THE U.F.O. Investigator

FACTS ABOUT FLYING SAUCERS (UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS)

— Published by the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena —

Vol. 1, No. 9 March, 1960

Federal Aviation Agency Report Exposes AF Cover-Up

In signed reports given to NICAP, the Federal Aviation Agency has disclosed that the AF hid the facts of an important UFO encounter last September. The incident occurred near Redmond, Oregon.

The proof, officially logged FAA evidence, includes details of a jet chase, a description of the UFO and an AF report of tracking the object by radar for over an hour.

On January 19, 1960, after NICAP questions about this case, AF Headquarters sent this signed statement: "The ATIC account of the sighting fails to reveal any evidence of radar tracking or any success of the attempted intercept. It is the ATIC opinion that this object was probably a balloon..."

The FAA reports, which completely contradict the AF claim, were signed by L. E. Davis, Chief, Redmond Air Traffic Communication Station, and William F. Zauche, Jr., Chief, Air Route Traffic Control Center, Seattle. The two reports were sent to NICAP with a confirming letter by Eugene S. Kropf, Assistant to the Regional Manager, FAA Region 4, Los Angeles.

The following summary includes a few added details from Wertz and Dickerson, which the official reports confirm. (The FAA reports are available for inspection at NICAP.)

The sighting occurred in the early hours of Sept. 24, 1959. Shortly before 5 a.m., an object first seen as a "strange, bright light" was noted by Redmond city patrolman Robert Dickerson. It was descending so rapidly that he stopped his police-car, thinking the object would hit the ground. But the device stopped at two or three hundred feet, its glow lighting up the trees.

For several minutes, the UFO hovered, moving slowly back and forth. Trying for a closer look, Dickerson drove toward it along the Prineville highway. As he turned in toward the the airport, the UFO's glow suddenly turned an orange color. Accelerating rapidly, it sped to a point about ten miles away, then stopped and hovered again.

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Three UFO's Sighted by Veteran Pilot

On the afternoon of March 4, three elliptical flying objects were sighted by airplane instructor Charles Morris, at Dubuque, Iowa. A pilot for 14 years, with 5000 flying hours, Morris saw the UFOs as he was watching a pupil perform aerobatics. The sighting was confirmed by six witnesses at separate locations.

At 5:57 p.m., Morris said, he saw the three objects in the southeast sky, traveling in line-formation. They were clear-cut, glowed blue-white, and were brighter than the moon. Morris estimated their size at approximately 200 by 60 feet. Observed for over three minutes, the UFOs maintained their intensity, apparently ruling out sunlight reflections from the objects. They disappeared on a northeast course, flying horizontally. No sound was heard, nor did Morris observe any exhaust or vapor trails.

Membership Cards

Your 1960 NICAP membership card will be found in the envelope containing this issue. It covers not only your paid membership period, but also the automatic extension explained on page 2, in case your membership otherwise would expire before the end of 1960.

Within ten minutes of Morris' broadcast report, the six confirmatory reports were phoned to the station. Meantime, a local newspaper editor notified the Pentagon, and shortly afterward the Air Technical Intelligence center phoned Morris for a detailed report. An AF official stated they had checked and found that no aircraft which could explain the sighting were in the area. This also was confirmed by Morris, after he independently checked with FAA Air Traffic Control in Cedar Rapids.

NICAP has asked AF Secretary Sharp for a copy of the ATIC evaluation, since the Air Force insists that UFO reports are not withheld from the public.

A report on the AF answer, and any other available details, will be covered in a later issue.

AF General Warns UFO's Serious, Will Increase

In private instructions briefing AF commands, Maj. Gen. Richard E. O'Keefe, Acting Inspector General, recently warned that UFO sightings will increase, causing public apprehension. Conceding that UFOs are a serious problem, he emphasized the need for speedy investigations by experienced officers with special equipment.

Existence of the Inspector General's private admonition was revealed to the press by NICAP on Feb. 27. A statement that the AF had deliberately misled the public, calling UFOs delusions and hoaxes, was approved by the following members of NICAP's Board of Governors:

Rev. Albert Baller, Robbins Memorial Church, Greenfield, Mass.; Col. Robert B. Emerson, U.S. Army Reserve; J. P. Hartranft, president, Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association and former AF lieutenant-colonel; Vice Adm. R. H. Hillenkoetter, former Director of the Central Intelligence Agency; Prof. Charles A. Maney, physicist, Defiance College, Ohio.

(Prior to this, three other Board members had jointly stated that the AF was withholding UFO information: Dr. Marcus Bach, Iowa State University; Maj. Dewey Fournet, USAFR, former Intelligence officer assigned as Pentagon monitor of Project Blue Book, and Rear Adm. H. B. Knowles, who has made a long study of the UFO problem.)

The AF admitted the existence of the Inspector General's instructions, after NICAP released photo-copies of the document to United Press International and the Associated Press.

Dated Dec. 24, 1959, the Inspector General's "brief" for Operations and Training Commands was headed, "UFOs SERIOUS BUSINESS." Extracts covering the main points follow:

"Unidentified flying objects — sometimes treated lightly by the press and referred to as 'flying saucers' — must be rapidly and accurately identified as serious USAF business . . . AF concern with these sightings is threefold: First of all, is the object a threat to the defense of the U.S.? Secondly, does it contribute to technical or scientific knowledge?"

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The UFO INVESTIGATOR

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Donald E. Keyhoe, Director and Editor
Richard Hall, Secretary and Associate Editor

IMPORTANT BREAK COMING

In the next ten weeks, several developments will lead to a big break in UFO secrecy. The first step, already taken was NICAP's nationwide press story disclosing the AF Headquarters opinion that "UFOs are serious business," along with our Board member statements that the AF has deliberately misled the American people.

Favorable press and newscast reaction has quickly built up. Under the headline, "Secrecy about UFOs is overdone," the Cleveland *Plain Dealer* said: "If they (UFOs) are craft from outer space, let's try to determine so. If they are illusions, let's know that, too. There is no need here for secrecy."

