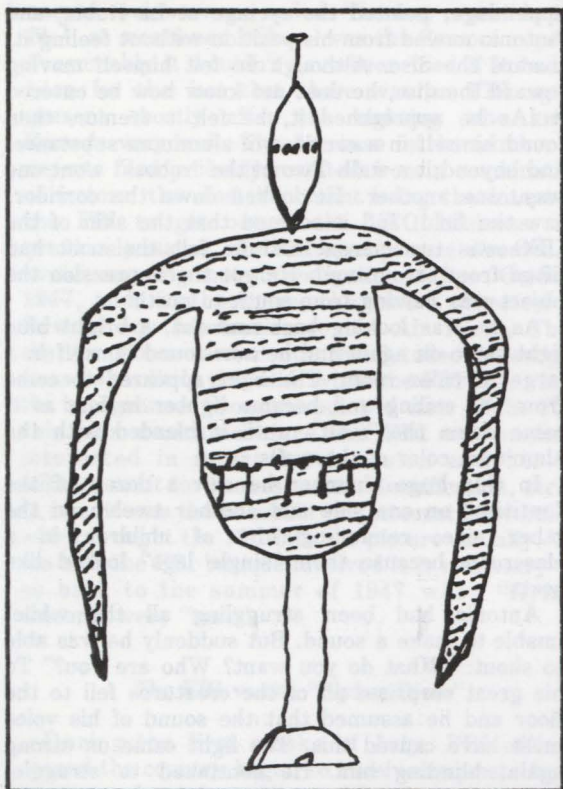
the apro bulletin

VOL. 26, NO. 4

THE A.P.R.O. BULLETIN

OCTOBER, 1977

BRAZILIAN CE4 CASE



La Rubia's drawing of one of the "robot" beings.

We are indebted to Field Investigator Irene Granchi of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, for the details of an alleged and very bizarre abduction case. With her characteristic thoroughness, Mrs. Granchi forwarded translations of the complete texts of the newspaper stories from "O Dia" which initially carried the story and which included a number of errors which she cleared up before submitting her final report. The details follow:

Mrs. Granchi first traveled to Paciencia, the site of the incident (about 45 kilometers or about 28 miles from Rio) on Saturday, October 8, and interviewed Dr. Neli Carbonel, who examined the victim. However, she (Mrs. Granchi) was not able to interview the percipient, Antonio La Rubia, as he was still very upset. He promised to come to Rio when he was feeling better and talk to Mrs. Granchi and on October 18th he arrived at her home with his brother Arnaldo.

Because she had only 40 minutes to devote to him, as she had to go to the Cultura to teach her classes, this is more or less a preliminary report. Mrs. Granchi intends to do further work on the case and if further pertinent information is forthcoming, it will be published in the *Bulletin*.

Antonio La Rubia habitually arises at 2:00 a.m., brushes his teeth, washes and leaves his home at 2:15 or 2:20 a.m. On the morning in question he feels he must have left at 2:20 for that was when his watch stopped. He walked to a large field near his home and when he got to the near corner of it, he stopped short, for in the field sat an object which he estimated to be 70 meters (235 feet) across, at least, as the field is 70 meters across and the object's bulk extended beyond the boundaries of the field.

Antonio thought the object, which was a dull leaden color and shaped like a hat, was resting on the ground. However, a search made by Mrs. Granchi and Antonio at a later date revealed no vestiges of a landing, such as impressions, burned grass, etc., although Mrs. Granchi feels they could have missed them.

As soon as Mr. La Rubia realized what he was seeing (he had never believed in the existence of UFOs previously) he decided to run back home.

(Initially, La Rubia thought the object was the bus he had to ride to go to the terminal of the Oriental Bus Company where he was employed as a bus driver.)

Antonio was unable to run, however, for at the moment he decided to retreat, an intensely bright light lit up the area. La Rubia was standing by an electric pole which became illuminated by the brilliant blue light. At that moment Antonio saw three "robots" positioned near him. They were one meter, 40 centimeters (about four feet) tall, but their antennae, which jutted out of the middle (tops) of their heads extended far enough to extend beyond his height (which is approximately five feet, five inches). The heads of the creatures were shaped like American footballs, with a band extending across the middle, horizontally, which looked like a row of small mirrors of a blue shade, one a little darker than the others.

