

UFO INVESTIGATOR



NICAP ■ 1522 CONNECTICUT AVENUE ■ WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036 ■ A PRIVATE, NONPROFIT CORPORATION FOUNDED IN 1956

COLORADO STUDY DRAWS NEW FIRE

Did Condon Read His Own Report?

Doubt continues to grow over whether the conclusions and recommendations offered in the opening pages of the Condon Report are supported by the Report itself.

The latest critic to charge they are not is journalist Peter Henniker-Heaton of the *Christian Science Monitor*. Writing on the apparent decline in UFO sightings since release of the Condon Report, Heaton describes Condon's "Summary of the Study" (the first section of the Report) as a "hatchet job" on the Report's "considerable body of evidence" for UFOs. Says Heaton:

"The Condon Report, called for by the United States Government, must take its share of blame for (the drop in sightings). Read as a whole, the report could not conceal the considerable body of evidence which pointed to an important and inexplicable phenomenon. But the introductory summary of the report performed a hatchet job on flying saucers that has rarely been equaled in the field of scientific scholarship. And as everyone knows, when a scholar and a scientist picks up a hatchet, he does a job with it of unparalleled effectiveness and ferocity.

"If I were a flying saucer captain or crewman and read those opening pages of the Condon Report, I'd conclude that Earth was no place for me and I'd make my getaway as quickly as I could. I'd decide that if Earth cared so little for UFOs, why should UFOs care for Earth, and I'd put as many galactic light-years between Earth and my ship as I could."

AIAA Shares Distaste For Summary

Heaton's remarks come close on the heels of similar charges by the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA), a society of aerospace scientists and engineers. In a statement issued in November on the UFO problem (*UFO Investigator*, November 1970), the AIAA cited discrepancies between the Summary and the body of the Report, and warned about accepting the Summary without examining the Report itself.

"It is not enough," said the Institute, "to read summaries, such as those by (Walter) Sullivan (of the *New York Times*) and by Condon, or summaries of summaries, on which the vast majority of readers and news media seem to rely. There are differences in the opinions and conclusions drawn by the authors of the various chapters, and there are differences between these and Condon's summary. Not all conclusions contained in the report itself are fully reflected in Condon's summary."

Further, said the Institute, the Summary "contains more than its title indicates; it discloses many of Condon's personal conclusions. Making value judgments was no doubt one reason why Condon was asked to handle the project. One is happy to obtain the judgment of so experienced and respected a man;

but one need not agree with it. The (AIAA) UFO Subcommittee did not find a basis in the report for Condon's prediction that nothing of scientific value will come of further studies."

In fact, said the AIAA, "the Subcommittee finds (parts) of the Condon Report a better criterion for support of UFO-related studies than the claim by some (exponents of UFO research)." Taking the Report as a whole, said the Institute, "the Subcommittee finds that the opposite conclusion (from Condon's) could have been drawn from (the report's) content -- namely, that a phenomenon with such a high ratio of unexplained cases (about 30 percent) should arouse sufficient scientific curiosity to continue its study."

Report May Reflect on National Academy

Heaton's remarks also come at a time when the National Academy of Science, which gave unqualified approval to the Condon Report, is losing credibility in its role as government adviser on scientific matters.

Speaking at the annual December meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, former Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall described the Academy as a "virtual puppet of the government," and urged citizen groups to challenge the Academy's reluctance to oppose establishment policy on controversial public issues.

"Many men of science," said Udall, "are allowing their findings to be used as buttresses for status-quo thinking." Chief among the offenders, according to Udall, is the Academy itself, which "has taken refuge in its role as governmental adviser and has expended almost all of its energies in serving a government clientele."

Udall was not referring to the UFO problem when he made these remarks, but he might well have been, in view of the Academy's failure to offer any criticism of the Condon Report.

SIGHTING ADVISORY

Preliminary information on new reports. Details and evaluations will be published when available.

September 8, 1970 -- A farmer in Zillah, Washington, dismounting from his tractor at dusk, spotted a triangular shaped object hovering overhead in the direction of the moon. "Steel gray" in color, it had a red light at each of its bottom corners and white lights or windows in its center. Also seen by four other adults and three children, it moved upward and went out of sight.

June 24, 1970 -- Two businessmen and their wives witnessed a glowing orange object hovering at low altitude near Hinton, West Virginia. Seen at night in a rural area, the object seemed to emit beams of light that illuminated the ground. The object was stationary and somewhat like the moon in appearance, except the top and bottom were flattened.