At Huntsville, Ala., where hundreds of rocket experts work at Redstone Arsenal, the Huntsville *Times* commented pointedly on our disclosure of the AF Inspector General's instructions:

"We might never have heard of this, said the *Times*, if it hadn't been for the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena." Quoting AF public claims that UFOs do not exist, the *Times* stated, "This doesn't jibe with the Inspector General's instructions that UFOs must be rapidly and accurately identified as serious business, nor with his prediction that UFO sightings will increase." Citing Adm Hillenkoetter's statement that it was time for Congressional hearings, the *Times* concluded: "We say it's long past time."

Other important news stories are expected in March, April and May. Three magazines are now considering articles about NICAP. In addition, new, significant information is coming in from pilots, engineers and others who have observed UFOs.

After three hard years, we are now close to our goal—a break in official secrecy. We realize that the suppression of UFO reports, plus enforced delays in NICAP publications, have discouraged some members. But the final results should offset the discouragement, proving the long struggle to have been worth all our trouble.

The next Bulletin, scheduled for the last half of April, will be one of the most important issues NICAP has ever published. Among disclosures to be covered are:

(see next column)

A. Key points in NICAP's "Case for Congress," including summaries of dramatic sightings given us off-the-record, but which now are to be revealed without the sources. The reports will be certified as genuine by NICAP's Secretary and Board members.

B. The majority conclusion of the NICAP Board regarding UFOs. (Note: Please answer the poll questions on page 8 and mail as soon as possible, so that we may also publish a cross-section of NICAP membership conclusions.

C. A preview of main points in a new book, "Flying Saucers: Top Secret," by NICAP's Director, to be published the last part of May. More detailed items from the book will later be reported to members in the *UFO Investigator* and our Bulletins. This book covers NICAP's three-year battle against censorship, shows the vital facts uncovered, the main sightings in the "Case for Congress," Board and Advisors' opinions on several puzzling incidents, and significant behind-the-scenes developments.

We believe this book will bring NICAP much greater public support, by putting indisputable UFO evidence on record.

Because of an earlier decision against selling unproven "contactee" books, NICAP's policy has been not to sell UFO books by anyone, including the Director. However, it has now been pointed out that all NICAP members have played a vital part in this three-year struggle, and several have suggested that it would be only fair to offer all members a discount on this published record of NICAP's fight. Accordingly, the membership is being polled on the question. (See p. 8.) If the majority agrees, NICAP will arrange to secure copies at dealer's discount, and the full discount will be passed on to interested members. The majority opinion will be published in the next Bulletin.

Membership Extensions

As we have previously explained, memberships are automatically extended when our publications are delayed, so that each member will receive twelve issues. We expect to be on schedule from now on, and we plan to publish supplemental editions in coming months, as substitutes for the recently delayed numbers. Because of the impending developments this should work out to the benefit of all, permitting wider coverage of important news.

Federal Aviation Agency Report Exposes AF Cover-up

From page 1

When Dickerson reached the airport he notified FAA flight specialist Laverne Wertz. For a few moments, they watched the UFO through binoculars. It was now at a height of about 3,000 feet. Through the field glasses, Dickerson and Wertz could see queer tongues of light—red, yellow and green—being projected from the sides of the object. Varying in length, the streaks of light extended and retracted at irregular intervals.

At 5:10 a.m. Wertz reported the UFO to the Seattle Air Route Control Center. Word was immediately flashed by the Seattle Center to Military Flight Service, Hamilton Air Force Base. According to the Seattle Center chief, Mr. Zauche, they were informed that the UFO was being tracked by radar at the Klamath Falls, Oregon GCI site. (GCI—Ground Control Intercept—is the radar guidance system of the Air Defense Command.

Within minutes, four F-102 jets were scrambled from Portland, to intercept the UFO.

Back at Redmond Airport, Wertz, other FAA personnel, and Patrolman Dickerson continued to watch the mysterious object. It was still at the same height, ten miles northeast. The binoculars clearly showed the strange tongues of light, which continued to extend and retract.

After a short interval, the Redmond witnesses saw the AF jets racing up from the southeast. As the F-102s approached, red and yellow flames suddenly shot from the lower part of the UFO. Climbing swiftly, it disappeared above scattered clouds at 14,000 feet. A little later, it was briefly seen from Redmond Airport, hovering at 25,000 feet, some 20 miles distant. This was the last visual sighting logged by the FAA.

But more than an hour after this, the Seattle Center was informed by the AF that the Klamath Falls GCI radar was still "painting the UFO." (Tracking its blips on radarscopes.) An entry on the FAA log signed by Mr. Zauche showed the object, as located by AF radar, was then 30 miles south of Redmond.

"Altitude has been measured on height-finder (radar)," the FAA log reads, "at altitudes that vary from 6,000 to 54,000 feet."

After daylight, the Seattle Center ordered Wertz to make a flying check of the region for possible radioactivity from the UFO. Complying, Wertz and the pilot of a Tri-Pacer circled the areas where the UFO had hovered. Presumably this was done at AF request, but the FAA logs show no comment; nor were the results logged, though the press later stated no abnormal radioactivity was found.

The AF statement on this case, sent to NICAP on Jan. 19, 1960, was signed by Maj. Lawerence J. Tacker, Pentagon Public Information Officer handling UFO information. Despite all the AF reports cited by the FAA, and the added details given the Air Force by the FAA, this official spokesman dismissed the Redmond case on a pretext of "insufficient information." This misleading claim and the ATIC balloon answer—both contrary to fact—constitute a typical AF cover-up.

(continued on page 3)

UFO Formations seen in New Hampshire

On two consecutive nights in February, formations of UFOs were sighted as they maneuvered over New Hampshire.