The bodies, Antonio said, were stocky, the trunk broader than his own (he is muscular, but of slender build). They had appendages for arms which he compared to elephants' trunks, and which narrowed down to pointed tips, resembling one finger. Their bodies were made of a rough

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Brazil

(Continued from Page One)

substance resembling scales. Antonio, when questioned, said he didn't think the scales were "armor", for the robots moved around freely and the "scales" did not seem to impede them in any way. The trunks were rounded at the bottom ending in a *single leg*. Antonio's first impression was that they were sitting on something, but didn't feel this was the case. This leg ended in a "platform" the size and shape of a saucer. Antonio compared this leg and "platform" to the stools utilized on ships. All of this outer part of the bodies looked like a dull shade of aluminum.

In the field, one of the "robots" stood in front of him, one at the side and another behind him. When

the blue light had come on, he could no longer move. Antonio flailed about with his arms, but found he was imprisoned in a "bell" (glass or Mason) jar. Otherwise he felt quite normal except that he felt quite nervous. He could not move, but the "creatures" floated along. They were all of the same stature, but one of them was holding what appeared to be a syringe (an instrument used to give an injection). This "robot" raised its appendage, pointed the syringe at La Rubia, and Antonio moved from his position without feeling it, toward the disc. Although he felt himself moving toward the disc, he does not know how he entered it. As he approached it, he felt a tremor, then found himself in a corridor of aluminum substance, and beyond it a wall. Two of the "robots" went one way, one another. He looked down the corridor, saw the field, and it seemed that the skin of the UFO was transparent and he felt the craft had lifted from the ground. He got the impression the object was moving from south to north.

As he was looking back and out, a bright blue light came on again and he now found himself in a large, circular room. The light appeared to come from the ceiling and became lighter in hue as it came down the "wall", until it blended with the aluminum color of the walls.

In this huge chamber he saw a dozen of the "entities" on one side and another twelve on the other side; reminding him of children in a classroom because their "single legs" looked like seats.

Antonio had been struggling all the while, unable to make a sound. But suddenly he was able to shout: "What do you want? Who are you?" To his great surprise, all of the creatures fell to the floor and he assumed that the sound of his voice must have caused this. The light came on strong again, blinding him. He continued to struggle, partly from fear, but also because he had had extreme difficulty breathing since he first entered the craft. He did not hear his own breathing but could hear breathing sounds coming from the entities which was puzzling to him as they appeared to him to be robots.

When Antonio began shouting, all of the entities raised their appendages to the tip of their antennae, holding them. Prior to that, the antennae had been spinning so fast that he could not determine their exact shape. When they held them, with their appendages, he could see that their shape resembled that of a teaspoon.

The only fixture in the whole enclosure was a small piano-like affair in front of Antonio. It was a box-shaped thing about 15-17 centimeters (6 inches) in width standing on 2 supporting poles, which reached to the height of Antonio's chest. At the extremity of the box, on each side (see sketch) there were antennae jutting up, and to one side, the keys, which reminded him of a piano.

There was also something that looked like a tin (can) on it into which the beings inserted some objects which they took from their belts.

At this juncture Antonio explained that the beings wore belts from which hung, by hooks, apparatuses which resembled syringes (injection apparatuses) which they inserted into the box (or "piano"). Each time this was done, an image appeared on the wall of the UFO in color, showing a different scene.

Antonio was shown a series of pictures in color and every time this was done, the being introduced the syringe-like thing to the "box", pressed a key and the picture appeared. The pictures Antonio remembers are as follows:

1. Himself, nude, lying on an invisible (?) table, swinging his arms about, his legs lying straight and two of the beings examining him with their little bluish lights, directing it at his chest and head, with another entity examining his head with a blue light which had no beam. It made everything blue, including his hair (which he saw in the "picture").

When this scene was over, another being approached the "console", introduced another "thing" into it, and another scene appears:

2. Here Antonio saw himself, still naked, standing.

3. Antonio was dressed, carrying his shopping bag, his teeth were chattering and he looked nervous. No sound came from him, and one arm was swinging.

4. This picture showed a horse and cart, being drawn over a dirt road. Antonio did not recognize the location but there appeared a cart-man, a peasant, wearing a straw hat, bare-footed and with a torn shirt.

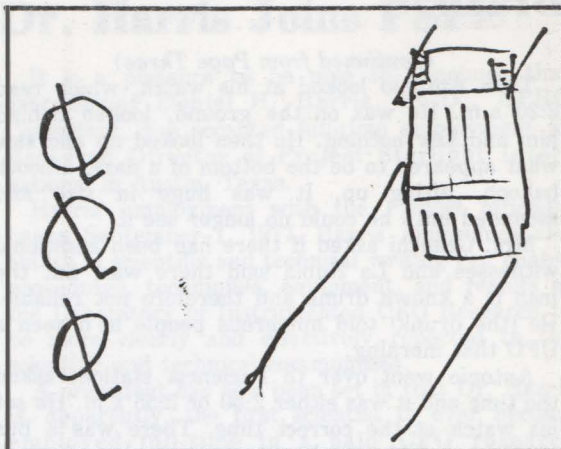
5. Antonio saw a picture of a light orangey ball with himself standing beside it.

