

PEGASUS

VOLUME 2 NO 1
JAN/FEB
1970



JOURNAL OF THE
SURREY INVESTIGATION GROUP
ON

AERIAL PHENOMENA

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PROJECT BLUEBOOK, the United States Air Force UFO research programme, has been disbanded - 21 years and 7,000 sightings after its formation.

Air Force Secretary Robert C. Seamans, echoing the words of Dr. Condon, has stated that the money spent on UFO research is no longer justified "either on the grounds of national security, or in the interest of science". The U.S. Air Force claims there is not a shred of evidence for any of the UFOs investigated being extra-terrestrial craft. The winding-up of Project Bluebook will not exactly come as a shock to UFO researchers. In fact one could say it was almost inevitable after the esteemed American National Academy of Sciences fully endorsed the conclusions and recommendations of the Condon Report. And when Dr. Allen Hynek, UFO consultant to the U.S. Air Force, was sacked from his job in the latter part of last year, there was really no longer any doubt of the move to follow. Project Bluebook was launched in 1948, shortly after the famous Kenneth Arnold sighting over Mount Rainier. It is believed to have cost £½ million. Air Force Secretary Seamans said that UFOs did not display technological developments beyond those reached by earth scientists. According to the Air Force the peak year for sightings was 1952, when 1,501 were reported. When Project Bluebook was wound-up recently, three 1968 sightings and one for 1969, remained unidentified. When Dr. Hynek first took up his post as UFO consultant 21 years ago, he didn't think much of UFOs, to say the least. But after examining the evidence he eventually changed his mind. Now he is one of the strongest advocates in the scientific community for a proper unbiased international investigation of the UFO problem. In a way UFO research is back to square one, thanks to the Condon Report - and the statement just issued by the U.S. Air Force. Unfortunately the man in the street is a very gullible character, especially when it comes to science. He holds the scientist in such awe that he is virtually prepared to believe anything he says. This is why many lay people accept without question the report issued by the Condon Committee, especially when the research team which produced the report was headed by such an impressive person as Dr. Edward U. Condon, an internationally renowned physicist. Perhaps that is why Condon was put in charge of the University of Colorado research project - because whatever he said would be believed. But even Condon won't be able to stop the sighting reports coming in. As Dr. Hynek said in a letter to me last August: "If the phenomenon continues, that will be in itself the best possible rebuffer to the Condon Report". UFO researchers everywhere must press on undaunted to bring the evidence to the public's eye; examine every morsel of print in the Condon Report and show it for what it is really worth.

WHAT YOU WON'T READ IN THE CONDON REPORT
- An Inside Look At The UFO Problem -

By Professor James E. McDonald

"We strongly recommend that teachers refrain from giving students credit for school work based on their reading of the presently available UFO books and magazine articles. Teachers who find their students strongly motivated in this direction should attempt to channel their interests in the direction of serious study of astronomy and meteorology and in the direction of critical analysis of arguments for fantastic propositions that are being supported by appeals to fallacious reasoning or false data" - Dr. Edward Condon, 'Scientific Study of Unidentified Flying Objects', Bantam Books, 1969.

I share Dr. Condon's concern for developing in our schools reading programs that stimulate critical analysis of arguments supported by appeals to fallacious reasoning and inadequate data. Excellent examples of both of those shortcomings can be found, in disquieting abundance, in the Condon Report, recently published as the summary of an extended study of the UFO problem carried out under Dr. Condon's direction.

Despite all of those many shortcomings, the widespread acceptance of the Condon Report, released last January, includes strong endorsement not only from editors of many of the nation's major newspapers, but even from a special review committee of the National Academy of Sciences. To detect some of the serious shortcomings of the Report takes little more than a thoughtful reading of the document; but to sense the full measure of its glaring deficiencies requires precisely the kind of detailed case-checking and witness-interviewing that neither Academy reviewers, nor editors, nor Dr. Condon himself, have carried out. In that latter weakness lies the source of what I believe will become a substantial embarrassment to many scientists and editorialists who have participated in the recent general ground of approval given the Condon Report. Its strongly negative recommendations are simply not supported by its contents, if one looks closely and checks cases.

