NOVEMBER 1974

UFO INVESTIGATOR

NATIONAL INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE ON AERIAL PHENOMENA

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INVESTIGATION REVEALS UNREPORTED SIGHTINGS

The area around Albany, New York, was the scene of mysterious lights in the sky between 8 PM and midnight on August 20, 1974. Dozens of calls to local newspapers, radio stations, and police resulted in the dispatching of New York State Troopers Michael Morgan and Warren Johnson to the area to investigate the reports. Upon arrival they found a bright red illumination flashing on and off, looking somewhat like a strobe light. Morgan estimated its height at 500 feet, and as he and Johnson watched, the object was joined by two similar lights. For a time they seemed to disappear and then reappear, and after ninety minutes all of the objects vanished. The policemen noted that during the time the lights were visible, they were stationary.

Mr. Ernest Jahn, NICAP's regional investigator for the N.Y. area, contacted the Albany Airport and spoke with Air Traffic Control Supervisor Robert King and three of his assistants. The men on duty that evening of the 20th confirmed that while the New York troopers were witnessing the phenomena, radar had picked up one or more objects, a contact which was eventually maintained for forty-five minutes. The men further commented that a military aircraft enroute to Griffiths AFB and travelling at 8000 feet radioed Albany concerning a bright red object which had just crossed above the plane. Radar then detected it seconds later. Mr. King commented that one object became two on the screen, which indicated more than one UFO was present.

A pilot who was sent to investigate the area in a small craft plane reported seeing nothing, but radio operators stated that as the plane approached, the spot on the radar screen disappeared. Strangely enough, when the plane left the area, the contact re-appeared.

Traffic controllers calculated that when the lights appeared on the scope they were moving in excess of 1000 m.p.h. Accurate speed determination was hindered because of antennae clutter over the airport. Altitude could not be determined by radar because of the absence of transponder equipment on the object.

During his investigation of the August 20 sighting, Mr. Jahn was made aware of an unreported UFO occurrence just one day prior. Accompanied by an investigator from the New York State Police Department, Mr. Jahn interviewed witnesses and learned details of this and several other undisclosed sightings, one of which involved a spacecraft landing.

Mrs. Rose Curtis and Mrs. Ruth Currie are both employees of the Nash Nursing Home in Altamont, New York, an area which they and several others claim has been an activity center for UFOs. Mrs. Currie, her daughter, and another employee of the Nursing Home spoke of an August 19 sighting; the details were almost identical to those given by the State Troopers who witnessed the phenomena on August 20. When questioned about not reporting the information to authorities, Mrs. Currie frankly stated that she had done just that about one year ago and received only replies of disinterest and ridicule from officials.

She then proceeded to tell about several incidents of sightings in that area, the most interesting involving a space craft which landed. According to Mrs. Currie and three other witnesses, the occurrence took place on or about April 30, 1974, between 9:30 and 10:30 PM. That night Mrs. Currie's daughter called her mother's attention to a bright light several hundred feet from the house. Because they could not determine its origin, both women walked toward the illumination which they now saw was in the road. They noted that dogs all over the neighborhood were barking. Moving closer to the object, Mrs. Currie said that she discerned an oval-shaped craft which had windows around the top. From the windows emanated a brilliant golden glow and an undefinable shape moved around inside.

Mrs. Currie sent her daughter to summon Mrs. Curtis, who came immediately and made the same observations. She then left to call her husband who was instructed to come to the nursing home as soon as possible. As Mr. Curtis arrived, his attention was drawn to the object rising into the air. It suddenly sped through the night and disappeared. The women excitedly explained to Mr. Curtis what they had seen and all decided to examine at daylight the ground where the vehicle had been. All of the witnesses present that night reported to Mr. Jahn that the next day they found a large burned area approximately 60 feet in diameter.

Unfortunately this incident went unreported until it was uncovered by Mr. Jahn, who was also supplied with names of area residents who have noted UFO activity at one time or another. Each person contacted verified that he had witnessed objects but did not report them for fear of ridicule. Many further commented that they were pleased to learn about the sincere interest shown by a nationally recognized organization and felt more secure in revealing their experiences. Perhaps NICAP members can accept the challenge to help erase this common fear among many people by encouraging immediate reporting of any UFO occurrences to NICAP headquarters or investigators. This certainly will reduce the chance of valid evidence going undetected.

HIDDEN BODY RUMOR BACK AGAIN

Since the early 1960's Ufologists have heard, and sometimes contributed to, a re-occurring rumor concerning bodies and spacecraft being hidden by the United States Air Force. This rumor has taken many forms ranging from one spacecraft and one extraterrestial body to two or more spacecraft and as many as twelve extraterrestials. Over the years, NICAP has made numerous attempts to determine whether these reports have any factual basis. In the past, as well as with a more recent episode, we have been unable to find any conclusive evidence whatsoever.