6. In this picture, the "ball" was seen once again, this time bluish in color, with one of the "beings" standing beside it.

7. This picture is most difficult to describe and whereas we have condensed Mrs. Granchi's words before, we will use her entire description: "A dog was shown, trying to get at one of those beings, also shown in the picture the dog was big, and slobbering at the mouth, trying hard to get at the being, unable to reach it and looked very angry. Then the dog gave out 4 or 5 barks. At this point, the being started to melt, from top to bottom, like porridge."

8. A factory was seen, apparently one of "theirs" where the UFOs (crafts?) are manufactured. The scene was white and stretched out, so he could not see the end of it. There were 3 rows of UFOs, the 2 on the right were UFOs nearly ready, and the one on the left were UFOs in the making—at the "skeleton" stage. There were "millions" of "beings" or "robots" walking around but Antonio noticed no tools.

9. This picture showed a train, like the Japanese trains currently being used in Brazil, but older, something the worse for wear, windowless, entering a tunnel, whereupon it was lost from view.



Left: "Drawing made with my blood."

Right: "Piano."

Drawings by La Rubia.

10. This showed an avenue, which Mrs. Granchi compared with Avenida Presidente Vargas, one of the busiest thoroughfares in Rio de Janeiro, jammed with cars.

Mrs. Granchi writes that Antonio's list seems to end here but that he described a scene he saw after the one where he saw himself naked, wherein he saw himself dressed, vomiting and passing stools in his trousers. Fortunately the latter did not come to pass, as he was at home when he became very ill.

Antonio also told Mrs. Granchi about when the beings took blood from him; one of them came over to the center of the hall where he was standing, took one of the "syringes" from his belt with his right appendage, passed it over to his left appendage, where it started to rotate, spinning so fast that Antonio could not follow it with his eyes. Then the gadget was pointed at him, whereupon his arm lifted, against his will, and the syringe was stuck into the middle finger of his right hand. He saw the syringe filling until it nearly overflowed. He was sure it was his blood for it was the only color he saw in the whole place—everything else was blue or white, or metallic-like. He didn't understand how this could be, for he did not feel the prick and there was no mark after it was accomplished. Then the being who had taken the blood pointed at a picture on the wall and drew three circles, presumably with Antonio's blood, and dissected them with an L-shaped mark (see sketch).

Mrs. Granchi thinks that the blood-drawing experience came before, or in between the showing of pictures for Antonio says that after the busy street scene was shown he was "thrown" overboard and fell into a street almost opposite the Paciencia station. When he landed, there was one of the "beings" beside him. All his belongings were with him, even his bag, which had not been with him on the craft.

(See Brazil — Page Four)

Brazil

(Continued from Page Three)

Then Antonio looked at his watch, which read 2:20 a.m. He was on the ground, looked behind him and saw nothing. He then looked up and saw what appeared to be the bottom of a dark, smooth balloon, lifting up. It was huge in size and ascended until he could no longer see it.

Mrs. Granchi asked if there had been additional witnesses and La Rubia said there was, but the man is a known drunk and therefore not reliable. He (the drunk) told numerous people he'd seen a UFO that morning.

Antonio went over to Paciencia station, asked the time and it was either 2:50 or 2:55 a.m. He set his watch at the correct time. There was a bus passing at 3:10 and he caught it and arrived at work on time. He felt ill and nervous and ached all over. He drove the bus, nevertheless, but now and again his vision darkened. He worked all day and again all day Friday, but when he arrived home that night he went to bed.

It was at this junction in his narrative that Antonio recalled another "picture" which he had forgotten. In this one he saw himself with smoke coming out of his back, and the pain and heat which he was now feeling (when he arrived home) seemed to be connected with the picture. The pictures he saw in the UFO seemed to have depicted all of the suffering he was now experiencing except the one where he passed stools in his drawers.

Antonio told his wife nothing of what had happened to him. That Friday night his bowels were loose and he felt miserable. The next day, Saturday, he was still very ill and missed work. Sunday was the same—he could not go to work. That night (Sunday) the burning feeling started, which spread throughout his body and was very painful. His wife rubbed him with alcohol which relieved the distress somewhat. On Monday morning, he went back to the bus company to say he had to quit, and he had difficulty breathing, was burning and itching and asked a fellow employee to hose him down with water. His fellow workers told him he looked "as green as grass." He told Mrs. Granchi that when he walked he had an empty feeling as though walking on a cloud. This feeling persisted as late as 33 days after the incident.