The first sighting, on Feb. 3, was reported to NICAP by William M. Kendrick, Intervale, N. H., a former P. T. boat commander in the Air Force. At 8:53 p.m., Kendrick, his wife and son saw three strange flying objects traveling north, in line formation. Two of the UFOs had a yellow-orange glow. The third, brighter than the others, pulsated from red to orange. After a moment, this pulsating object appeared to launch a fourth object which joined the formation. Then a fifth UFO, Kendrick reported, came down swiftly from a higher altitude and joined the four cruising objects. The five UFOs, moving faster than jet aircraft, quickly disappeared behind Mt. Washington and Mt. Adams. The unknown objects, said Kendrick, were larger and brighter than stars or planes. (Interview by member David C. Baker; Kendrick's signed report at NICAP.)

On the following night, three luminous UFOs in exact line formation were sighted near East Madison, N. H. About 7 p.m., the three glowing objects, reported by Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Bartho, of Snowville, were seen flying a south-to north course. As in the report by Mr. Kendrick, the third object was seen to pulsate regularly, alternating from yellow to bright red. Comparsion with the flashing lights of a conventional aircraft, which flew overhead two minutes later, showed no similarity to the pulsating UFO.

Federal Aviation Agency From page 2

As proof of the need for a Congressional investigation, photo-copies of the FAA and Air Force documents have been sent to interested Congressman, and to the Space and Armed Services Committees of the Senate and the House of Representatives. In summing up this evidence, NICAP made four points:

1. The FAA description of the UFO, its strange tongues of flame, its alternate hovering and rapid maneuvers, and its swift escape from the AF jets all make it impossible that the object was a balloon.

2. The official FAA statements *prove* that the UFO was tracked for over 90 minutes by GCI radarmen—the most expert radar operators in the Air Force.

3. The AF was fully aware that its own and the FAA evidence proved this was a true UFO—some unknown machine under intelligent control.

4. The AF, through its official spokesman, deliberately gave NICAP a false answer, fully aware that it was untrue.

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To NICAP Members: We urge that you ask your Congressman to insist on a full Air Force explanation of this case. Please let us see the answers you receive; letters will be returned if requested.

Mars May Have Orbiting Space Base, Says White House Adviser

The Martian moon Phobos, generally accepted as a celestial body, actually may be an artificial satellite launched long ago by an advanced Martian race, according to Dr. S. Fred Singer, special advisor to President Eisenhower on space developments. No mention was made of the other Mars moon, Deimos.

In his published opinion, Dr. Singer backed a claim first made by the Soviet astrophysicist Shklovsky. The Russian scientist's announcement that Phobos was a hollow, artificial satellite, proving the existence of a Martian civilization, set off heated arguments among astronomers. Shklovsky based his decision on a long study of Phobos' peculiar orbit, which other astronomers also have noted. The Russian claims has calculations and those of earlier astronomers prove Phobos cannot possibly be an ordinary moon.

Though Dr. Singer said the figures still had to be proved, his Phobos statement, in the February *Astronautics*, rejected other astronomers' objections.

"I would be very disappointed if it turns out to be solid," said the White House advisor. If the figures were correct, he stated, then Phobos undoubtedly is a hollow, artificial satellite. If it is, he said, its purpose probably would be to sweep up radiation in Mars' atmosphere, so that Martians could safely operate around their planet. Dr. Singer also pointed out that Phobos would make an ideal space base, both for Martians and earthlings.

AF GENERAL WARNS From page 1

The third point, said the Inspector General, is the question of explaining to the American people. He predicted that sightings will increase, with the AF still chiefly concerned over defense and technical aspects.

Officers with scientific or technical backgrounds, said the Inspector General, should be selected as UFO investigators. They should be equipped with binoculars, a camera, a Geiger counter and a magnifying glass, and they should have containers for any "samples" recovered. (Presumably, this refers to the "actual or suspected UFO material" cited in AF Reg. 200-2, including samples of soil where UFOs have touched down.)

One point which drew NICAP Board members' fire was the Inspector General's directions that explanations to the public should be "realistic and knowledgeable."

"There has been no change in AF censorship," stated Rev. Baller. "If the UFOs are believed a threat, it would seem incumbent on the armed forces to waste no time in alerting the people. Any sudden, hostile act against a nation left in relative ignorance could have serious consequences."

Col. Robert B. Emerson: "Higher directives may not permit the AF to give honest conclusions. But certainly

(see next column)

Austrian UFO Photo Genuine, say Experts

A close-range picture of a "flying saucer," taken by an Austrian press photographer, has been labeled "the most sensational photograph of our century" by the Vienna newspaper *Wiener Montag*.

Taken on March 2 by Edgar Schedelbauer, a photographer for the newspaper, the picture shows a round, glowing device. Schedelbauer said the UFO hovered about 45 feet from the ground for ten seconds. During this time, he said, he felt heat pouring from the strange machine. As it began to move he heard a sound like that of a jet. Then the UFO, with rapid acceleration, swiftly disappeared.

In printing an enlarged front-page picture of the UFO, the *Wiener Montag* said it did so only after careful investigation, and after experts had declared it could not be a trick photograph.

NICAP is attempting to secure a certified copy, for publication in an early issue.

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they can improve on the asinine statements given to news media. The fact that the AF is spending enormous amounts of money — in these days of military austerity — for investigation of UFOs, is even more indicative of the seriousness with which they regard the problem. The public should not be misled by insulting their intelligence."

Mr. J. B. Hartranft, Jr.: "The AF has a responsibility for giving the public straight answers. In spite of public AF disclaimers, I note that airline, commercial and private pilots are told to make UFO reports promptly, as vital information. Also, the AF has stated that each major UFO investigation costs $10,000 — added proof that the UFOs are, as the Inspector General admits — serious business."

Vice Admiral R. H. Hillenkoetter: "Behind the scenes, high-ranking AF officers are soberly concerned about the UFOs. But through official secrecy and ridicule, many citizens are led to believe the unknown flying objects are nonsense. Hundreds of authentic reports by veteran pilots and other technically trained observers have been ridiculed, or explained away as mistakes, delusions or hoaxes. The AF has assumed the right to decide what the American people should or should not know. It is time for the truth to be brought out in open Congressional hearings."