Many readers of the UFO INVESTIGATOR may have heard from the news media that Robert S. Carr, a retired associate professor, was going to make a very "dramatic" announcement concerning the truth about a statement he made, i.e., "The flying saucer cover up, enforced by the CIA, is threatening the fate of humanity on our entire planet, Americans want the truth. I intend to tell it on November 2, 1974." What was so special about the November 2nd date? A profit-making organization held a symposium in Tampa, Florida, starting on November 1st through November 3rd, at which Carr was a main speaker.

We feel an obligation to our members to inform them of the discrepancies in Robert Carr's statements and most of all make it known that they are simply hearsay and not substantiated with any valid information. We know because of the widespread publicity concerning the symposium that many NICAP members would be interested in a full report regarding Carr's statements both before and after the symposium.

As you probably know by now, Carr made his "dramatic" announcement several weeks prior to the symposium. This created a great deal of interest in Carr and the symposium. To briefly recap, Carr's announcement is that a spacecraft and twelve bodies are being secretly stored at Wright Patterson Air Force Base in building #18 located in Dayton, Ohio.

On October 15, NICAP's President Jack Acuff was a guest on Washington, D.C., radio station WWDC. Other guests via telephone were Mr. Kennedy, a former meteorologist at WPAF, Mr. Austin, a news cameraman in Dayton, and Robert S. Carr.

Mr. Austin toured the Air Force Base on October 11th and stated that there were seven building 18's lettered: 18 A, B, C, D, E, F, and G, none of which contained any of the contents as claimed by Carr.

Mr. Carr was hesitant to discuss the source of this evidence, but after repeated questioning by Mr. Acuff, he told the listening audience that he had been told by another party about the existence of the spacecraft and bodies and did not actually have any first-hand information.

Needless to say, hearsay evidence is not acceptable evidence. There is little variation from the old, old, rumor, and this one has no better evidence than the original.

NICAP has responded to the news media through requests for interviews from such diverse points as Hawaii, Canada, Washington, and the District of Columbia. As of this writing, the rumor instituted by Carr has become so distorted and out of control that NICAP has been receiving telephone calls from New York, Texas, New Mexicao, Canada, etc. During which individuals have stated that local radio stations had carried a report that a UFO had crashed in their area during the "last 3 days," and that the Air Force had taken the craft and bodies to WPAFB in order to hide them from the general public.

Publicity in the UFO field can be a two-edged sword. It helps the uninformed to be more aware of the true mystery of UFOs, but if it is based on less than factual reporting, it can be very damaging to the research effort that is so vitally needed.

The publicity that Robert Carr created with this announcement of the "stored spacecraft and humanoid bodies" was most helpful in drawing attendance to the previously mentioned Florida symposium, Approximately 400 people were on hand to hear Carr's remarks which can best be summarized in the following paragraph.

Mr. Carr was introduced by the author of BEYOND MAN'S CONTACT, Ralph Blum. He stated during his introduction that Carr was "NICAP's director for this part of the country." This is an inaccurate statement. Robert Carr has been a loyal member of NICAP for a good many years but is not a director nor does he hold any official title with NICAP. Carr's session of the symposium was conducted with sincerity. His main objective seemed to be the development of "Project Lure," which is discussed in Major Donald Keyhoe's book entitled ALIENS FROM SPACE. To very briefly describe "Project Lure," it is Carr's desire to project images toward the sky encouraging the "outer space visitors" to make contact with our government. Obviously, Carr wants government or other funding for this project.

There have been many sincere proposals for making contact with UFOs or their inhabitants. However, in this particular case, NICAP feels that research funds can be put to a more productive use than "Project Lure." First of all, if we are dealing with intelligent beings, you can be assured that they would have been monitoring radio and television tranmissions and if they desired contact, they would certainly know how to make such contact. An image projection system, no matter how elaborate and well-funded, would only cover an infinitesimal area when compared to the possible area of UFO fly-overs and could only be observed in this extremely limited area. Continual broadcasting of radio signals would be much more effective.

Carr went on to say that he has been advised "by a good authority from Washington, D.C.," that in December 1974, the UFO cover-up will come to an end. He then indicated that in NBC's UFO program scheduled for December 15th, to be broadcast at 10:00 p.m. E.S.T., would reveal this information. He later stated that the government would wait until December 18th to reveal the cover-up information thereby giving the American people a chance to digest the NBC information. If Carr has definite information from Washington concerning a forthcoming announcement, why did he appeal for people to write to Barry Goldwater requesting him to intercede with President Ford to release information on the UFO cover-up necessary? Furthermore, NICAP was an advisor to NBC during the preparation of this special program and has been in frequent contact with the producer in recent months. The show is completed and ready for telecasting, and no special announcemnt is in-

cluded. NBC has no knowledge of any forthcoming government announcement, nor does NICAP.