The Monday that he was at the bus company and experiencing the burning feeling, the company nurse wanted to give him a tranquilizing injection but he refused, afraid that it would make him worse. The personnel at the clinic thought he had gone mad and ropes were brought to constrain him and he was taken to the hospital where it was generally thought he was mad because he babbled about UFOs.

Before being taken to the hospital, however, La Rubia was given a hearing by the bus company psychologist, Dr. Nely Carbonell, who pronounced him psychologically normal but nevertheless called

an ambulance to take him to the hospital.

Antonio was surprised when the hospital doctors pronounced him normal despite his extreme discomfort. However, when one of the doctors visited him for his INPS (Worker's Employer Relief) and heard about the UFO, he called in six other doctors, saying that the case was serious and worthy of further study. Also, Antonio was registering a high fever (about 103 degrees Fahrenheit) which could have been dangerous to him had it persisted.

Mrs. Grañchi does some philosophizing which is very worthwhile but which, for the sake of space, we must forego, but her closing words are very much worth quoting:

"But the most puzzling new facts in this case are the showing of the pictures, not in themselves as such, but *what did the beings wish to communicate?* This is the task for many specialized scientists to try to unravel. What message did they wish to convey? The simplest seems that, as we harm them, they can harm us. That there are many of them, as there are many of us. That they can tell our future but we cannot tell theirs. That they isolate people in an invisible bell (Mason) jar. And so on.

"Shall we have time to reflect on all this before they come over (arrive) in larger hordes?" Well said, Irene.

UPDATE: "Ghost Riders"

In the August Issue of the *APRO BULLETIN* an article appeared concerning Supposed satellites traveling in and around M13 on various dates and times. This phenomena has been observed and photographed several times since, by me and other fellow astronomers in the Oxnard area. Based on the following data, we have concluded that the objects viewed are satellites in polar orbit:

1. *Objects disappear in the Earth's shadow while being tracked. Objects therefore do not shine by their own light.*

2. *Astrophotos reveal straight paths and objects reappear after completing their trip. Objects closer to the earth (like airplanes etc.) would curve.*

3. *No variations or shifts in course or direction were noted or observed.*

4. *Blinking affect is most likely due to rotation of the satellite around its central axis.*

The nature and purpose of these satellites is unknown, and for that matter may be classified information. There seems to be an incredible number of them in orbit, sometimes one following another in the same path. To say the least, they make a good show on a clear night using binoculars or small, manueverable telescopes. If any variations are noted concerning the "ghost riders", APRO will be notified immediately.

Dennis Leatart
Field Investigator

Redding Couple's Episodes

After experiencing two UFO sightings, Jane and Clint Chapin of Redding, California, would like to advise others about their experiences. Their first sighting took place on an October 30, 1969 morning at the Mary Hazel Mine. They had just finished killing a rattlesnake. Then the UFO arose from the bushes. There was no wind and the leaves barely fluttered. The UFO was oval and about one-half the size of a Volkswagen.

The UFO left behind an oval rim-like impression in the dirt and a chunk of metal. The metal was submitted for analysis at several labs without conclusive results.

The second UFO was sighted on December 27, 1967. It had been about 80 feet below them. Then suddenly it rose up and took off. Since the occurrence of these events, the Chapins don't visit their mine much anymore. Jane Chapin merely offers her advice, "Just get away from it if you can."

* * * * *

Strange Cloud over New Mexico

A sky phenomenon viewed by New Mexicans on the morning of Saturday, September 24, has been tentatively identified as an unusual cloud formation. The two "lights" seen in the southern sky by Santa Fe police, students and tower employees at the Municipal Airport were labeled as clouds reflecting the light of the sun which had not yet risen. Police officers said the upper light was hazy and blue-green in color and the second, lower light, was bright white or yellow and well-defined.

Control tower personnel at the airport noticed a bright light in the sky when they changed shifts at 6 a.m. and identified the thing as an "altocumulus standing lenticular cloud", a type which they had seen before.

A police officer, who declined to be identified, photographed the phenomena and the developed print shows what appears to be a lenticular cloud with a glowing patch some distance above it. Some wanted to connect the phenomena with UFOs but APRO member Kenneth Ewing of Los Alamos viewed the phenomena and wrote APRO Headquarters: "I saw these. I think they were merely the start of some high cloudiness that lasted the day. No big deal."

* * * * *

Dr. Harris Joins PSI

It is a pleasure to be able to announce that astronomer Daniel H. Harris, Ph.D., APRO Consultant, has accepted full-time employment as Research Director of Project Starlight International in Austin, Texas.

