

UFO INVESTIGATOR

NATIONAL INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE ON
AERIAL PHENOMENA
NICAP

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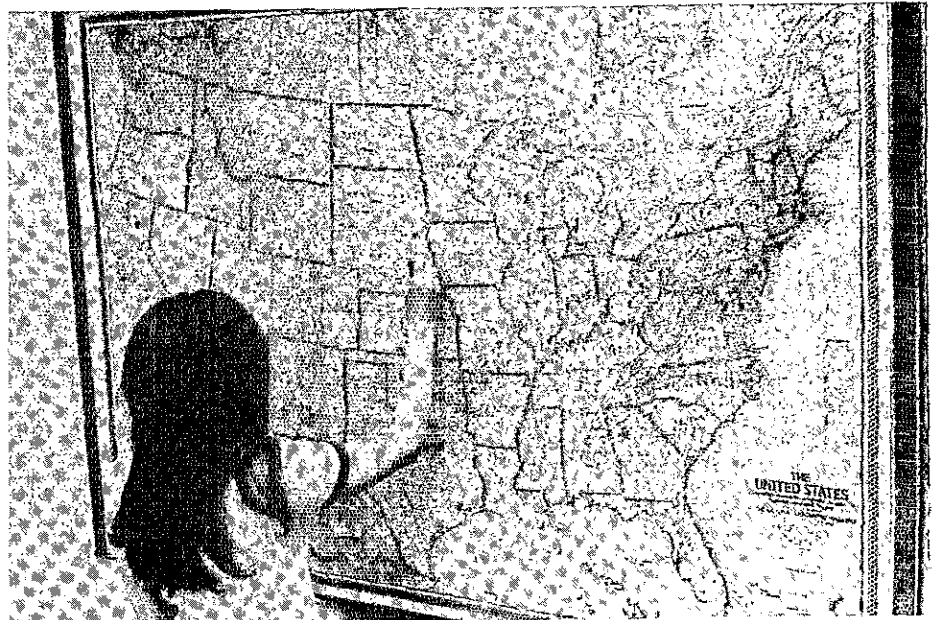
REPORTS INCREASE AS "YEAR OF UFO" NEARS

Researchers Prepare for Possible Onslaught

In what may be the prelude to a new rash of sightings around the world, a significant increase has been noted in the number of North American sightings reported in 1971 over those recorded in 1970. Preliminary statistics compiled this month show a strong quantitative rise from last year to this, with a surprisingly large proportion falling in the normally slow period of September to December.

If this trend continues, the predicted "flap" of 1972 could occur on schedule, upholding the so-called five-year cycle in reported cases. The cycle theory is based on peak periods of activity that have occurred every five years since 1947, except for 1962. Various explanations have been offered to account for this regularity, ranging from patterns in news coverage to changes in the positions of planets. No one has come up with a satisfactory answer.

Researchers are watching the current fluctuations closely, hoping to detect some clue as to why the jump has come at a time when few observers expected any major new trend. The stimulus usually cited to explain such an increase—publicity—has been largely absent in recent years, except for occasional newspaper articles and radio or TV "talk shows" on UFOs. Sightings per se have been almost entirely ignored by wire ser-



NICAP aide plots 1971 sightings on master map at NICAP headquarters. Map shows concentration of reports in northeastern states, possibly due to population density in that area. Most inactive locale for 1971 was Southwest, once the scene of many famous cases.

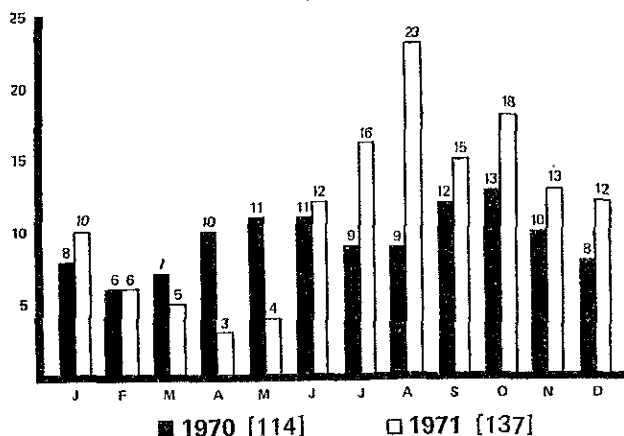
vices and a large majority of news media, further intensifying the mystery of the latest upswing in reports.