Prof. Charles A. Maney: "AF policies have prevented a complete scientific study of UFOs. It behooves the scientific world to rise to its responsibilities."

A photo-copy of the Inspector General's briefing instructions has been sent to Senator Lyndon Johnson, Chairman of the Senate Science and Astronautics Committee, with a renewed request for open hearings. Other copies, with the same request, are being sent to other committees in the Senate and the House of Representatives, as part of the "Case for Congress" summing up NICAP proof of UFO reality and AF secrecy.

Search for Space Messages Intensified

The official U.S. Government search for possible messages from space, now underway, is believed a direct result of UFO evidence evaluated in the last three years.

According to Hermann Oberth, rocket expert and pioneer space-travel planner, a nearby star system on which radio astronomers are focussing is one source of the UFOs seen in our skies. (Oberth, a NICAP member, plans to publish evidence; details of publication will be given later.)

As announced by Dr. Otto Struve, noted astronomer, the search for intelligent spac d messages is centered at the Green Bank, W. Va., radio observatory. An 85-foot disc-shaped antenna and new, sensitive equipment are now prepared to record signals from planets of stars within 15 light years. The listening program, Project Ozma, is under control of the National Science Foundation and is directed by Dr. Frank Drake.

"If we establish contact with a more advanced world," states Dr. Drake, "I will first ask how to conquer cancer and heart disease, and how to build a peaceful civilization."

On March 1, the search for intelligent life in space was joined by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. In creating its new Office of Life Sciences, NASA announced a program including "the search for extraterrestrial life."

Though NASA was silent about any messages from unknown objects in our atmosphere, it is known that it intercepted signals from an unknown satellite orbiting the earth in the last half of '59. Similar signals also were received by radio astronomers in Europe.

As the evidence mounts, more and more top scientists have publicly affirmed their conviction that huge numbers of inhabited planets exist in the Universe.

(see next column)

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Dr. Marcus Bach, State University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa. Rev. Albert Baller, Robbins Memorial Church, Greenfield, Mass. Dr. Earl Douglass, religious writer and columnist, Princeton, N. J. Frank Edwards, Radio-TV commentator, Indianapolis, Ind. Col. Robert B. Emerson, USAR, Baton Rouge, La. Maj. Dewey Fournet, USAFR, former AF HQ monitor for the Air Force UFO project. Mr. J. B. Hartranft, Jr., President, Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association, Washington, D. C. Vice-Adm. R. H. Hillenkoetter, USN, Ret., formerly Director, Central Intelligence Agency, New York, N. Y. Rear Adm. H. B. Knowles USN, Ret., Eliot, Maine. Prof. Charles A. Maney, Defiance College, Defiance, Ohio.

SPACE-SIGNALS SEARCH

Continued

In England, Dr. C. F. Powell, winner of the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1950, recently stated that we should try to communicate with other civilizations.

"We may very reasonably syspect," he said, "that there are beings within our galaxy of planets with physical conditions similar to ours." Adding that some could have achieved a far higher form of technical development than our own, Dr. Powell said "I hope we will attempt to contact them." (Dr. Powell is Dean of the Faculty of Sciences, University of Bristol.)

A few weeks ago, another Nobel Prize winner, genetecist Herman J. Muller, told a Chicago science convention there may be over a hundred million inhabited planets, with many strange forms of life, some "possessing intelligence far superior to ours." Some of these beings, he said, would appear grotesque to us, though they would possess all our senses, and possibly more.

Among the American scientists who believe in other worlds are Dr. Harlow Shapley, former head of Harvard Observatory and Dr. Clyde W. Tombaugh, discoverer of the planet Pluto. Dr. Tombaugh, now engaged in mapping the planet Mars, preparatory to space flight, earlier reported sighting UFOs, the first one in 1949.

"In the Milky Way," he said in a February statement, "there are an estimated one billion planets orbiting around suns, of which about one million would have conditions to support life as we know it on earth. Life in an intelligent form could well exist upon these planets."

Other items indicating high-level interest:

The Vatican release of a Catholic priest's theory about humanoid life on the moon.

A statement by Methodist Bishop G. Bromley Oxnam that man would soon need to be prepared for conversation with intelligent beings from other planets.

A warning by the Portuguese UN delegate, Dr. Vasco Viera Garin, that world disarmament might leave the earth vulnerable to attack "by aggressive warriors from another celestial body."

An AF Headquarters letter to Sen. Kenneth B. Keating, N. Y., forwarded to NICAP by the senator, stating that the AF had never denied the suggested answers to the UFO problem, though it had no proof they were interplanetary vehicles. (Sen. Keating wrote AFHQ after NICAP informed him of a false answer the AF had given him about the Washington Airport sightings in 1952.)

From general belief in the existence of other worlds, to full acceptance of UFO reality is a longer step. But once the massive evidence is spotlighted by Congress and the press, there can be little question of the answer.

Revised AF Regulation Proves Censorship

By a new order of the Secretary of the AF, "high priority findings" in UFO cases are now to be telephoned immediately to ATIC, from any AF base in the United States. In addition, the Secretary himself is to receive a priority "electrical report" (telephone, teletype or radio) on all UFO sightings not over three days old. (Sections 4a and 14a, revised AF Reg. 200-2.)

Besides the new provisions, AFR-200-2 repeats earlier orders for priority "electrical reports" to be flashed to the Air Defense Command, the nearest ADC division, the Air Technical Intelligence Center and AF Intelligence at Washington.

Since AFR 200-2 clearly shows the official secrecy, all NICAP members are urged to secure copies, to aid in convincing local papers, newscasters and friends of the AF censorship. Write to AF Headquarters, The Pentagon, Washington 25, D. C.)