To paraphrase Mark Twain, I might suggest that recent reports of the death of the UFOs have been greatly exaggerated.

Illustrating the still-continuing flow of scientifically puzzling reports of entirely unconventional aerial craft seen by

responsible and experienced observers, one might cite the March 17, 1969 sighting of an estimated two dozen white oval objects southeast of Lake Havasu in west-central Arizona. Two private pilots from the Phoenix area, flying on a business trip, were eastbound at about 5,000 feet altitude over the Buckskin Mountains, on a clear sunny afternoon, when they observed below and ahead of their position, a loose cluster of objects approaching them. As the objects passed under them on their port side, they saw that these craft were not the jet aircraft they had at first thought them to be, but rather were oval objects, flying broadside to their long axes, with a black edging all around the oval and a slight protuberance on their leading edges. The entire cluster exhibited a curious pattern of movements in which all objects tipped or banked or undulated in perfect unison, as if all were responding to identical control signals. I have interviewed both men, and have talked to others in the Phoenix area who vouch for their reliability. This, like many other interesting UFO cases of recent weeks, occurred well after the Condon Report had recommended that "...further extensive study of UFOs probably cannot be justified in the expectation that science will be advanced thereby".

That highly negative recommendation, plus others in the Conclusion section of the Condon Report, will, I predict, become infamous in the history of science. During the past three years of rather intensive study of the intriguing UFO problem, I have studied so large a volume of evidence pointing in a diametrically opposite direction, that I find it amazing that a major project could be launched to study UFOs and come up with the principal finding that there's nothing of scientific interest involved in this puzzle that has now been with us over 20 years.

My own conclusion is that, far from being a nonsense matter, the UFO enigma constitutes a problem of truly extraordinary scientific importance. Over the past 20 years that same conclusion has been reached by many independent investigators. Regrettably, their urgings that substantial scientific investigations were warranted have gone unheard by the scientific community. To date there has been NO scientifically adequate study of the full scope of the UFO problem. In making that assertion, I have in mind the Condon Report as well as many years of superficial study within the Air Force Project Bluebook.

A brief summary of some of the salient features of what I now regard as an astonishingly large body of significant UFO reports from creditable witnesses, would include the following points:

1. The problem is global in scale. Witnesses in all parts of the world, representing the most diverse cultural and educational backgrounds, in countries marked by both the highest and lowest states of technological development, are reporting (and have been reporting for about two decades), basically similar unconventional aerial objects. Thus, some 80 witnesses I have personally interviewed in the Australian area described

objects quite similar in form and performance to those reported by many of the hundreds of U.S. witnesses I have interviewed since 1966.

2. That many misidentified natural phenomena (fireballs, planets, etc.) and military or technological devices (flares, aircraft strobelights, etc.) are reported by inexperienced observers is quite true. One of the disturbing weaknesses of the Condon Report is that it devoted unwarranted attention to that already very well-documented point. They were supposed to explain the tough ones, not the easy ones.

3. The total number of "credible observers reporting incredible objects" (as USAF General J. A. Sanford put it long ago as 1952) is now so large, and involves such scientifically and technologically puzzling phenomenology, that further postponement of serious attention to this matter will, I believe, go down in history as an inexplicable failure to respond to a "signal" of recurrent and pervasive character. Twenty years of it on a global scale, yet we are still saying it's nonsense. Witness-ridicule plays a regrettably large role herein.

4. Although the most commonly reported UFOs are discs, frequently domed discs (usually a few tens of feet in diameter), there are numerous cases of experienced witnesses having described larger ones (order of several hundred feet) cigar-shaped objects. In addition, a truly baffling, yet technologically intriguing variety of other configurations have been well-reported.

5. Although a preponderance of night-time sightings is notable in all compilations of UFO reports, hundreds of day-time observations, sometimes at quite close range, including even UFOs seemingly "landed" on the ground, have come from credible observers.

6. Although unsophisticated witnesses who have been involved in close-range sightings often insist that "it's gotta be an Air Force test vehicle" (or foreign counterparts thereof), the hypothesis that UFOs are secret test devices ("theirs or ours") can be negated in so many ways that it seems quite incapable of accounting for the volume of UFO reports now on record.