One question prompted by the rate of new incidents is whether the Condon Report *continues to inhibit* citizens who make sightings and wish to report them. When sightings declined in 1969 and 1970, most commentators attributed the drop to the Report's widely quoted conclusions, which called for an end to UFO studies and said science had learned nothing after 21 years of investigation. It was unclear whether Condon's statements would bring a permanent end to the observations or have only a temporary restraining effect on the reporting process. From present indicators, the latter would appear to be the answer.

Several curious trends are evident in the 1971 statistics, notably the curious *decrease* in reports as the summer months approached. Typically, sightings become more frequent as weather conditions improve and more people return to the outdoors. As the figures show, the turning point did not come until June, when the incidence began to normalize for the warm weather season. The peak period, August, was not inordinately active, but it apparently had some effect on later trends, since the level of sightings has remained relatively high since then, even in the last months of this year.

By contrast, the most active month in 1970, according to the statistics, was October, with 13 reports. In 1971, five months equaled or bettered this figure, and two came very close to matching it. Overall, 1970 was both quiet and surprisingly constant in the number of sightings, with an average of barely ten reports received per month. This year, the average moved upward by about two reports per month.

NORTH AMERICAN SIGHTINGS
RECEIVED BY NICAP
1970/1971
(Preliminary Tabulations)



UFOs Continue As International Phenomenon

Neither the walls of a Canadian prison nor the "Iron Curtain" of Europe prevented NICAP from receiving a variety of foreign UFO sighting reports during 1971.

Despite the handicaps of language and distance, UFO reports sent to NICAP continue to demonstrate the international character of the UFO phenomenon.

A majority of the foreign sightings occurred during the past six months and included reports from Canada, Brazil, Peru, Columbia, Australia, England, Scotland, and Yugoslavia.

While many of the reports received by NICAP involved only "lights," others were more detailed and included full descriptions of objects viewed at close range.

Investigation of these sightings, like many received by NICAP, is severely limited and is primarily dependent on the credibility of witnesses and the resources and interest of local investigators, official or otherwise.

What follows is a breakdown by country of some of the more interesting cases received by NICAP during 1971.

CANADA

Listeners to a late-night radio program on station CFBC in New Brunswick, October 16, were told of a report that a "strange object" had apparently landed on a small island in the Saint John River.

The object, reported by several callers to the program, seemed to change colors from green, orange, and red. A group of approximately 20 to 30 young people having a party on a beach opposite the island also reported the object.

Another UFO was reported the following night, October 17, by radio station CFNB. The object had been seen by the station manager, who observed it for more than three hours above Fredericton, the capital of New Brunswick. Numerous other individuals also observed the UFO, including employees at the nearby airport, who indicated they were unable to make radar contact despite their visual observation of the strange light.

Three inmates and an officer of Springhill Medium Security Institution in Nova Scotia reported seeing two "brightly lighted objects in the sky" beyond the prison's walls on October 23. The UFOs were in view for approximately 10 minutes and seemed to remain stationary in the sky, blink-

ing their lights on and off in what appeared to be a regular pattern.

The editor of a hunting and fishing magazine in Quebec told officials he saw a "solid, disc-like" object, orange in color, with what looked like "traffic lights" around its edge on October 23 at approximately 8 p.m. The UFO was in sight for 90 seconds, according to the witness.

October continued as a busy month for sightings with the next incident occurring October 27 near Lancaster, Ontario. A woman driving alone reported sighting a "glowing object" hovering several feet from the ground near the highway on which she was traveling. The UFO appeared as "round and orange-reddish in color."

Two witnesses, observing independently and unknown to each other, reported sighting a UFO moving slowly over Lake St. Louis, near Montreal International Airport, during the evening of November 8. Both witnesses reported the object moved slowly across the sky, with one recalling, "I never viewed anything move so smooth...as if it were part of nature."

ENGLAND

One of the biggest stories regarding UFOs in England occurred on August 16 when at least ten police constables and numerous civilians reported seeing a UFO over Staffordshire, in central England.

Newspapers throughout England reported the sightings, noting that the Defense Ministry, scientists and police were mystified as to what the object was.

One of the constables took 12 pictures of the UFO. All 12 pictures were originally suppressed by the Defense Ministry, but one was eventually released to the press and received extensive coverage in newspapers both in England and abroad. The picture revealed little about the object except that it looked similar to a three-quarter moon.

An investigation by NICAP's London Subcommittee and by Dr. J. Allen Hynek and Roger Stanway, resulted in a preliminary report on the incident attributing the sighting to the planet Mars. The image recorded on the widely circulated photographs was explained as a ghost image caused by mercury vapor street lights in the vicinity where the photographs were originally made.