Here are other key points in the 7-page document:

Radarscope photos are to be classified; suspected or actual UFO material is to be safeguarded for Intelligence evaluation; AF base commanders are prohibited from releasing a UFO sighting unless the object has been *positively identified as a familiar or known object.* (AF italics.) No unsolved cases may be released to the press; AF pilots, other personnel, are muzzled, with instructions not to discuss UFO sightings with "unauthorized persons" unless officially directed, and then only on a "need to know" basis.

All members should know this document thoroughly. If your request to the AF is refused, report the refusal to your Congressman and also to NICAP.

NICAP PANEL OF SPECIAL ADVISORS

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FBI EXAMINES UFO PHOTOGRAPH

A color photograph taken last month showing a saucer-like object against the moon is under examination by the FBI, according to a report in the Detroit Times March 9. The picture was taken one night after full moon on February 13 by Joe Perry, Grand Blanc, Michigan, whose hobby is astronomical photography. The UFO was disc-shaped with a dome and leaving a green trail.

The FBI learned of the photograph after Perry, who runs a restaurant, showed it to some of his customers. Two agents from the Flint office were sent to investigate, the report says. Perry showed the agents several of his slides taken the same night. "They did not seem to be interested until I showed this particular one," he said,"and then both of them jumped up." The agents took the UFO photograph and several others for study.

In answer to a query last year, FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover stated: "The investigation of unidentified flying objects is not within the jurisdiction of this Bureau." NICAP will ask Mr. Hoover whether there has been a change of policy, and will also inquire about the analysis and disposition of the photograph.

UFO SIGHTED AT SEA

The Masters of two ships about 1700 miles apart at sea sighted a bright UFO like a planet or star with a halo around it last November 4th. The observations were published by the U.S. Navy Hydrographic Office, which regularly prints reports of "celestial phenomena" sighted at sea. A former member of the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory Moonwatch team, who said the UFO was not a satellite, computed the height to be about 640 miles assuming the object was nearly over the westernmost ship. Both ships saw the UFO beginning at 2155 G.M.T. (4:55 p.m. E.S.T.)

The sighting occurred in the Atlantic Ocean east of Puerto Rico from the two ships calculated to be 1681 miles apart. The Panamanian S.S. Texas (lat. 19° 57' N., long. 52° 21' W.) described the UFO as "a bright body of a first magnitude star with halo." It crossed the sky on an easterly course at high speed, disappearing above the horizon after 5 minutes. The British M.V. Salaga (lat. 15° 00' N., long. 27° 22' W.) described the UFO as "like a planet with a halo around it." It moved from an altitude of 7°, bearing 275° (north of west) to an altitude of about 40°, bearing 206° (south-southwest), remaining visible for 10-15 minutes.

MISSION OFFICIAL BACKS ANGLICAN PRIEST REPORT

In a letter to a NICAP member, the Organising Secretary of the New Guinea Mission has backed Father William Gill who reported sighting UFOs at close range several times last June (See November NICAP Bulletin.) The sighting which attracted most attention was one on June 27 in which four glowing man-like "figures" on top of a UFO reportedly acknowledged signals from Fr. Gill in the presence of dozens of witnesses. This story was reported in the New York Times, September 29.

Rev. John D. Bodger, in a letter to NICAP member Mrs. Catherine Carter Golden of Cincinnati, said: "I have known him (Fr. Gill) for some fifteen years ever since he first came to the Mission as a layman for a year or two in 1946 and have always felt him to be stable-minded and not given to imagining things. I was stationed in his district of Boianai and lived nearby at our Head Station at Dogura for nearly twenty-two years and know his district well...I gather from other missionaries that they too have seen some remarkable U.F.O. from time to time in recent months."

NICAP has studied Fr. Gill's own account of his sightings, forwarded to us by Attorney P.E. Norris, NICAP member in Melbourne, Australia, as well as a report in the Australasian Post, October 15, 1959. Mr. Norris, who interviewed Fr. Gill, reported: "Rev. Gill was never a 'believer'—he is scarcely one now! The night before his first sighting, he wrote to a friend in the Territory expressing the opinion that UFOs were electrical or psychological phenomena... he still remains skeptical of the extraterrestrial hypothesis. In essence, Rev. Gill is scholarly, detached and conservative and I am satisfied that his report, sensational as it is, has been understated rather than exaggerated."

Fr. Gill's own account is thorough and objective, discussing the possibility of hallucination or illusion, and admitting the possibility of errors in interpretation; but showing the uniformity of the descriptions given by the various witnesses. The "men" seen, highly idealized in some press accounts and sketches, are reported merely as man-like figures. No clear-cut features were seen. In all details, the report is entirely different from so-called "contactee" reports in which claimants say they talked freely with space men, rode in their space ships, etc., without producing evidence or unprejudiced witnesses; though it will probably be claimed by some of the "contactees" as substantiation of their claims.

(see next column)

KENTUCKY NEAR-LANDING ANALYSIS

Preliminary analysis of soil samples taken from the ring which appeared after the near-landing of a UFO in Wallingford, Ky., September 7, 1959 (See November 1959 Bulletin) indicates the presence of metal "probably from an exterior source." A spectroanalysis by a scientist of the University of Kentucky showed that the sample contained chromium, iron and manganese not normally found in the clay soil of the area. Results are tentative pending examination of a control sample from outside the affected area. Two independent analyses, one by NICAP Board Member Col. Robert Emerson, head of Emerson Testing Laboratories in Baton Rouge, La., are also being made. Results will be published later.

BULLETIN

The Aerial Phenomena Research Organization (APRO) in Alamogordo, N.M., has released a statement to the press stating that APRO has analyzed a metallic object, apparently part of a UFO, proving the extraterrestrial reality of UFOs. Analyses, the report says, have shown that the metal (or its particular composition) is unknown to earth.

The statement, released to the Associated Press and United Press International March 12, took the form of a letter to the Pentagon public information officer, Major Lawrence J. Tacker, challenging the Air Force claim of "no physical evidence." The story received wide coverage on radio and television, along with a UPI telephoto of the metallic object.