Status Report

Project ACCESS:

Getting the Alphabet from the Soup

One of the most commonly asked questions about UFOs is whether there are any geographical patterns among the many thousands of sighting reports in official and private files. Virtually all people interested in UFOs have at one time or another asked this question, on the chance that by knowing in advance where sightings are most likely to occur, would-be witnesses or investigators could actively seek the phenomenon rather than be forced to depend on fortuitous reports.

The answer, of course, is that nobody knows whether geographical -- or any other kind of -- patterns exist, because no adequate studies have been made in this connection. Much speculation has been offered on alleged trends and correlations implicit in UFO reports, but no rigorous quantitative analysis has been performed to provide a basis for testing such statements.

Not all scientists familiar with the UFO problem would agree that statistical questions of this kind, even if they could be answered, would offer any practical help in finding a solution to the mystery. A lot of interest continues in more concrete approaches, such as detection instrumentation, analysis of artifacts, and hypnosis. But there is a growing consensus on the need to at least organize the data in such a way as to make reliable statistics available for whatever purpose they might serve. There are, after all, a very large number of interesting questions that might be asked if quantitative information were available, and many of these questions relate to other forms of research that logically follow statistical correlation of the data.

At the very least, a data base should exist for those scientists who wish to explore the possibility that among the reports on file are telltale subtleties or relationships that could give some clue as to how the UFO problem might be resolved.

Recognizing this need, NICAP organized its Special Study Group on Data Processing Applications (SSGDPA) in late 1969 (*UFO Investigator*, June 1970) to develop an automated storage and retrieval system for UFO statistics. Computers had long been considered for their potential application in compiling information on UFOs, but no centralized EDP file existed for the general UFO field. In setting up SSGDPA, NICAP envisioned development of a system that could provide scientists with specialized software products for a wide variety of statistical and analytical purposes. The name chosen for the system, ACCESS (Automated Clearinghouse for Collection and Exchange of Sighting Statistics), derives from this concept.

During the first six months of 1970, SSGDPA worked out operational guidelines and discussed the general philosophy of its assigned task. From the outset, it was clear that some very fundamental questions had to be answered before any attempt could be made to develop design specifications for the system. Because the system would be oriented toward customer-users, the projected needs of those users had to be defined, and a conceptual framework had to be established for translating those needs into system parameters.

It was decided that the single category of information in which most anticipated users would be interested is the category "sighting," since this is a nuclear concept to the UFO problem and the predominant type of available evidence. On the face of it, this conclusion may seem somewhat obvious, but in fact it required a great deal of deliberation, because the problem of projecting demands on the system was not simple.

If, for example, it was decided that most users would be interested in data on "UFOs," the system configuration would not be the same as it will be for "sighting," or as it would be if another category had been deemed the area of interest. Put another way, the concept of "UFO" covers different kinds of information than the concept "sighting," even though there is substantial overlapping between the two. By limiting the system to "sighting" statistics, a tradeoff was made between multiple theoretical uses of the system and practical expectations of the information most likely to be sought from it.

To illustrate how this will ultimately apply to the data themselves, consider the famous case of Snippy the horse, who was found dead in rural Colorado in 1967, allegedly the victim of effects from a UFO. Because no UFO sightings were connected with discovery of Snippy, the incident falls outside the scope of a "sighting" catalogue. Sightings that did occur at the same general time and place would be included, possibly with a reference to the horse, but the case per se would not logically be contained in the system.

Continued Next Month

Editorial

Flight of the Phoenix

With release of the Condon Report two years ago this month, and closure of Project Blue Book eleven months later, the Air Force delivered a seemingly lethal blow to public interest in UFOs. Most critical, perhaps, was the effect on the press, which took the Air Force at its word and joined in the requiem for UFOs without bothering to question whether the autopsy was accurate or the cadaver really dead.

Foreshadowed by these events, the 1970s would not appear to be a propitious time for keeping the faith and bringing the issue before the public again. Many people would question the wisdom of holding to a cause that has suffered repeated discouragements and setbacks, and that still seeks to win serious acceptance.

But the question is not so easily put in the ground. If a corpse has a low profile, so does a man who lies down to look at the stars and ponder on how to get there. What the 1970s will mean for the UFO problem is not clear, but it is far from certain that the problem is going to succumb to government propaganda and press disinterest.