In another unrelated sighting report made approximately one week later, three leaders of a girls' scouting group

reported sighting a cigar-shaped object that made "a tremendous roar" as it suddenly appeared over their campsite in Worcestershire. After arriving, the object appeared to hover "absolutely silent" over the area for more than one hour. Witnesses described the object as having both red and green lights.

One of the most interesting sightings, and one that remains unresolved, occurred on October 26 at noon over Enstone, Oxfordshire.

A television crew filming a special program suddenly spotted a bright orange object flashing high in the clear blue sky above. It made no sound and appeared to be revolving, according to witnesses.

One of the cameramen turned his lens skyward and captured approximately 60 seconds of the object's flight path. The segment was later viewed by millions on British television. The object appeared to leave intermittent vapor trails, hover, and then accelerate away at a high speed.

Roger Stanway, chairman of the British UFO Research Association, commented, "It's an incredible piece of film. We are certainly right in saying that at the moment it is a UFO, because we don't know what it was. I would have thought its behavior was too unconventional for an aircraft."

YUGOSLAVIA

Speculation about UFOs behind the "Iron Curtain" reached a peak in October when 12 sightings were reported during an 11-day period, October 1 through October 11.

One of the UFOs was described by the doctor who viewed it through a telescope as "triangular in shape" and of a "silver metallic color" which later appeared to redden.

Many of the sightings received newspaper coverage. One newspaper speculated that the reports stemmed from a foreign spy plane sent to observe Yugoslav army maneuvers.

BRAZIL

Two men driving independently near Rio de Janeiro had to be treated for shock during the weekend of September 24-26 after each reported being followed by a low-flying UFO on roads outside this South American city. Both men told similar stories to police, although the men had never met. The witnesses said their cars were followed by a UFO which emitted a blinding light. When they tried

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SIGHTING ADVISORY

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

December 13, 1971—Easton, Md. Two Maryland game wardens and a state trooper reported sighting two UFOs over Talbot County. The objects, according to the witnesses, remained in a fixed position for more than one hour in the sky, east of Easton, Md. The objects appeared to have red, green, and white flashing lights. Officials at nearby Dover Air Force Base confirmed a radar contact in the vicinity of the sighting but were unable to identify it.

December 2, 1971—Adamstown, Md. Three bright lights that appeared to hover at an altitude of 1,000 feet for several minutes before flying southwest towards the mountains, were reported by three 17-year-old students. While hovering, the lights went out one at a time on the "dome-shaped objects," according to the witnesses. The objects appeared to have small colored lights and four pipe-like vertical tubes attached to them. After about 10 minutes, said one of the students, the large lights came on again and the objects flew off.

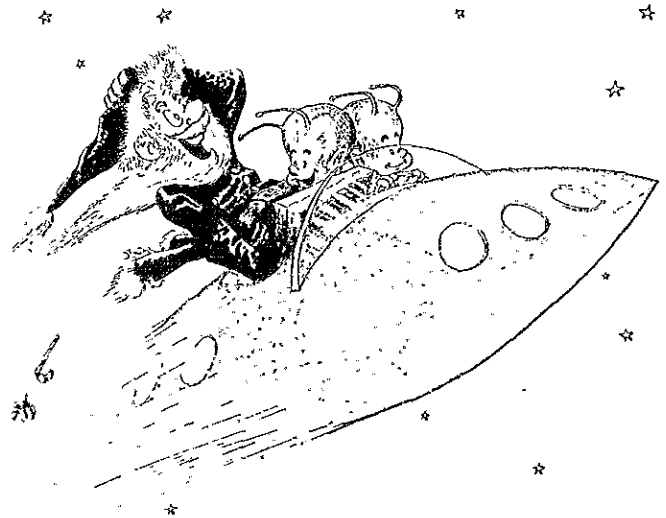
November 7, 1971—Norris City, Ill. A former Navy weather observer and his wife, while loading their car for a trip from Norris City to Mt. Carmel, reported sighting a bright, slowly moving "white-orange" light approaching from the east. The UFO was estimated to be traveling at an altitude of 1500-2000 feet and was observed for approximately nine minutes before changing its course to the south-southwest and disappearing.