Harris' employment with the Project officially began September 1, 1977. Harris' experience and ability in scientific and technical writing can enable procedures, techniques, equipment, and results at the Laboratory of Instrumented UFO Research to be more clearly and effectively reported to the scientific and technical communities.

A precedent has now been set in that Dr. Harris is, apparently, the first scientist to ever become employed full-time in a paid UFO research position. It is hoped that Harris' success and achievements in the research program will eventually encourage and enable other professionals in the sciences to become employed in serious research into the nature of UFO phenomena.

Dr. Harris is interested in communicating with scientific professionals (from any of the disciplines) who might have knowledge or ideas which could conceivably prove relevant to the problems of instrumented and/or general UFO research.

* * * * *

Press Reports from Poland

Warsaw evening paper, 22 May 1977.

Anna Baginska, a student of Philology at the University of Lodz, says she saw two BALLS flying in the starry night over Lodz. She saw them from her window, in her flat on the 3rd floor. They flew along the southern part of the sky. The colour of the light which they emanated was changing constantly from white to red, from bright dazzling white to dark red. They moved around and forward as if they were trying to catch each other. After a few moments, they disappeared in the sky. The observation took place late at night.

11 July 1977. Warsaw. A FLYING SAUCER OVER SOCHACZEW?

On Monday 11th July 1977 in the evening hours, the inhabitants in the vicinity of Sochaczew and Glowno could observe a luminous flying object of unknown origin moving at considerable height in the sky. The UFO was observed at 2049 in the northern part of the sky, as it glowed intensively while passing through the atmosphere. The object was followed by a tail of smoke. It was observed for about 3 and a half minutes.

* * * * *

UFO Related Information from the FBI File

by

Dr. Bruce S. Maccabee

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I have recently received over five hundred of the several thousand¹ pages of documents in the FBI files on "flying discs". I have been informed¹ that these pages represent the "cream of the crop" and that the rest include references to UFO's in other documents, copies of form letters sent out by the FBI, and copies of readily available publications (including at least one book on UFOs). After reviewing the documents I have decided that the opinion of the FBI agent¹ who handled my FOIPA (Freedom of Information) request was correct: these probably are the most important documents in the FBI files.

The pages I have obtained are divided into three categories as follows: roughly 40% are poor reports and documents which do not add anything (in my opinion) to what is already known about certain UFO reports and known hoaxes (e.g., the Maury Island hoax which "resulted" in the death of two Army Air Force Officers, is covered in great detail); roughly 40% are teletype reports and transcripts concerning reasonably to very good UFO reports, some of which are not listed in the Blue Book file at the National Archives, and some of which never have been published before (this statement may not be entirely accurate since I have not been able to check *all* possible sources of previously published UFO reports); the remaining proportion are papers which consist of internal memoranda of the FBI. This last proportion contains papers which have definitely not been available before now. They show the internal involvement of the FBI, and, even more interesting, they shed light on the attitude of the Air Force towards UFO investigation. As a result of the FOIPA request to the FBI I have also obtained several documents from other agencies which had sent "complementary copies" to the FBI. One of these is a radar-visual case from Alaska in 1950 that was filed by the Office of Naval Intelligence (ONI). Other documents have come from the Army and the Air Force.

It should be emphasized at the outset that the bulk of these documents were generated between 1947 and 1950, and that the FBI file on UFOs comes to a screeching halt in 1964 with the Zamora case (Socorro, New Mexico). (There was an FBI agent in the police office at the time Zamora's call came in, and this agent wrote a report that was sent to FBI headquarters. In the report the agent vouched for Zamora's credibility.)

There is enough material in the FBI file to form a small book, if all the documents were to be published. However, in order to make the information available to interested researchers in a

short time, I have decided to write several papers based on the FBI file, rather than write a book. Since of necessity some information will be left out or merely alluded to in these papers, I will accept requests for information and will respond with a letter saying the information is or is not in the file, and I will send copies of pertinent documents when they are available.

In this first paper I will present an overview of the FBI files and a "preview" of things to come. In subsequent papers I will publish copies of actual FBI documents, summaries of documents, UFO reports, and comments on the documents as I see fit. Readers will thus be able to judge for themselves whether or not the FBI had any major interest in or affect upon the history of UFO research. Perhaps historians of UFO research will get some new insights into the early days of UFOs and those who are interested mainly in the content of UFO reports will find some more "grist for the mill". As for myself, I am more firmly convinced that if we understood what happened during the first several years of the UFO phenomenon, we would understand the whole UFO phenomenon.