7. Although some bizarre UFO reports do indeed emanate from psychologically disturbed persons or from cultists and crackpot groups, it now seems entirely out of the question that the many reports from experienced airline pilots, law enforcement officers, military personnel, engineers, etc., can be explained away in terms of some epidemic of unprecedented psychological nature. Nor will illusion, delusion, or hallucination fit the facts in hundreds of the most impressive cases.

8. Numerous instances of UFO sightings in which machine-like objects, objects which seem only describable as some sort of aerial craft (rather than luminous blobs of light or hazy indistinct cloud-like masses), argue strongly against any hypothesis that seeks to equate the body of UFO reports to some still unknown atmospheric, astronomical, or geophysical phenomenon. Rather, UFOs, in most instances, exhibit characteristics suggesting some sort of intelligent control, and suggesting that they are products of some technology - a technology unknown to us.

9. All of these circumstances, taken together, seem to suggest the hypothesis that UFOs may, in some sense of the terms, be surveillance devices of extra-terrestrial origin. Even to consider seriously such an hypothesis appears to evoke a curious scorn in some scientific circles, yet it is difficult to find a sensible alternative to that seemingly absurd hypothesis.

10. As to what their "purpose" might be, or what their actual origin might be, present data are simply inadequate to decide. What is sorely needed are objective instrumental observations rather than subjective anecdotal accounts of the type that now predominate in compilations of UFO cases. But the chances of securing the kind of high-level scientific attention that will be required to obtain extensive instrumental data on UFOs have now plummeted as a consequence of Condon's highly negative recommendations. Hence the immediate need seems to be that of closely scrutinising the Condon Report, and determining the scientific adequacy of its methods and its conclusions.

As a result of detailed case-checking and interviewing of key witnesses in many cases discussed in the Report, my view is that the Condon Report, despite a few positive aspects, a few strong areas, is a scientifically inadequate document summarising a scientifically very inadequate investigation. Here I summarise the following main objections I have to the Condon Report:-

A. Of the thousands of significant UFO reports now on record here or abroad, the Condon Report analyses only about 90 cases. That is an exceedingly tiny sample.

B. Within that tiny sample they have included and even emphasised negatively a number of quite trivial cases, cases that so obviously lack scientific significance that they should have been ignored at the outset (e.g. hoax balloon cases; cases where observers were clearly watching planets; nut and crackpot cases).

C. And noticeably absent from those 90 cases are some of the most puzzling UFO cases of the past 20 years. Particularly noticeable by their absence are the numerous airline pilot sightings, only a few of which are confronted in the Report. To omit such strong, long-puzzling cases (which were the ones the Condon Project took on scientific obligation to explain) while

emphasising so much trivia, is scarcely in accord with the whole context within which the Condon Project was established. The Michigan Swamp Gas episode of March 1966, which led directly to the formation of the Condon Report, was not even investigated by the Project, yet Condon (p. 539) seconds the absurd explanation given by Air Force UFO consultant J. A. Hynek by stating that Hynek's swamp-gas idea "seems to be quite genuinely a possibility". I have recently interviewed about 15 of the main witnesses, none of whom had been contacted by the Condon Project. Since it was the unreasonableness of this "swamp-gas" explanation in which led to Congressional actions culminating in Condon's project, such a casual handling of this particular case seems inexcusable.

D. My chief objection, however, is the large amount of specious scientific argumentation in the Condon Report.

E. Finally, despite all the trivial cases and the weak or erroneous argumentation, one finds that of the 90 cases, some 30 are left in the unexplained category after all is said and done. A dozen or so of those unexplained cases are exceedingly impressive cases, cases crying for further scientific attention. Yet Condon would have us ignore them! One wonders if Condon has carefully studied the Condon Report.

On page five Condon states: "We feel that children are educationally harmed by absorbing unsound and erroneous material as if it were scientifically well-founded".

I would suggest that not only children, but also members of our National Academy of Sciences can be "educationally harmed" by being given such material.

(Professor McDonald works at the University of Arizona's Institute of Atmospheric Physics. The above article is a condensed transcript of a lecture he gave last year to the Arizona Branch of the Reading Reform Foundation).

UFO SOUNDS BOOKLET: Copies of the booklet on UFO sounds, written by SIGAP member Dan Butcher, are now available from Group Secretary Dick Beet, price three shillings. The 36-page publication is a mine of information and probably unique in the UFO field. It is entitled: "A Reference Book Of UFO Sounds" and must surely contain a reference to practically every sound heard emanating from unidentified aerial craft. Dan Butcher, who lives in Ash Green near Aldershot, Hampshire, has gleaned the information contained in the booklet from a large number of UFO publications. A full bibliography is included. The booklet is a must for the library of every UFO researcher. One hundred copies have been published initially. To ensure your copy, write to the Secretary now. Several copies will be on sale at SIGAP's March meeting.

FACT OR FOLKLORE? By Dan Butcher: Several characteristics of the ghostly Black Dog of European folklore remind us of certain details in UFO reports. It is obvious that it is no ordinary dog: sometimes its form is very far from canine. For one thing, its eyes are usually extraordinarily large, at times described as glassy, but more often as fiery - like balls of fire which might grow larger and larger as the witness watches them. Or just one ball of fire might take the place of the head. It is not only the eyes which have the propensity of increasing in size. The "Dog" itself might grow into a cloud as tall as a tree, and then disappear. Sounds associated with the Black Dog are 'barking' (c.f. the many barking dogs of UFO reports); 'yelling'; 'howling' and 'crackling'. The Black Dog of Down St. Mary, Devon, causes a noise like falling stones - a circumstance which should be compared with the UFO noises at Warminster in 1965. The Lancashire Black Dog, "Skriker", makes a peculiar screech; while another dog from the same county, the "Trash Hound", makes a splashing noise - yet another UFO sound. In some places in East Anglia, it is said that when the spots where Black Shuck (the name of the phenomena in those parts), are examined, they are found to be scorched, and smelling of brimstone, typical UFO traces. People suffered burns, and even death from the attentions of the Black Shuck. A soldier was struck dumb and died within three days of encountering the black "Mauthe Dog" of Peel Castle in the Isle of Man. It is said that drivers on Norfolk roads suddenly "jam on their brakes" when Black Shuck crosses the road in front of them - a snippet of Black Dog lore which recalls the stalling of car-engines to the UFO researcher. Finally, the Black Dog can cause paralysis. A Thuringian legend tells of a large, black, fiery-eyed dog that impedes travellers by encircling them. Its victims are completely immobilised until the end of "the hour of bewitchment".

DONATION: SIGAP member Richard Colborne, of Oriental Road, Woking, has very kindly donated £3 to the group's funds.

NEW POST: SIGAP Chairman Omar Fowler has been temporarily appointed Investigations Co-ordinator for the British UFO Research Association. The former holder of this post, Richard Farrow, has moved to Norway.

SIGHTINGS ANALYSIS: A complete analysis of the UFO sightings on the files of the British UFO Research Association (BUFORA) is about to be undertaken. It is estimated, according to the latest BUFORA BULLETIN, that there are between 1,000 and 1,500 reports to examine, "spread over the years from 1925 to the present day. Of course, the first years of this period are the least documented, the numbers of sightings only really becoming significant from 1955. Of all the years, 1967 must stand as the major contributor to the files, though only detailed analysis will show whether, in fact, the wave of reports indicates an increase in the number of UFO events or an upsurge in mass media interest during the year".

MYSTERIOUS SUBSTANCE DEFIES ANALYSIS:- This was the headline which appeared in a Houston, Texas, newspaper on Friday, December 20, 1968. It referred to a substance found shortly after a UFO sighting. Although the report is quite old, members will probably still be interested in it: "A chemical analysis has failed to identify a substance resembling angel hair which was found six weeks ago in the Spring Branch area, a university professor reported. The substance reportedly floated to earth shortly after two teenage boys said they saw a UFO hovering on November 6. David Wuliger, a professor music at the University of Houston, and a student of UFOs, said a chemist analysed the substance in the laboratory of a multi-million dollar petroleum industry company. Wuliger said the substance would not dissolve in water, alcohol or sulphuric acid, among other things. Wuliger said the chemist did not want his identity or that of his company revealed. 'Microscopic and tactile examination indicates the substance is fibrous, elastic, relatively strong, somewhat sticky and white in colour', Wuliger said. Robert Hubbard (15) and David Kelley (17), students at Spring Branch High School, said they found the substance shortly after they saw a strange object in the sky. The boys said the object looked like a coin on its side with a dome and black dots that might have been windows. Wuliger said the substance will be sent to the Aerial Phenomena Research Organisation in Tucson, Arizona, for analysis". SIGAP thanks the UFO Research Committee of Seattle, Washington, for bringing this report to its attention. The Tucson UFO group will be approached in a bid to find out what happened to the material.

MEETINGS:

- FEBRUARY 28: COS-MOS meeting at Kensington Central Library. Talk by journalist and UFO researcher Arthur Shuttlewood on the Warminster scene.
- MARCH 7: BUFORA meeting at Kensington Library. A "mystery night". Go along and find out what's in store.
- MARCH 10: SIGAP meeting at Guildford. A talk on meteorological phenomena.
- MARCH 21: COS-MOS meeting at Kensington Library. "The Hoaxers", talk by Norman Oliver. More revelations on the Scoriton, Devon, mystery and "a close look at one of the UFO researchers worst bug-bears".
- APRIL 4: BUFORA question time at Kensington Library. Also, review of British UFO scene during last six months.
- APRIL 7: SIGAP meeting at Guildford. Talk on satellites by Tim Childerhouse, our group's space-research consultant.
- APRIL 25: COS-MOS meeting at Kensington Library. "Spacemen From the Past". Lecture by Raymond Drake, author of "Spacemen in the Ancient East". His new book "Spacemen in the Ancient West", will be out shortly.

MAY 5: SIGAP's annual meeting.

All COS-MOS and BUFORA meetings start at 7 p.m. Kensington Central Library is situated in Campden Hill Road, London W.8. All SIGAP meetings are held in the canteen of the Plastic Coatings Factory, Guildford, and start at 8 p.m.

CAMERA SKY COVERAGE By Tim Childerhouse: In the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory "MOONWATCH" organisation alone, 12 Baker Nunn cameras and over 200 other telescopes fitted with astro-cameras, are used on every clear night for photography. However, there are about 4,400 square degrees of sky to watch. Telescopes generally photograph less than one degree at a time. The bigger cameras cover 20 to 100 degrees. A trained tracker covers about 1,000 degrees. And remember, there are many dedicated satellite observers spread around the world. The most extensive sky coverage is the Prairie Network of 64 fixed cameras that photograph most of the sky over a 300,000 square-mile area from Illinois to Oklahoma in the States. The main purpose of this network is to record meteors and re-entries of these deep space-wanderers. Nine-inch film is changed every three hours and in more than three years of operation, many thousands of these meteors have been photographed - but none of the "flying-saucers" reported in the Mid-West. This network is, perhaps, the most effective UFO watch in operation. Reward came a few weeks ago when U.S. scientists recovered the first meteorite that impacted in the area. Scientifically, the meteorite could prove as valuable as the moon samples. The 22 lb. lump of rock which came from beyond Mars, was found on a snowy track in Oklahoma after the cameras had recorded its fiery trail through the atmosphere. U.S. scientists said this was the first meteorite to be recovered soon after crashing to earth. Since early last year, the British satellite-tracking groups and meteor hunters have agreed to co-operate in observing these meteors and if any bright object is seen to burn up in the atmosphere, a co-ordinated report is prepared and, if possible, an impact point calculated. One such impact point was calculated for an object re-entering last May, and an object was recovered.

UFO DIRECTORY: The Interplanetary Space Travel Research Group (U.K.) is preparing a UFO DIRECTORY. It will contain details of UFO groups and publications the world over, lists of books on the subject, how to start a UFO group and organise its running, starting up magazines, skywatches and how to arrange them, ideas for fund-raising, and many other exciting topics.

NEW UFO MAGAZINE: A new glossy magazine is being produced by a group of people in Oklahoma. Called the American Flying Saucer Review, each issue will contain between 32 and 100 pages, be professionally printed, colour photographs will adorn many pages, and most of the reports will be brand new. The magazine will be seen by many as a bid to capture the subscription market of the present leading UFO journal, the British Flying Saucer Review. The AFSR will be produced six times a year.

Annual subscription: Four dollars, fifty cents. Sample copy for one dollar. Obtainable from: 5956 N.W. 28th Street, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73127, U.S.A.

UFO CONVENTION: Another UFO and Space Convention will be held this year. The 1970 venue will be Gaxton Hall. Last year's convention received a great deal of criticism, particularly because the organisers allowed in so many fringe groups and religious bodies of one sort or another. This year's convention will be better planned. For a committee will be set up consisting of representatives of the organisations wishing to attend. The date of the convention has yet to be fixed. The convention will be advertised in UFO journals throughout the world and the press and television will be contacted. Money raised will be donated to charity, after expenses have been deducted. Comments and suggestions for the convention should be sent to Mike Parry, 149 Stewart Road, Leyton, London E.15.

MAGAZINE ON LEYS: For members interested in leys and their possible connection with the UFO enigma, write to Paul Screeton, who edits a new magazine called "The Ley Hunter". His address is: 5 Egton Drive, Seaton Carew, Hartlepool, County Durham.

DISBANDED: UFO researcher Joan Whritenour, well-known on this side of the Atlantic for her UFO paperbacks, has stopped publication of her magazine "Saucer Scoop", which SIGAP received on an exchange basis. No reason for this move is known at present.

HUNTING THE SASQUATCH: Canadian Rene Dahinder is hunting the legendary Sasquatch, a hairy humanoid reported to be eight foot tall. Dahinder plans to use jeeps, boats, an aircraft, and tranquilliser darts in his bid to catch the monster. "We have found more than 1,000 clear tracks in fresh snow", said Dahinder.

SPACE SCIENTIST BELIEVES IN SUPREME BEING: German-born space scientist Dr. Wernher von Braun, who master-minded the Apollo moon-landing programme, is reported to have said he finds it difficult "to understand a scientist who does not acknowledge the presence of a superior rationality behind the existence of the Universe as it is to comprehend a theologian who would deny the advances of science".

ACTIVE VOLCANOES ON THE MOON: The moon has its own active volcanoes, according to Russian astronomer Professor Nikolai Kozyrev. It was Kozyrev who first detected the luminescence of lunar rocks inside the crater Aristarchus in 1955. Three years later he obtained a spectrogram of gas of which a million cubic metres was thrown off by the crater Alphonsus. By comparing these spectrograms with those of terrestrial volcanoes on the Russian peninsula of Kamchatka, Kozyrev has proved the presence of active volcanoes on the moon.

P E G A S U S

Journal
of the
Surrey Investigation Group On Aerial Phenomena

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Articles for publication in "Pegasus", be they long or short, are extremely welcome. They should be sent to the Editor. Views expressed in "Pegasus" are not necessarily those of the SIGAP Executive Committee. Extracts may be taken from the magazine, provided they are in context and full credits given. Individual copies of "Pegasus" are obtainable from the Secretary at 2/- each. (By post 6d. extra).

Exchange publications and advertisements should be sent to the Editor too. The advertising rates are as follows:

Classified - Members 2d. per word. Non-members 4d.
Display - Quarter-page 15s. Half-page 30s. Full-page 55s.
Special display rates are available to members.

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Committee members: Omar Fowler, Dick Beet, Jean Fowler, Ron Toft, Dan Butcher, Graham Raine, Richard Munford, Miss Marjorie Dalley and Philip Parkinson.

All membership and other general inquiries to the Secretary. UFO reports to the Chairman. Ordinary membership: 15s per year. Junior membership (14-16 years) 7s 6d.

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PEGASUS is printed and published by the Surrey Investigation Group on Aerial Phenomena.