November 6, 1971—Coarsegold, Calif. A 61-year-old rancher and his wife reported spotting three "pyramid-shaped" UFOs hovering for more than 20 minutes above a rock bluff 2.5 miles from their ranch house. The objects, 100 feet across at their base and approximately 45 feet high, according to the witnesses, were orange in color with a blinking red light on top of each. One of the UFOs was observed to shine a very small stream of light on a rocky bluff below. (The Coarsegold area has many abandoned mines, two of which were directly beneath the hovering UFOs, according to investigator Mrs. Idabel Epperson of the Los Angeles NICAP Subcommittee.)

November 6, 1971—Pickaway County, Ohio. A UFO resembling "a plate turned upside down on another plate" that "glowed with a white light" reportedly followed the president of a local school board and his wife as they were driving on a rural road, just south of Lockbourne Air Force Base. The object, flying at an altitude of 500-1,000 feet, was observed for more than one hour and appeared to follow the couple to their farm and orbited the area for about 45 minutes. After circling the farm, the UFO began to spiral upward, finally vanishing from sight, according to the witness.

November 4, 1971—Welda, Kan. A retired Army dentist sighted a "cigar-shaped" UFO while duck hunting at a lake near Welda, Kansas. "It was 1¼ to 1½ inches long, measured between my thumb and index finger and almost the width of a pencil. It did not have wings and I could not see tail fins.... The nose cone was bright orange or reddish orange with a white body. The object was moving slowly in a north or northeasterly direction....I observed it for about 10 seconds."

November 4, 1971—Middletown, Ohio. Bonnie Roman, resident of Middletown and editor of the Ohio-UFO News, reported sighting a football-shaped UFO in the sky east of her home. "It came down below the tree line and hovered there. Then, just like a light bulb, it turned off and was gone." Another resident of Middletown also reported sighting a sim-



"I sure would like to see Dr. Condon's face when he sees what we left in his garage."

ilar object, and a local newspaper said it had received several calls regarding UFO sightings that evening.

October 5, 1971—Springfield, Ill. A rash of UFO sightings, most of them made by Illinois state troopers, was reported during a two-hour period in the Springfield area. At least seven different reports were received by the state police. Some of the witnesses reported objects with lights of various colors, while others reported seeing lights only. A nearby airport indicated that its radar had not picked up any UFOs during the period of the sightings.

October 4, 1971—Hollywood, Calif. An object that looked "like a feather thrown into the wind" because of its darting motion high in the sky was observed around 1 p.m. by a husband and wife. The UFO stopped its random motion, according to the couple, and began a "smooth straight course, angling upward" toward the southwest. The object was described as "conical" in shape and was observed for approximately one minute.

October 2, 1971—Caro, Michigan. A 29-year-old ex-Air Force man, driving from Caro to Watrousville around 6:30 a.m., spotted a triangular shaped UFO with a large white light at the bottom, and many smaller red lights around it. He attempted to wave down a passerby as a witness but was unsuccessful. The object emitted no sound and made sharp turns and at "fantastic" speed. When the observer moved in direct line with the object it moved quickly out of sight. The sighting, reported to police, resembled a sighting report in the same area approximately one year ago.

September 4, 1971—La Puente, Calif. A UFO that appeared to have an orange-red flashing light at its top and numerous "window lights" around its perimeter was observed by a 43-year-old witness and two 65-year-old companions. The "alien" ship, according to the observers, was seen in level flight approximately 300 feet above the ground. It appeared to be rotating in a counterclockwise direction. The incident was reported to police who indicated that no other reports regarding a UFO had been received that night.

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NEWSPAPERS NOTE NICAP ANNIVERSARY

NICAP's 15th birthday in October caught the attention of newspapers all across the United States. Chief among the stories that appeared was a special feature by reporter Lee Hickling of Gannett News Service, entitled "Pie-Pan Puzzler Still a Mystery." The story ran in a number of Gannett's 50-odd subscriber papers, and cited NICAP's continued belief that UFOs are a real and unresolved phenomenon. Although Committee investigators "come on as a skeptical and hard-headed lot," said Hickling, "they are still convinced that 10 to 20 per cent of the sightings they get cannot be explained."

Other articles that appeared include an illustrated feature in the Louisville (Kentucky) *Courier-Journal* for October 3, 1971, which described NICAP as a "Consumers Guide on flying saucers." "Like panning for gold," said the article, "NICAP is trying to sift through all the worthless material and focus scientific attention on the few nuggets that might unfold the UFO mystery."

Another southern newspaper, the Chattanooga (Tennessee) *News-Free Press*, also carried a story, after being contacted by NICAP Chattanooga Subcommittee chairman David Kammer. The story ran October 31 and quoted NICAP's anniversary press release in its entirety.