The past year has already seen signs that this is not the case. The various computer projects underway -- among them NICAP's Project ACCESS -- have not made newspaper headlines, but they represent an earnest attempt to deal with the UFO problem at a level of much greater sophistication than was realized in the 1960s.

Even more important is the surprisingly forthright statement from the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (*UFO Investigator*, November 1970), which called on government and science to eschew "premature conclusions" about UFOs and to embrace new research proposals with an open mind. Coming as it did in the wake of the Air Force actions, this recommendation is clear evidence of continuing scientific interest in the UFO problem.

So in looking at the status of UFOs in 1971, it would be a serious mistake to pronounce them dead and abandon any further investigation. If the UFO problem seems at times to have been sacrificed on a pyre of Air Force reports, it may nevertheless fly from its own ashes and assume a new vitality that will not be as easily eroded as the old. And if that happens, it will be well worth the effort of those who helped bring it about.

NICAP STUDIES UNDERWATER UFO CASE

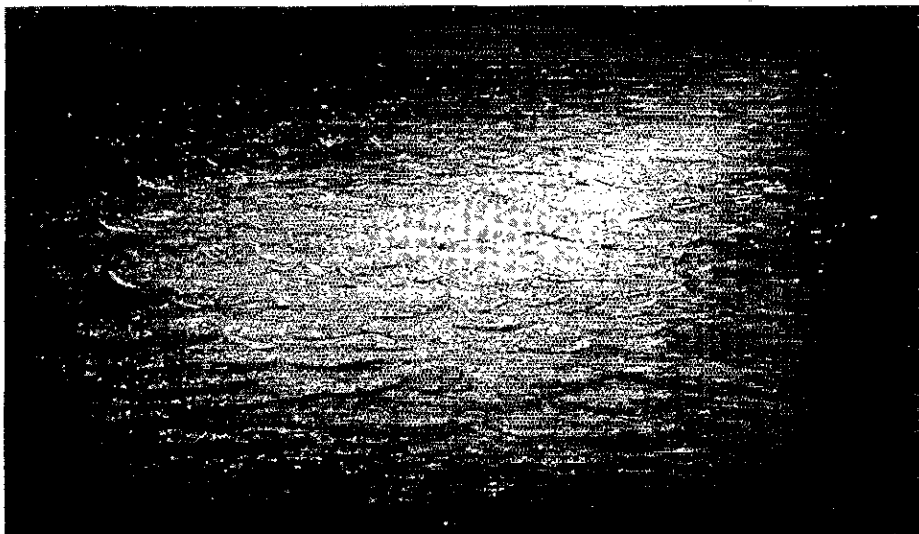
Search For Other Witnesses Continues

The complexity and frustration of proper investigation of a UFO report are aptly demonstrated by recent efforts of NICAP to secure corroborating evidence to an unreported sighting of an object that allegedly moved above and beneath the surface of the ocean.

The original report was received by NICAP last May from a 24-year-old man in the Midwestern United States who claimed to be one of at least four Navy crewmen who spotted the strange object from their ship, which was operating in the South China Sea in April 1968. According to the report, the object was seen at night as it approached the ship on an underwater path, at a range that varied from approximately ten miles when first observed to an estimated 1000 yards at its closest point.

This is how the witness described the incident:

"In the early morning hours of April 1968, my ship was cruising through the South China Seas en route toward Vietnam. We had departed Okinawa a few hours prior and I was standing fantail watch in the after part of the ship. It was quite dark. Suddenly I saw a huge light beneath the water moving rapidly from the northeast and closing the ship. I reported this to the Officer of the Deck through my headset. By this time the huge light had passed in front of the ship and both the starboard and port lookouts confirmed my report. It was definitely round and appeared to be revolving. The ship was not equipped with sonar detection and radar saw nothing on the scope beings (sic) the object was deep in the water. The lookouts and the OOD continued watching the light as it moved with incredible speed toward the southwest. When it was nearly out of sight on the horizon a bright light suddenly appeared above the ocean and radar immediately picked up a blip from out of nowhere on the scope. This bright object then retraced the path backwards that it had taken while underwater. Only this time, remaining high in the sky, it moved from horizon to horizon all in about 10 seconds flat. When the Quartermaster asked the OOD what to identify the object as for the ship's log, the OOD just scratched his head and told him to write it off as a helicopter. The incident was discussed among the crew for weeks."