Details of the case have not been specified pending the Air Force reply. APRO, a responsible UFO organization, has several White Sands area scientists and engineers as advisers who apparently conducted the analyses.

As we go to press, there has been no official reaction to the APRO statement. Further information on this case will be scheduled for an early report to members after we receive a copy of the photograph and added details.

Because the report comes from an Anglican priest, backed by his superiors, and with dozens of witnesses, NICAP feels that it should not be treated lightly. Unlike the wilder "contactee" reports, there is nothing inherently impossible in Fr. Gill's report.

We can not make a final evaluation on the basis of this one case or conclude that Fr. Gill did see beings from another world, but in the light of the accumulated evidence for UFOs and recent scientific findings, that possibility deserves serious consideration.

RUPPELT REVERSES STAND ON UFOs

As predicted by NICAP in the June 1959 UFO Investigator, Capt. Edward J. Ruppelt, former chief of the Air Force UFO investigation project, has reversed his position on UFOs in a revised edition of his book. The move came after Ruppelt had toured the country appearing on television along with some of the major UFO witnesses, implying endorsement of their sightings. NICAP can only assume that the switch was caused by severe pressure from the Air Force.

In a recent statement to the press in California in connection with release of his revised book, Ruppelt said he was now convinced that UFOs were nothing but illusions. The new edition of his book is unchanged except for the addition of three new chapters on the end--one devoted to ridicule of "contactee" claims.

As many members have pointed out, the added chapters contradict the first part of the book, without any explanation. The earlier edition had cited many serious reports from pilots and other experienced observers which could not be explained and had been accepted by Ruppelt as genuine "unknowns." Yet with no additional information, Ruppelt has reversed himself completely and now says he considers all of the reports explainable as natural phenomena.

Among the "unknown" cases cited by Ruppelt was the August 12, 1953, Rapid City, S.D., sighting in which a UFO was seen by two jet pilots and ground observers, simultaneously tracked by ground and airborne radar. "This was an unknown--the best," Ruppelt said. There was no explanation for it at the time, and there still is none. Later the Air Force confirmed that gun camera photographs of the UFO were obtained, but denied that they could be analyzed.

It seems odd that while active as the Project Blue Book chief, Ruppelt could find no explanations for this and other good cases; but now that he no longer has access to all of the sources of information necessary to check a UFO sighting he has been able to find answers. Guesswork of this sort hardly provides the "realistic and knowledgeable explanations" which the Air Force says its personnel must give the public. The strained reversal would not appear to be of Ruppelt's own choosing.

We are indebted to the Little Listening Post (4811 Illinois Ave., N.W., Wash., D.C.) for a lead to an important news item in this issue. Besides comments on the UFO situation, including some "contactee" reports, LLP covers many other unrelated subjects in a mimeographed newsletter.

NICAP ADVISER WINS FREEDOM AWARD

California columnist George Todt, a member of the national NICAP Panel of Special Advisers, has been awarded a Freedom Foundation George Washington Honor Medal in ceremonies at Valley Forge, Pa., February 22. The citation mentioned his October 23, 1959, column "United States Day Thoughts" on Americanism. Freedom Foundation awards are made annually for contributions to a better understanding and appreciation of the American way of life. Mr. Todt, who has frequently supported NICAP in his column in the San Fernando Valley Times, will be a member of the new high-level NICAP investigating Subcommittee under formation in the Los Angeles area. He has long advocated presenting the facts on UFOs to the public, and favors open Congressional hearings to end the controversy and establish the facts.

AKRON COMMITTEE PUBLISHES NEW REPORT

The Akron UFO Research Committee, which published the "Fitzgerald Report" documenting a haphazard Air Force UFO investigation, has printed a new booklet on the February 1959 sighting of three UFOs by American and United Airlines pilots.

Copies of the new booklet on the "Killian case" (Capt. Peter Killian of American Airlines was the key witness) can be obtained for $1.00 each. (P.O. Box 5242, Akron 13, Ohio)

Canadian Editor Decries Ridicule

Another newspaper editor has spoken out about the UFO problem following a series of UFO sightings in western Canada last fall.

An editorial in the Calgary, Alta., Herald, October 6, said:

"Diligent and responsible research into the fascinating problem by trained, scientific observers has turned up a significant number of cases for which there is no known logical or scientific explanation... It is, of course, impossible to say whether these objects actually exist and whether they do come from a world not our own, but it is equally impossible for anyone who considers the matter more than superficially to say that they don't exist...It is conceit of the rankest kind to condemn them out of hand; to hold that man alone on this planet is the only species which could possibly design and build something which performs in the way the UFOs have been reported as doing."

ROCKEFELLER SAYS REPUTABLE WITNESSES SHOULD BE HEARD

Governor Nelson Rockefeller through an aide recently agreed with NICAP that UFO reports from such respected professional people as experienced military and airline pilots "should be given all reasonable credence." The statement, coming in response to a query by the New York City NICAP Affiliate, added:

"Insofar as keeping the American people properly informed on this or any matter of national concern, the Governor is of the opinion that except in those instances where the public disclosure of information would be detrimental to our national security, it is vital to our democratic processes that the general public be promptly and completely informed."

The Air Force has repeatedly said that UFOs do not represent a threat to the national security (official letters to that effect are on file at NICAP, and may be viewed by any newsmen.) Instead, the Air Force has kept UFO reports "For Official Use Only" giving to members of Congress the excuse that the names of witnesses must be held confidential.

MAX MILLER SUSPENDS PUBLICATION OF "SAUCERS"

Max B. Miller, long-time student of unidentified flying objects (UFOs) and author of the trend book "Flying Saucers--Fact or Fiction?," has suspended his magazine "Saucers" after seven years of publication. In a letter notifying NICAP of his decision, Miller promised full support of NICAP and offered his services in photographic work. He was recently commended by the Air Force Association for an "outstanding film" of the 1959 World Congress of Flight.