Carr stated during the previously mentioned radio show with NICAP's President Jack Acuff that his information came from a biologist and the Air Force officer who flew the spacecraft to WPAFB. During his session at the symposium, he stated that his verification came from three sources, one being a biologist and the second a retired security guard at WPAFB. Carr never mentioned the third source. Certainly, the third source could be the Air Force pilot, but why not include such a valuable witness? Carr refused to give the names of any contacts.

The validity of hearsay evidence might best be summarized by Mr. Acuff's comments on the radio program with Robert Carr, when he recounted a personal discussion he had at a social function with one of the most creditable of all witnesses, an astronaut. By the very nature of his selection and training, an astronaut should be honest, clear-thinking, and capable of reporting factually. The astronaut firmly believes that he has the power to communicate with ghosts. Whether he is right or not, there certainly is not sufficient evidence for NICAP's President to announce to the news media that he has proof of ghost communication.

One last word concerning the analysis of rumors—if all else fails, try logic. It is almost inconceivable that the United States Government could have taken a UFO into their possession for a period of twenty-five years without making an all out and probably successful effort to analyze its means of propulsion and incorporate such a power plant in our present day aircraft.

THE VON DANIKEN CONTROVERSY—

Continued from October Issue

SCIENCE or CHARLATANISM?

by Robert Shaeffer

The following is the conclusion of the submitted article by Robert Shaeffer from the October issue of the UFO INVESTIGATOR. *As previously stated, NICAP has printed the article without comment on either Mr. Von Daniken's or Mr. Shaeffer's theories. If a rebuttal is received, we will be pleased to publish it.*

More evidence of the ancient Visitors: "The Mayas were intelligent; they had a highly developed culture. They left behind not only a fabulous calendar but also incredible calculations. They knew the Venusian year of 584 days. . . " (p. 55)

This statement is true—almost. He conveniently forgets to tell us that this 584 day period is not the true Venusian year, which is 225 days. Instead it is the apparent Venusian cycle as seen by an *earth-based observer,* which is precisely what we should expect the ancient Mayas to record by simply counting days, without any extraterrestrial insight. On the other hand, if they had recorded the true Venusian year of 225 days, which implies a knowledge of the Copernican (sun-centered) system of astronomy, that would have been a bit more remarkable.

In these few short pages I have scarcely begun a list of the inaccuracies and half-truths to be found in *Chariots of the Gods?.* But a thousand-page refutation of a hundred-page book would hardly make good reading. Sensationalist theories have always attracted more readers than refutations of the same.

Enough of Von Daniken's claims have, however, been examined to reveal his method of operations: to dazzle the reader with a skillful blend of half-truths (as well as quarter and eighth-truths, too). Looking into his past, (Ref: New York Times Book Review), we should not be too surprised to find that his rather broad criterion of truthfulness has, at times, brought him into conflict with the law. A court in his native Switzerland found Von Daniken guilty of embezzelment, forgery, and fraud, sentencing him to three and a half years in prison. While operating a Swiss hotel, it seems he fraudulently obtained money by misrepresenting his financial assets, this experience in deception later proving invaluable in his literary career. It was during this stay as a guest of the Swiss government that he wrote his second book, *Gods From Outer Space,* now also a best seller.

Once a liar, however, does not infallibly prove him always a liar. However much this charlatanism may hurt one's credibility, it never destroys it completely. (The followers of famous psychics such as Palladino and Uri Geller are never shaken when their leader is caught cheating: they only cheat on *bad* days!) Von Daniken's theories of Ancient UFO contactees are indeed no more implausible than their latter-day counterparts. In fact, we have in support of these theories one bona fide, highly reliable eyewitness who saw these creatures disembark, and who can now describe it: none other than Erich Von Daniken himself! In an exclusive interview with the National Enquirer, Von Daniken tells of his experiences in Point Aleph, "a sort of fourth dimension" where time doesn't exist. He revealed how he can now leave his body at will, transcending all concepts of space and time. "I know that astronauts visited the earth in ancient times", he confides, because "I was there when the astronauts arrived. And I know they'll be back." Unfortunately for us, he can't say exactly when, since "time doesn't exist in Point Aleph."

"I even know what will happen after death". We're all ears. "I will become part of this huge never-to-be-destroyed ball of energy that keeps and remembers every last tiny thing that has ever happened on this planet. Everybody will join me there eventually and at least they'll know then that I was right". Save a place for me right in the middle of that big old ball, Erich, because I'm going to be one of the hardest to convince.

REFERENCES:

Chariots of the Gods? is currently published by Bantam Books, New York. Page numbers refer to Bantam edition.