Primary witness made this drawing of strange underwater light that passed his ship and moved off in same direction where unidentified light was seen in sky moments later.

In attempting to check out this report, NICAP first obtained additional details from the witness, including as many names and addresses of fellow crew members as he could remember. The man could not recall the names of the two lookouts who supposedly witnessed the object with him, but he did remember the name of the radar operator. Thus far, NICAP has been unable to locate this latter individual.

The second step in the investigation was to determine the present location of the ship and the whereabouts of its official records, including the "log" referred to in the report. This was especially important because the witness could not remember the exact date of the sighting.

Inquiry to Navy sources in Washington disclosed that the ship was stationed in Japan but was probably out of service. Further inquiry, however, revealed that a "deck log" for 1968 had been forwarded from the ship to a government accession facility in Maryland, where it was available for examination. In June, after obtaining the necessary clearance, NICAP reviewed the log and was permitted to make notes on its contents.

This examination brought the unexpected discovery that the ship was not in the vicinity of Okinawa at any time during April 1968, but instead was engaged in combat operations off the coast of Vietnam. A further search, however, showed that the ship had been at Okinawa in early March and had departed there on the afternoon of Friday, March 15, for Vietnam. Since the witness said he was certain the sighting occurred while the ship was en route to Southeast Asia, it would appear that the night of March 15, or the early morning of March 16, is the date in question. When told of what the log re-

vealed, however, the witness said he did not think the sighting took place in March.

Since the Officer of the Deck (OOD) played a key role in the incident, NICAP asked the witness to recall the name of the person who was assigned that post at the time of the sighting. The witness said he was not sure, but he thought the name was Lieutenant P. A check of NICAP's notes from the log showed that in fact a Lt. P.J.P. was OOD from 8 P.M. (local time) to Midnight on March 15. Although this seems to agree with the testimony of the witness, it raises the question of exactly when the sighting occurred, since it could not have come "in the early morning hours" and still happened "a few hours" after the ship left Okinawa, because the departure time of the ship, as recorded in the log, was 4 P.M. (four hours before Lt. P. was scheduled to stand watch).

Continued Next Month



Sighting reportedly occurred in South China Sea, but calculations show probable site is East China Sea (arrow).



MEMOS FOR MEMBERS

XMAS CARDS APPRECIATED

Christmas at NICAP is always an especially nice occasion thanks to the many members who remember us with holiday greetings. The mantle in our front office was full of cards this year, and we appreciate your thoughtfulness in sending them.

DID YOU MISS ANY ISSUES?

If you were a NICAP member as of June 15, 1970, you were entitled to all issues of the newsletter published last year (i.e. May through December). If you did not receive all of them, there are three likely explanations: 1) You changed addresses without notifying us, causing the Post Office to return your mail to us; 2) Mail service in your area is unusually slow; or 3) Your mail was lost. If the explanation is the first one, you shortchanged yourself by not helping us keep our files up-to-date. If one of the other two explanations applies, the fault is not yours. In any case, we will be happy to send you any issues you missed if you will advise us by *postcard* which ones they are. But please remember to check carefully to be sure you really failed to receive them.

WE APOLOGIZE

Despite our best efforts, the December issue of the newsletter was unusually late in coming off the press. Part of the problem was our desire to include President Acuff's "Special Report" for 1970, which could not be finalized until the end of the year. Also, we took time to make further economizing changes in our office operation, and to make sure our computer file was completely updated. We are sorry these things took so long, and we appreciate your patience. Though delayed, the December issue was the eighth published for 1970 -- a record achievement for NICAP. Previously, the maximum number of issues published in a 12-month period was five.

MRS. LORENZEN VISITS NICAP

NICAP was pleasantly surprised this month when Mrs. Coral Lorenzen, Secretary-Treasurer of the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization (APRO), paid an unexpected call to NICAP headquarters to meet the staff and discuss the work of the two organizations. On the East Coast to appear at an APRO-sponsored meeting in Baltimore, Mrs. Lorenzen was in Washington with several APRO members to help publicize the meeting, and took the opportunity to stop by NICAP, which she had not had occasion to visit before. She and NICAP Secretary-Treasurer Stuart Nixon talked informally about the current status of UFO research and what the next few years might bring. Both organizations have had to deal with changes in public awareness and interest regarding UFOs, wrought by events in the 1960s. Representatives of NICAP and APRO last talked in April 1970.