Miller has made important contributions toward public acceptance of UFOs. NICAP regrets the suspension of his publication, but we are confident that he will re-evaluate the UFO situation in the light of recent developments and continue to work for a final solution to the UFO problem.

In view of his experience in photography, as linked with UFO investigations, NICAP has invited Miller to become a Special Adviser for photography. His commendation from the Air Force Association read, in part: "We want to congratulate you on this very magnificent piece of work. Without doubt, it is by far the most comprehensive coverage that we have seen--and it seems that we have viewed thousands upon thousands of feet."

SUBCOMMITTEES BEGIN INVESTIGATIONS

A network of NICAP Subcommittees under formation in the U.S. and other countries to expedite investigation of important sightings and other incidents, is already active and has produced some valuable work. A quick investigation of a sensational claim, in one case, may have nipped in the bud a scheme which would have resulted in bad UFO publicity. Other Subcommittees have investigated important recent sightings.

Early in January, NICAP learned of a wild scheme involving top-name entertainers invited to "take a ride on a space ship." The invitation came from an allegedly world-wide UFO organization which claimed to be in constant communication with space men. Invitations for the trip reportedly had been sent to Jack Paar, Art Linkletter and others by "Dr." George Marlo, St. Louis, Mo. The date for the trip was January 27 or 28.

Illinois Unit#1 Subcommittee, just outside of St. Louis, was asked to investigate. It was learned that "Dr."George Marlo is a name used by George Fehler, a former magician whose "office" is a rented apartment in an average neighborhood. Although claiming a membership of 66,000 in his organization and an office in London, England, "Marlo" avoided questions, produced no records, and would not give the address of the London office.

"Marlo's" assistant, Ottmar Kaub, invited one of the NICAP investigators on the trip, provided he pay $3.50 and follow "our pattern of instructions and conduct."Mr. Kaub stated that "we are highly favored and it is all because we take orders from the Brothers and from the officers." The investigator was warned that "If the Brothers (space men) ever give you the black ball, you will be on the outside for a mighty long time, and all of your so-called investigations and work will not mean a thing."

The planned "trip into space" never materialized and the expected bad publicity was avoided, possibly due to the NICAP investigation. Presumably it was a crude hoax in which Fehler and Kaub were either the perpetrators or unwitting tools of someone desiring a means of ridiculing UFOs.

Other investigations by NICAP Subcommittees are reported in the sighting section. Minneapolis Unit #1 and Manitoba Unit#1 have sent detailed reports of recent sightings in their areas. In addition, the Washington, D.C., special Subcommittee has completed a study of electromagnetic effects caused by UFOs and is seeking funds for its publication. Main points of the report will be covered in a NICAP magazine at a later date. The report will be part of the "Case for Congress."

STRANGE SERIES OF FIREBALLS REPORTED

A strange series of fireballs, odd in appearance, actions and concentration, have been reported to NICAP since January. The latest, on March 7, sped across the eastern United States about 8:10 p.m., visible from the Canadian border to Key West, Fla. Although several observers had reported three or four UFOs flying in formation, Air Force spokesmen quickly labeled the objects a meteor. A control tower operator in North Carolina watched the UFOs passing overhead for about 2 1/2 minutes.

Earlier, on February 7, a brilliant fireball had flashed across the western states at 12:03 a.m. (M.S.T.), visible from Wyoming to California. It was also called a meteor; but the new Los Angeles NICAP Subcommittee has located six witnesses who heard a thunderous noise, ran outdoors, and watched a red ball hover in the sky for 5-10 minutes. A detailed report is being forwarded to NICAP.

NEW RADAR IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM

A new radar identification system which would allow an air traffic control officer to pinpoint and identify any plane within radar range automatically in seconds is under development by the Air Force. It is expected to be available for military and commercial use this year.

With the new system, any one of hundreds of blips on a 300 mile range radar screen can be singled out and a specific plane identified quickly. Developed by Radio Receptor Company, a subsidiary of General Instruments, the device was demonstrated to military officials last November. Any unknown blips which appear on a crowded radar screen could also be singled out quickly, speeding up intercept procedures of UFOs in areas with heavy air traffic.

Fireballs (Cont.)

Between January 16-19 in Manitoba Province, Canada, five fireballs were seen in one small area southwest of Winnipeg. Manitoba Unit#1 NICAP Subcommittee has sent a report on this series. Two fireballs within ten minutes flashed brightly over Halbstadt January 16. During the next three days three more fireballs were reported in the same general area, one making a thunderous noise and causing television interference. Finally, in the Winnipeg area, a green fireball was seen moving from east to west, casting a bright light on the ground.

February 3, about 1:35 p.m., a rocket-like object leaving a trail of bright green smoke was visible in broad daylight, apparently burning out over Nashville, Tenn. Then on February 12, two more fireballs raced through Canadian skies from north to south over British Columbia at 6:10 p.m. February 23 a UPI story from Tokyo, Japan, reported a mysterious fireball which fell in the sea about 75 miles to the south, touching off an air and sea search by Maritime officials.

The east coast formation may have been a fireball procession—a rare phenomenon—but certainly not a normal meteor. Even large meteoric fireballs are rarely seen for longer than 10-15 seconds, almost never longer than 30 seconds. Ordinary meteors last only a second or two. For five prominent fireballs to be reported over any one geographical area in a few days, as in the Canadian series, is against all probability.

Although most fiery UFOs reported probably are normal fireballs, some apparently are not. Members are requested to report all such objects to NICAP for evaluation.

NATIONAL INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE
ON AERIAL PHENOMENA
1536 Connecticut Ave., N.W., Washington 6, D.C.

Because of recent developments, the UFO subject is receiving serious attention and renewed interest. We urge you to answer fully the poll questions on the reverse side of this space, and to give permission to use your name.

The more NICAP members who are willing to state their views publicly, the more weight it will carry with Congress and the press. Full member cooperation at this turning point could lead to open recognition of UFOs and open Congressional hearings.