General FBI Involvement

Perhaps the most important question to be asked in regard to the "FBI Connection" is "Was the FBI ever officially involved?" Secondary questions concern the duration and nature of the involvement. The answer to the first question is a resounding "yes", and the duration of *official* involvement was July 30 to October 1 in 1947. However, the FBI remained "unofficially" involved up through 1964. During the period of official involvement the FBI agents were instructed by Hoover to investigate UFO witnesses. After October 1947, however, the FBI was supposed to turn all investigations over to armed forces (specifically, the Army Air Force until 1948, and the Air Force after the spring of 1948). The agents were generally faithful to Hoover's orders after October and stopped carrying out detailed investigations. However, this did not stop them from filing reports on UFO sightings and witnesses, nor did it stop them from checking up on police and FBI records on witnesses at the request of other intelligence agencies. A typical FBI report after October 1947 would end with statements similar to "this matter is being reported to the bureau for information purposes"², "for your information"³, "furnishing this info to bureau for whatever action they (sic) deem advisable"⁴, or "above being furnished for information"⁵. Aside from the collection of UFO reports and the transmittal of such reports to Air Force collection agencies (Army G-2 before 1948, Air Force Office of Special Investigations-OSI after spring 1948 and Project Blue Book after the spring of 1952), the FBI maintained a loose connection with the Air Force investigations of UFOs. Several times FBI agents interviewed Air Force personnel, once at the specific

request of Hoover⁶. The FBI was also the recipient of unrequested copies of AF, ONI and Army intelligence documents and UFO reports. However, the number of documents filed per year on the subject of UFOs dropped precipitously after 1952, and by 1959 had reached zero. From then on only one or two "complaints" per year were noted at annual reviews of the FBI guidelines for handling UFO reports, at least until 1963 when the annual reviews were ended. The last report in the file¹, as mentioned before, was the Zamora report. Presumably it wouldn't have been filed if it hadn't been for the fact that there was an FBI agent present shortly after the sighting who knew Zamora very well. The decrease in the number of reports filed probably resulted from a combination of factors, the most important being the intent of the FBI to get out of the UFO business. As previously stated, the FBI agents were directed to avoid carrying out investigations after October 1947, and, furthermore, they were directed to forward any information to the Air Force. Thus the Air Force carried out the detailed investigations (what little they did) while the FBI faded into the background. From the point of view of the FBI this was desirable since the FBI was mainly interested in internal subversion and not in military craft (or hoaxes, or misidentification, etc.). In fact, it was the possibility of internal subversion which brought the FBI into the picture initially. To see how the FBI became involved it is necessary to go back to the summer of 1947 when "flying saucers" were "born".

The FBI vs the "Flying Discs"

During the first weeks of July, FBI offices around the country began to receive requests from newsmen for information on flying saucers. The central office in Washington also received teletype messages about various "discs" that had been found (all obvious hoaxes). However, the first document of real importance was filed 7/10/47. Since it gives an in-depth view of the early official interest in "flying disks", I am printing it in its entirety, along with comments made by J.E. Hoover.⁷

"Subject: FLYING DISCS"

"At request of Brigadier General George F. Schulgen, Chief of the Requirements Intelligence Branch of Army Air Corps Intelligence, Special Agent . . . [name crossed off; call him "SA"] discussed the above captioned matter [i.e., flying disks] with him on July 9, 1947. General Schulgen indicated to SA that the Air Corps has taken the attitude that every effort must be undertaken in order to run down and ascertain whether or not the flying disks are a fact and, if so, to learn all about them. According to General Schulgen, the Air Corps Intelligence are utilizing all of their

scientists in order to ascertain whether or not such a phenomenon could in fact occur. He stated that this research is being conducted with the thought that the flying objects might be a celestial phenomenon and with the view that they might be a foreign body mechanically devised and controlled [bold emphasizing by this author]."

"General Schulgen also indicated to SA that all Air Corps installations have been alerted to run out each reported sighting to obtain all possible data to assist in this research project. In passing, General Schulgen stated that an Air Corps pilot who believed that he saw one of these objects was thoroughly interrogated by General Schulgen and scientists, as well as a psychologist, and the pilot was adamant in his claim that he saw a flying disk [bold emphasizing by this author]."

"General Schulgen advised SA that the possibility exists that the first reported sightings of the so-called flying disks were fallacious and prompted by individuals seeking personal publicity, or were reported for political reasons. He stated that if this was so, subsequent sightings might be the result of mass hysteria. He pointed out that the thought exists that the first reported sighting might have been by individuals of Communist sympathies with the view to causing hysteria and fear of a secret Russian weapon."

"General Schulgen indicated to SA that he is desirous of having all the angles covered in this matter. He stated that reports of his scientists and findings of various Air Corps installations will be available in his office. He advised that to complete the picture he desired the assistance of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in locating and questioning the individuals who first sighted the so-called flying disks in order to ascertain whether or not they are sincere in their statements that they saw these disks, or whether their statements were prompted by personal desire for publicity or political reasons. General Schulgen assured SA that there are no War Department or Navy Department research projects presently being conducted which could in any way be tied up with the flying disks. General Schulgen indicated to SA that if the Bureau would cooperate with him in this matter, he would offer all the facilities of his office as to results obtained in the effort to identify and run down this matter."

"SA advised General Schulgen that his request would be made known to the Bureau and an answer made available to him as soon as possible."

"SA also discussed this matter with Col. L.R. Forney of MID. Col. Forney indicated that it was his attitude that inasmuch as it has been established that the flying disks are not the result of any Army or Navy experiments, the matter is of interest to the FBI. He stated that he was of the opinion that the Bureau, if at all possible, should accede to General Schulgen's request."

D.M. Ladd, the FBI official to whom the above memorandum was addressed, wrote the following addendum to the memorandum:

ADDENDUM

"I would recommend that we advise the Army that the Bureau does not believe it should go into these investigations, it being noted that a great bulk of those alleged discs reported found have been pranks. It is not believed that the Bureau would accomplish anything by going into these investigations."

However, Mr. Tolson scribbled "I think we should do it" on July 15, and shortly thereafter Hoover added the following comments:

"I would do it but before agreeing to it we must insist upon full access to discs recovered. For instance in the La. case the Army grabbed it and would not let us have it for cursory examination."

About a week later another memorandum was filed that indicated the General Schulgen had been informed of the FBI (i.e., Hoover's) decision. The first paragraph of this memorandum reiterates the previous information. It then continues as follows:⁸

"This is to advise that SA has recontacted General Schulgen and advised him in connection with the Director's notation (i.e., Hoover's comment above). General Schulgen indicated to SA that he desired to assure Mr. Hoover of complete cooperation in this matter and stated that he would issue instructions to the field directing that all cooperation be furnished to the FBI and that all discs recovered be made available for examination by the FBI agents. General Schulgen pointed out to SA that he will from time to time make the results of the studies of his scientists available to the Bureau for the assistance of the FBI field offices. General Schulgen indicated to SA that there has been a decrease in the reported sightings of discs which might be because of the fact that it has lost much of its publicity value. He indicated, however, that he believed it necessary to follow this matter through to determine as near as possible if discs were in fact seen and to determine their origin." (bold emphasizing by this author)

In the next paragraph the communication channel between General Schulgen's office and the FBI was specified ("regular established channels") and the final paragraph is as follows:

"General Schulgen indicated to SA that he believed that there was a possibility that this entire matter might have been started by subversive individuals for the purpose of creating mass hysteria. He suggested that the Bureau keep this in mind in any interviews conducted regarding reported sightings. General Schulgen stated to SA that he would make available to the Bureau all information in the possession of the Air Corps regarding sightings which were first reported so that the Bureau could conduct some investigation regarding these individuals to ascertain their motives for reporting that they observed flying discs. When General Schulgen makes the information available regarding these individuals,

it will be brought to your (i.e., to Mr. Ladd's) attention."

About a week later, in Bureau Bulletin #42 of 1947, the official order and explanation for the order was published. Since the explanation is itself unique, I will present it here in its entirety, along with the official order:⁹

"FLYING DISCS — *The Bureau, at the request of the Army Air Forces Intelligence, has agreed to cooperate in the investigation of flying discs. The Air Forces have confidentially advised that it is possible to release three or more discs in odd numbers, attached together by a wire, from an airplane in high altitudes and that these discs would obtain tremendous speed in their descent and would descend to the earth in an arc. The Army Air Forces Intelligence has also indicated some concern that the reported sightings might have been made by subversive individuals for the purpose of creating mass hysteria.*

(This is the specific directive:)

"You should investigate each instance which is brought to your attention of a sighting of a flying disc in order to ascertain whether or not it is a bona fide sighting, an imaginary one, or a prank. You should also bear in mind that individuals might report seeing flying discs for various reasons. It is conceivable that an individual might be desirous of seeking personal publicity, causing hysteria, or playing a prank."

"The Bureau should be notified immediately by teletype of all reported sightings and the results of your inquiries. In instances where the report appears to have merit, the teletype should be followed by a letter to the Bureau containing in detail the results of your inquiries. The Army Air Forces have assured the Bureau complete cooperation in these matters and in any instances where they fail to make information available to you or make the recovered discs available for your examination, it should promptly be brought to the attention of the Bureau."

"Any information you develop in connection with these discs should be promptly brought to the attention of the Army through your usual liaison channels."

Thus by the end of July, 1947, the FBI had a working arrangement with the Army Air Force to investigate UFO reports. As set up, the arrangement seemed quite amicable, and presumably it could have continued for many years. Admittedly the initial fear of subversion faded with time, but still, the FBI could have continued investigations into the fifties if they were really worried about the possibility that the UFO reports somehow resulted from Russian attempts at sabotage. Yet, the FBI ended its official investigatory role only about two months after it

began. The explicit reason why the investigations were ended will be presented in a later segment of this series, along with several interesting early reports. However, the perceptive reader can already see an incipient disagreement as to what sorts of reports the Air Force wanted the FBI to investigate. In General Schulgen's view, the FBI would investigate mainly (or only?) those reports in which hardware was retrieved. By the time that the FBI entered the investigation it was already apparent that all such reports were mechanical hoax devices, some ingenious and some very simple, which had been placed as pranks. Thus, if Schulgen had his way, the FBI would investigate only "crank" reports. However, it is clear from the official FBI directive that Hoover wanted the agents to be able to investigate *all* reports. As will be seen in a later installment, the attempt by the Air Force to limit the FBI to certain kinds of UFO investigations resulted in a minor intelligence "scandal" which was followed shortly by the decision to end official FBI investigation.

The interview with General Schulgen indicated a considerable interest in UFO reports on the part of the Army Air Force Intelligence. Moreover, it is clear that the Air Force felt that something real was being observed. The Air Force was even allowing for the possibility that some "flying objects might be a celestial phenomenon", although there was no mention of the thought that extraterrestrial intelligence could be involved. It is especially interesting to learn that General Schulgen himself interviewed an Air Corps pilot (name not given in the FBI file) who claimed, even under intense interrogation, that he had seen a disc. The "behind the scenes" interest by the Air Force is to be contrasted with the public statements in early July 1947 that there were not enough facts to warrant further investigations, even though the Air Material Command (AMC) intended to investigate the matter more thoroughly¹⁰. The public disparagement of the reports by Kenneth Arnold and by other early UFO reporters is to be contrasted with the apparent acceptance by General Schulgen of the reality of the phenomenon, especially after the report by the Air Corps pilot. Thus it appears that from the outset the Air Force investigation of UFO reports was done on two levels. Publicly the Air Force tried to downplay the sightings, while privately the Air Force enlisted the help of other intelligence agencies in order to determine the nature of the phenomenon. As becomes apparent from the FBI file, the Air Force continued its undercover investigations even during the periods of time when it publicly stated that it had no interest and was not investigating as, for example, in 1950. Inasmuch as UFO investigations were treated as a security matter and that therefore all internal documents were classified, it is not surprising that civilian investigators in the 1950's concluded that the Air Force was hiding evidence and began to

refer to public Air Force statements (and later to Project Blue Book) as part of a "cover-up" of UFO information. Although there is no evidence in the FBI file (at least in the portion I have) that the Air Force actually had hard evidence (e.g., a crashed saucer), it is clear that there were reports involving military personnel that were so detailed that one had to choose between attributing the report to a real unknown phenomenon, probably a "machine", or else to the temporary mental breakdown of one or more military personnel while on duty. It seems to me that the reluctance to accept the second explanation of disc sightings was what ultimately kept the Air Force investigating. Further information on the Air Force investigation as seen through the "eyes" of the FBI will be presented in forthcoming papers.

Bibliography

1. D. Havekost, private communication. (D.H. was the agent who handled my FOIPA request)
2. FBI Document filed 4/28/53; civilian and military witnesses in Puerto Rico
3. FBI Document filed 9/20/52; report of object over Montana
4. FBI Document filed 5/12/52; employees of the E.I. Dupont company saw objects pass at low altitudes over the Savannah River Plant (AEC)
5. FBI Documents filed 11/8/57; Illinois State Police officers chased an object on the evening of November 7, 1957
6. FBI Document filed 3/28/50; a Major and a Colonel in the Air Force Intelligence were interviewed
7. FBI Document filed 7/10/47; request by General Schulgen for the FBI to interview early UFO witnesses
8. FBI Document filed 7/24/47; FBI agrees to investigate
9. FBI Document filed 7/30/47; official order to investigate UFO reports
10. D. Jacobs, *The UFO Controversy in America*, Indiana University Press (1957); page 42 and following

Dr. Bruce Maccabee acquired his PhD in physics at the American University in 1970. He has written 15 papers relating to the UFO subject previous to the one presented here and has been a consultant in physics to NICAP since 1966. He has done outstanding research work in the area of optical data processing, lasers and infra-red and has published extensively on these subjects, particularly in the Bulletin of the American Physical Society.