Secretary-Treasurer's Report For 1970

The past year was extremely critical for NICAP, due primarily to unpredictable long-range effects of Air Force developments in 1969, and to uncertainty of whether the NICAP membership would support the corporate restructuring program initiated in December 1969 by the Board of Governors. Membership trends in the late 1960s indicating loss of support in the present period have generally been upheld. Although final statistics on new members, renewals, and expirations are not yet compiled for 1970, the net figures are expected to show that new memberships did not offset non-renewals.

Despite these problems, three major goals were reached in 1970: 1) Reduction of indebtedness, 2) Introduction of administrative reforms, and 3) Revamping of newsletter.

Regarding Item 1, all outstanding tax liabilities were paid, and all other creditors were paid in full or in part.

Regarding Item 2, a computerized membership and renewal system was put into effect, and an annual renewal cycle initiated. Also adopted were improved procedures for processing publication orders and conducting other office business.

Regarding Item 3, a new format and publishing schedule were developed, and new features and article ideas were introduced. Member reaction to these changes has been favorable.

Other accomplishments in 1970 include:

1. Securance of federal tax exemption.
2. Introduction of NICAP logo.
3. Introduction of NICAP lapel pin.
4. Initiation of Project ACCESS.
5. Initiation of cooperative relations with APRO.
6. Relocation of NICAP offices.
7. Initiation of meetings with NICAP patrons.
8. Introduction of new NICAP membership cards.
9. Election of new NICAP President.
10. Introduction of standardized NICAP business forms.

In view of these accomplishments, the restructuring program gives reasonable expectation of realizing its aims and of serving as the basis for additional programs of innovation and development. It will be necessary, however, to exercise continued budgetary constraints until the program can be further implemented and tested.

The year just entered, 1971, will also be critical for the corporation, because the distribution of renewal revenue is not evenly proportioned from month to month. This is due chiefly to the delay experienced between January and May 1970 when the membership files were converted to computer. Because no renewals were solicited during that period, relatively few 1971 expiration dates fall in that time frame.

To help compensate for this anomaly, a direct-mail promotion is being developed to generate new memberships during the first five months of 1971. Since the promotion is not expected to be implemented until March, it is hoped that donations, augmented with late renewals from 1970, will sustain the organization during the hiatus.

Also under consideration as a revenue-producing measure for 1971 is a public relations and advertising program. Funding requirements for such a program will preclude early enactment, but limited planning will be conducted in hopes of realizing the necessary support.

Attention will also be given in 1971 to expansion of products and services for NICAP members, pursuant to the restructuring program. One of the long-term goals of the dues adjustment in April 1970 was to provide for increased membership benefits at no additional cost to the members, and it is hoped that 1971 will permit at least the first of these benefits to be made available.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR PERIOD January 1 to December 31, 1970 Receipts and Expenditures (1)

<u>Income</u>	
Memberships and Renewals	\$15,737
Publications	3,617
Contributions	633
Back Issues of Newsletter	99
Lectures	245
Jewelry	993
Miscellaneous	2,533
Income Received for 1970	\$23,857
Income Deferred for 1971 (2)	13,202
Total 1970 Income	\$37,059
<u>Expenses (3)</u>	
Newsletter	\$ 5,126
Copyright	64
Advertising	9
Computer Services	1,791
Publicity and Promotion	105
Meetings	37
Publications	700
Salaries	13,522
Employee Benefits	634
Accounting Fees	475
Equipment Rental	420
Legal Fees	937
Maintenance and Repairs	40
Office Supplies	554
Personal Property Taxes	92
Postage	1,165
Rent	3,250
Telephone and Telegraph	898
Travel and Entertainment	66
General Printing	1,712
Jewelry	722
Bank Charges	138
Miscellaneous	1,315
Total Expenses	\$33,772

NOTES:

(1) All amounts shown are unaudited figures subject to final adjustment. An audited Balance Sheet will be published when available.

(2) Money received in 1970 but deferred to help cover membership services in 1971. The need to meet obligations incurred in 1969 and earlier has resulted in expenditure of part of deferred funds during 1970.

(3) Includes amounts paid or owed on pre-1970 obligations.