Erich Von Daniken's Genesis, New York Sunday Times Book Review, March 31, 1974

National Enquirer, March 17, 1974

International Advisory

HIGH RIVER, ALBERTA, CANADA—August 22, 1974. A family on a campout observed a UFO in the evening sky while star gazing with binoculars. Gordon Parker reports that he and his family watched the object for an hour. During this time it would change from an odd star shape in a still position to a snake-like form which would dart up and down. It appeared closer than the stars and varied in color from green, red, silver, and turquoise. No noise could be heard.

INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY

Continued from page 3

HOBART, AUSTRALIA—September 21, 1974. Brian Richards, his wife, and three children claim to have been terrorized by a UFO with such frightening effects that have left Mrs. Richards ill and distraught and Mr. Richards with the desire to sell his home and move far away. The nightmare began on September 16 when Mrs. Richards was driving home with two of her children and suddenly the sky illuminated. The automobile lost power and could not be re-started. There was a sudden deafening roar from outside the car, so loud that Mrs. Richards and her children had to block their ears. Momentarily a strong gaseous odor penetrated the interior of the auto, and the occupants evacuated and fled through the night to the home of a neighbor two miles away. Trying to calm Mrs. Richards as much as possible, the neighbor drove her back to her car but found no evidence of such strange occurrences, and the car started immediately.

The next day Mr. Richards had the car thoroughly inspected by a mechanic who found it to be in perfect condition. However, two nights later Mr. Richards was driving home at night when he saw a light in the sky. It kept pace with his car, and when he reached home the object swooped down toward his house, resting at treetop level. Mrs. Richards and her son were watching from the house and became frightened as it seemed to be coming closer and closer. They described it as being vibrant yellow with a crescent shape which seemed to be attracted to the lights from the house. When the Richards' turned off the lights from the house, the object faded.

Nothing further has occurred, but the experiences that the Richards family had are ones they will never forget, ones that unfortunately have left permanent marks on the lives of five people.

REMINDER —

NBC UFO DOCUMENTARY
December 15, 1974
10:00 p.m., E.S.T.

SIGHTING ADVISORY

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

Boise, Idaho—August 2, 1974. A young man was driving up a mountain road near midnight when he noted two objects in the sky which he described as shiny metal with dome tops. They appeared to be slow moving, so the witness stopped his truck to get a better look. Simultaneously the objects ceased movement; the observer became frightened and quickly drove off as the phenomena vanished in the dark night.

Camp McCoy, Wisconsin—June 22, 1974. Several reservists on guard duty on this clear night noted several lights far in the distance moving quickly across the sky. As the objects moved closer, their movements became very erratic and their brightness grew more intense. Suddenly all disappeared but one, which streaked to a point within one mile of the witnesses before vanishing.

Keyport, New Jersey—September 4, 1974. Aproximately twenty people reported seeing a UFO on this Saturday night, including several police officers. A large group of observers were parked along a highway and signalled a patrol car to stop and witness what looked like a "plane on fire, it was so lit up." The craft had a red and blue light at each end and shortly disappeared from view.

Olympia, Washington—September 19, 1974. A family spotted three dark red lights near their home on this evening which were described to reporters as being in a triangular pattern but in constant up and down motion. They were visible for fifteen minutes before disappearing behind timber. A nearby airport was checked for information and no planes were in the vicinity at the time of the sighting.

Editor's Response

The UFO INVESTIGATOR receives a great deal of correspondence from readers with pro and con comments. Naturally, we are pleased that the affirmative is the most frequent, and we are encouraged by this support.

The letters that are received with criticism are also necessary so that we may utilize ideas and suggestions where possible.

A most common complaint is that some readers feel that THE UFO INVESTIGATOR does not print enough "contactee" cases and is not printing *"sensational" case reports.*

NICAP's purpose and goal is to investigate, research, report scientifically, and to educate based on "hard data." The UFO INVESTIGATOR selects cases with the most factual, substantiated evidence possible. NICAP receives a substantial amount of very "exciting, sensational" reports, but most are not backed with enough proof to be analyzed and evaluated scientifically.

UFO researchers have had a difficult struggle over the years trying desperately to remove the image of "little green men with antennae" through an intelligent research effort using hard, factual data. There has been a major breakthrough along these lines within the last decade. However, there are still many publications, authors, etc., who are still publishing "sensational" cases—for what? The answer is simple—to sell the publication.

NICAP's policy developed over years of analyzing sensationalistic data is that such claims cannot be supported. If new material emerges that is supportive of such claims, NICAP will evaluate the case in light of the new information. The main purpose of the *UFO INVESTIGATOR* is to inform and educate and it will continue to do so, but only with cases that contain factual information which has been proven to the best of our ability. (See *UFO INVESTIGATOR,* August 1974 —UFO REPORTS — An Analysis).

Linda Kieffer, *Edito.*

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