"YOU ASKED FOR IT" ASKS NICAP FOR HELP

Remember Art Baker and Skippy Peanut Butter? For TV viewers in the 1950s, those were household words, thanks to a popular series called "You Asked For It." Currently, the program is being revived under new sponsorship, and NICAP has been asked to help produce a film sequence on UFOs for the first show. In discussions with program coordinators, NICAP has provided information and ideas on how to treat the UFO subject for a mass television audience, and recommended sources of visual material for use on the program.

The series is expected to begin in January or February of next year, and will include segments on the Loch Ness monster, the "big foot" creature in California, and other famous mysteries of our time. People interested in contacting the show to suggest ideas for future programs may do so by writing "You Asked For It," 636 North LaBrea Avenue, Los Angeles, Calif. 90036.

DAVID FROST DENIES NICAP EQUAL TIME

Producers of the nationally televised "David Frost Show" have turned down a

NICAP request for equal time to answer the allegations of contactee Frank Stranges, whose appearance on the show November 26 generated new publicity for his long-touted claim to contact with a man from Venus. In denying the request, the producers stated, "The extent, if any, to which Mr. Stranges is 'bogus' was amply demonstrated by the gentleman himself, and further exertion on our part in this matter would be superfluous."

NICAP made its petition out of concern that Stranges's statements gave a distorted impression of the UFO subject. In its letter of request, NICAP said, "We are particularly concerned that...your viewers will assume the antics and allegations of Mr. Stranges are an accurate representation of the UFO subject, and that there is no point of view other than his own. For this reason, and in fairness to the many legitimate scientists currently doing research on the UFO problem, we would like to request equal time...to present the serious side of the UFO subject."

TALKS TO STUDENT GROUPS ON RISE

Increased invitations from colleges and schools have kept NICAP busy during recent months discussing the UFO problem with educators and student groups. Early last month, NICAP met with two classes of an adult education course entitled "Astronomy

and Mysticism," given under the auspices of the physics department at Montgomery County College in Maryland. Designed to teach basic precepts of science through discussion of unconventional scientific topics, the course considered such controversial areas as astrology, ESP, and the astronomical theories of Immanuel Velikovsky.

Also in November, NICAP participated in a question-answer session with a grade school in Fresno, California, conducted by telephone. Arranged in advance by the class science teacher, the session was structured around questions prepared by the students on UFOs, based on outside reading they had done. Special audio equipment in the classroom permitted two-way conversation with the NICAP office and each student.

Another recent opportunity came from the Board of Education in Washington County, Maryland, which uses closed-circuit television for its science instruction. The Board asked NICAP to make a video presentation on UFOs for broadcast to science classes throughout the county early next year. The show was produced at the Board's TV studios in Hagerstown.

On tap for January is a trip to Philadelphia to address a session of Drexel University's "Mankind and Nature" course, set up to "expose students to unfamiliar things" and "provide time for wondering and exploring." The course is given by the school's Department of Architecture.

UFOs Continue As International Phenomenon

(Continued from page 2)

to speed away from it their vehicles would not respond, they said.

COLUMBIA

At least 16 soldiers reported observing a disc-shaped UFO with a flashing colored light on top for at least 15 minutes near a military base at Palmira, Columbia, May 26. The object reportedly produced no noise.

Approximately 3,500 people reported a similar object traveling over Palmira at "jet liner speed" around 6:30 p.m. on June 5. Witnesses said the object appeared to hover for about ten seconds and that the lower portion of the disc glowed with an intense orange before disappearing at "incredible speed."

AUSTRALIA

A "hat-shaped" UFO that appeared to hover at flagpole height was reported by a witness September 30 over a South Coast bowling club at Kenbla Heights. The UFO was described as "whitish-grey in color" with two lights

that were used to shine on the parking lot below before disappearing toward a campsite. Approximately one dozen people witnessed the incident. Police said they had no explanation.

PERU

A cigar-shaped object, eight feet in length and ten inches in diameter was recovered by a miner and some friends after he reported that a UFO had crashed against a hill near his home, 170 miles east of Lima, on June 9.

The object, according to the miner, had a strange magnetic attraction. No information was immediately available on whether local officials were able to identify the object.

SCOTLAND

Five star-like objects in a glowing semi-circle, apparently directing shafts of light downward, were reported by a number of witnesses on August 15 over Harwick, Scotland. At least one witness viewed the object for more than one hour.