As a result of the Air Force Inspector General story reported elsewhere in this issue, many more citizens have been encouraged to speak out about their UFO sightings. A major breakthrough in UFO secrecy appears to be imminent.

Every NICAP member can help to make this drive a success by answering the poll questions and returning them to us as quickly as possible on a postal card or in an envelope.

Maj. Donald E. Keyhoe, Director and Editor
Richard Hall, Secretary and Associate Editor

Other Recent Sightings

November 2; Puerto Montt, Chile--An oval-shaped UFO with a blue-green tail was sighted at 4:20 p.m. moving erratically across the sky. Natter Goodwyn, Chief of the North American Military Mission, along with Chilean military chiefs, reportedly saw the object, which spurted ahead and stopped repeatedly, moving from spot to spot at high speed.

December 1; Santa Cruz, Calif.--A pulsating or rotating red lighted UFO swept across the bay from the direction of Monterey about 9:40 p.m. First sighted on a bearing of 170° and at an elevation of about 20°, the object approached in a shallow climb at low speed, its light reflecting in the water. The spherical object left a whitish trail about twenty diameters long. At about 60° elevation the UFO changed color from red to purple. At a bearing of about 180°, off Block Point, the UFO went straight up and disappeared. Total time of observation: 2-3 minutes.

December 13; El Paso, Texas--An Army officer reported sighting a glowing star-like object in the sky near the moon at 5:30 p.m. His report to NICAP described how the UFO kept a constant distance from the edge of the moon while moving slowly in an arc, as the moon moved slowly across the sky. He and others observed it through binoculars until 6:15 p.m. The UFO was not visible to the naked eye. No astronomical explanation. On the same night at 9:15 p.m., according to the Latin Press, a Catholic University official in Santiago, Chile, tracked a luminous UFO with a telescope.

Sightings (Cont.)

January 6; Jackson, Mich.--Several residents reported seeing a UFO like an inverted cone moving south in the western sky at tree-top level about 8:00 a.m. The UFO, glowing brilliant white, sped south and disappeared into a cloudbank. The report was investigated by a Michigan division of ICARF, a UFO organization with headquarters in Long Island.

January 16; Garrison, Minnesota--Reports of multi-colored clusters of lights seen over Mille Lacs Lake are under investigation by Minnesota Unit #1 NICAP Subcommittee. A report has been obtained from the Deputy Sheriff who investigated and saw the lights. Minnesota Unit#1 preliminary evaluation: Probably weather phenomenon, light images reflected from ground sources. Investigation continues; more reports to be sent to NICAP for final evaluation.

January 18; nr Lakota, N.D.--A Veterans Administration official and a soil conservation analyst driving near Lakota at about 10:45 p.m. saw a crescent-like object descending toward a field about a mile off the highway. The UFO, like a concave saucer viewed edge-on, showed a fiery exhaust. A flash of green light lit up the sky in the area, and the car headlights dimmed.

January 19; Coral Gables, Fla.--Two secretaries reported sighting two silvery discs speeding over the city about 8:20 a.m. The Air Force is checking the report.

January 24; Sydney, Australia--Hundreds of residents reported an object "all silver and glistening in the sun," which hovered for about four minutes, then flashed away at terrific speed. Explosions shook houses in the area. The RAAF said it was not a military device, and knew nothing about it.

Sightings (Cont.)

February 14; Nome, Alaska--The North American Air Defense Command (NORAD) confirmed reports that UFOs had been sighted over western Alaska. "We don't know what they were," a spokesman said.

Two silvery tubular objects had flashed in opposite directions over Alaska late Sunday. An airline employee in Nome, who sighted one of the UFOs about 4:40 p.m., described it as a silvery tube spouting orange flame from the tail. It moved ENE. No wings were observed. The UFO reportedly curved up and away as it approached Cape Nome "as if it were manned and controlled." According to the Anchorage Daily Times (Feb. 16) the second UFO was sighted at Unalakleet moving rapidly NW and leaving contrails.

The Air Force denied unofficial reports that the UFOs had been tracked on radar. "We're trying to find out more about it; we'll make an investigation," a NORAD spokesman said.

On February 19, the Alaskan Air Command brushed off the UFO reports, attributing them to a meteor. Dr. C.T. Elvey, director of the Geophysical Institute, University of Alaska, was quoted as concurring in this conclusion. Dr. Elvey is also a member of the USAF Scientific Advisory Board. The brush-off ignored the fact that two separate UFOs were observed moving in opposite directions, one maneuvering.

February 22; Sarnia, Quebec, Canada--Five people saw a formation of circular whitish UFOs which made a loud noise as they sped overhead at about 5:30 p.m. Canadian National Railway employees said the objects definitely were not helicopters and that their sound was completely unfamiliar. One witness said the sound resembled "whirling dynamos." The five UFOs moved in formation on two levels, each UFO projecting a beam of light like a searchlight toward the ground. Others in the area did not see the UFOs, but reported hearing the strange sound.

March 6; Nome, Alaska--For the third time in as many weeks a UFO was sighted in the Nome area, this time about 8:15 p.m. Gov. William A. Egan was notified about the sighting in a telegram from an airline official in Nome: "Bright flash in sky followed by noise of an explosion. After flash, bright object seen drifting to earth from the east." A report on the sighting was forwarded to the Air Defense Command in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

MEMBER POLL

1. Do you believe UFOs are real objects under intelligent control?
2. Do you believe they are interplanetary? __ Secret U.S. or U.S.S.R. devices? __ Other?
3. Will you support Congressional hearings on UFOs?
4. Do you believe the Air Force secrecy is wrong? __ Dangerous? __
5. If you have withheld a personal UFO report for any reason, will you submit it to be made public with others?
6. Do you favor having NICAP arrange for members to purchase "Flying Saucers: Top Secret," by the Director, at dealer's discount (see editorial, p.2)?
7. Are you willing to allow your name to be used in connection with hearings and NICAP public statements?

Date: Signature: