

# Journal of UFO History

A Publication of the Donald E. Keyhoe Archives



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April 7, 1952 cover. An inconspicuous headline says: "There is a Case for Interplanetary Saucers"

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## Journal of UFO History

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Donald E. Keyhoe Archives

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### EDITORIAL

In order to give adequate coverage to the extraordinary 1952 UFO sighting wave, it was necessary to devote a large portion of this issue to the sighting chronology. Future issues will include more balanced coverage of sightings, news, historical notes, commentaries, and other materials.

Next issue will begin reporting on the aftermath -- scientific, political, and otherwise -- of the 1952 wave, starting with the Central Intelligence Agency entry into the picture as hosts of the January 1953 Robertson Panel study of UFOs and the resulting repression of serious attention to the evidence for a long time to come. □

### COVER STORY & 1952 NOTE

The LIFE Magazine cover story for April 7, 1952 other than Marilyn Monroe bore the rather inconspicuous headline "There Is a Case for Interplanetary Saucers" in relatively small type. Inside, the story headlined "*Have We Visitors From Space?*" reported 10 unexplained UFO incidents based on Air Force case histories, the story strongly suggesting that the answer was "Yes!" Further, Capt. E.J. Ruppelt in his 1956 book reported that the article was inspired by high-ranking Air Force generals.

The July 29, 1952, story (see page 5) about pilots being ordered to "shoot them down" if necessary begins as follows:

The Air Force, stumped by the inability of 600-mile-an-hour jet planes to catch "flying saucers," turned today to a new type camera to solve the 5-year-old sky mystery. [Jet pilots are on 24-hour watch] to chase the mysterious objects and to "shoot them down" if they ignore orders to land.

Unless you were there, it is difficult to imagine the confusion over seemingly contradictory Air Force statements and actions related to UFOs. Why chase and try to shoot down mirages caused by hot weather? Why try to shoot them down in any case if, as Gen. Samford claimed, the observed objects (or illusions?) have shown no evidence of aggressive intent or hostility?

Other historical evidence shows that the mirage explanation was merely a stalling tactic, and as the LIFE article demonstrates, senior Air Force officers were really convinced that UFOs were interplanetary in origin. □

**Pentagon 1952 Press Conference on UFOs:**  
**MAJ.-GEN. JOHN A. SAMFORD, DIRECTOR OF AIR**  
**FORCE INTELLIGENCE, SAYS WEATHER IS CAUSE**

The spectacular radar-visual UFO sightings throughout July 1952 set off a chain of events that reverberated for several decades. Frustrated by their inability to corner or "capture" a UFO, the Air Force ordered its pilots to shoot one down if necessary. President Harry Truman wanted to know what was going on, and set in motion a study by the Central Intelligence Agency.

Meanwhile, the public clamor for information resulted in a very large press conference on July 29, 1952, headed by Maj. Gen. John A. Samford, the Air Force Director of Intelligence. Other Air Force personnel present were Maj. Gen. Roger M. Ramey, Air Force Operations Director; Col. Donald L. Bower, Technical Analysis Division, Air Technical Intelligence Center (ATIC); Capt. Roy L. James, Electronics Branch, ATIC; Capt. Edward J. Ruppelt, Aerial Phenomena Branch; and Burgoyne L. Griffing, Electronics Branch, ATIC.

In his opening remarks, Maj-Gen. Samford said:

I just want to state our reason for concern about this. The Air Force feels a very definite obligation to identify and analyze things that happen in the air that may have in them menace to the United States... [we] have undertaken to analyze between a thousand and two thousand reports dealing with this area [eventually explaining the bulk of them]. However, there have remained a percentage of this total, on the order of 20 percent of the reports, that have come from credible observers of relatively incredible things. [Since we have not been able to explain these

reports] we keep being concerned about them. However, I'd like to say that the difficulty with disposing of these reports is largely based upon the lack of any standard measurement or any ability to measure these things which have been reported briefly by some, more elaborately by others, but with no measuring devices that can convert the thing or the idea or the phenomenon into something that becomes manageable as material for any kind of analysis that we know....

So our need, really, is to get the measurement value of these and, in the interim, lacking sufficient measure of these things to make them amenable to real analysis, we have to say that our real interest in this project is not one of intellectual curiosity but is in trying to establish and appraise the possibility of a menace to the United States. And we can say, as of now, that there has been no pattern that reveals anything remotely like purpose or remotely like consistency that we can in any way associate with any menace to the United States.

When newsmen asked whether there had been simultaneous radar sightings by more than one radar station, Gen. Samford acknowledged that this was a common occurrence. "[A] phenomenon has passed from one radar to another with a fair degree of certainty that it was the same phenomenon," he replied. When asked specifically to explain the recent simultaneous radar sightings at National Airport and Andrews AFB, Gen. Samford stated that radar picks up many things including birds, flocks of ducks, and even ice formations in the atmosphere. Then,

*(Continued on next page)*

## Press Conference, continued

There are theories like the men who theory [sic] of light refraction which says that temperature inversion in the atmosphere can cause an image from somewhere else to be reflected in positions where it is not. If that is a correct theory, related to it is another oddity with respect to the ground effect that you get in radar....Now, the conditions that seem to produce these temperature inversions and possibly the same kind of thing for ground targets being misplaced in altitude...is somewhat typical of the kind of hot humid weather that we've been having here in the last three or four weeks. There's no reason to relate these phenomena [UFOs] to these atmospheric conditions positively, but it is a possibility.

Dr. Donald H. Menzel earlier had proposed the temperature inversion theory, now advanced tentatively by Samford when pressed by the news media. Thus was born the hot weather, temperature inversion, radar-mirage explanation for the Washington, D.C., sightings, and by extension for all the dozens of radar-visual sightings by Air Force jet interceptor pilots, often confirmed by ground radar, all over the country that summer.

Another newsman initiated a key line of questioning, and the following dialogue ensued:

The Press: General Samford, I understand there were radar experts who saw these sightings Saturday night or early Sunday morning. What was their interpretation of what they saw on the scope?

Samford: They said they saw good returns.

The Press: Which would indicate that these were solid objects similar to aircraft?

Samford: No, not necessarily. We get good returns from birds.

The Press: Well, you wouldn't get as large a blip from a bird as --

Samford: No; unless it was close.

The Press: Did they report that these could have been birds?

Samford: No.

The Press: Can you get a good return from a reflected ground target, General?

Samford: I'll ask Captain James --

James: You can get a very large return from a reflected ground target.

The Press: Just as good as you might get from an object actually in flight in the air?

James: Actually thicker, it depends on the amount of bending.

The Press: And just as sharp on the scope?

James: Yes.

This line of questioning continued for some time, with newsmen pressing for an elaboration of the temperature inversion theory. Then a newsman hit on a critical point which later tended to discredit the theory altogether.

The Press: Would this [ground] reflection account for simultaneous radar sightings and visual sightings which appear to coincide on the basis of conversations between the radar operator and the observer outside?

James: There is some possibility of that due to the same effects. ...

The Press: Would these pseudo-bliips cause any difficulties in combat at all?

James: Not to people that understand what's going on. They do cause difficulty.

The Press: Then the experienced operators really can tell the difference between --

James: That's correct.

The Press: How about the CAA [civilian airport radar] men?

James: I don't know.

There is much more of extraordinary historical significance in the 39-page press conference transcript.

Maj. Donald E. Keyhoe, who was there, describes the press conference in his 1953 book (pp. 71-87), including some added details and some amusing sidelights. At the conclusion he heard one reporter say, "Never heard so much and learned so little." Another replied, "What did you expect? Even if they know the answer, they wouldn't give it out now, with all this hysteria."

*(Continued on next page)*

## Press Conference, continued



Dewey Fournet

Capt. Ruppelt in his book accuses Maj. Keyhoe of engaging in mind reading. (pp. 223-230).

"He [Samford] had to hedge on many answers to questions from the press because he didn't know the answers," Ruppelt said, continuing:

This hedging gave the impression that he was trying to cover up something more than just the fact that his people had fouled up in not fully investigating the sightings.... Major Dewey Fournet and Lt. Holcomb, who had been at the airport during the sightings, were extremely conspicuous by their absence, especially since it was common knowledge among the press that they weren't convinced the UFOs picked up on radars were weather targets. □

Fall River (MA) Herald-News, July 29, 1952

## Jets Told to Shoot Down Flying Discs

### Air Force Puzzled But No Longer Skeptical

By DANIEL GARWOOD  
WASHINGTON, (UPI)—The Air Force, stumped by the inability of 600-mile-an-hour jet planes to catch "flying saucers," turned today to a new type camera to solve the 6-year-old sky mystery.

Jet pilots are operating under a 24-hour all-outside "hunt" to chase the mysterious objects and to "shoot them down" if they know where to land.

However, the Air Force admitted that none of its jets have come within shooting range of the blinding, orange-like flying discs.

Several pilots, according to the Air Force, have tried to shoot down the mysterious discs but the "steady bright lights" in the sky have outwitted the pilots by as much as a thousand miles an hour.

An AP spokesman said a new-type camera may be able to bring the mystery to an end. He said the camera photographs "luminescent phenomena." It uses the principle employed by astronomers in determining the composition of stars. Air Force scientists hope to determine the physical makeup of the phenomenon and identify its source.

Maj. Gen. John A. Bamford, chief of Air Force Intelligence, said the new type cameras have been ordered and will be distributed to jet pilots as soon as they become available.

Meanwhile, as new reports continued to pour into the Pentagon of more sightings of mysterious objects the Air Force summoned several "radar" specialists from Dayton, Ohio, for a conference today.

Called to Washington were Capt. E. J. Ruppelt and several fellow officers from the Air Technical Intelligence Center at Wright-Patterson Field.

The Air Force said it is receiving new reports of "flying saucers" at the rate of 150 a month.

The Air Force concluded that its intensive investigation of more than 1,000 "saucer" reports has convinced it that they are not being sent over the United States by an enemy.

The AP added that its investigation indicated also that they are not being controlled by "a man-made body."

Forty-eight hours of intensive investigation has failed to explain radar and visual observation of unidentified objects accompanied by brilliant white and colored lights on two successive weekends over Washington. The so-called "saucers" were seen on both Air Force and Civil Aeronautics Authority radars.

Now the CIA sightings were made by a radar specialist, James M. Ritchey of the Washington Air Route Traffic Control Center.

"Saucer objects" until unidentified objects began moving into our radarscope, I thought people who reported seeing saucers were just seeing things," he said.

"Now I don't know what to think. I have talked to representatives of the Air Force, and they say they can't explain the appearance of the flying objects."

"All we can do is tell you what we saw on our instruments, and

(Continued on Page 2A)

(From Barry Greenwood newsclipping collection)

July 29, 1952, Washington, D.C.

International News Service

## August-December 1952 Sighting Chronology

(Note: These sightings occurred after the July 29 news conference in which the radar-visual cases were attributed to weather phenomena, and before the January 1953 CIA Robertson Panel met.)

The object seen August 1<sup>st</sup> near Bellefontaine, Ohio, that had been tracked on radar moving at high speed and locked onto by his radar gunsight and photographed by one of the two F-86 jets sent to chase it, Ruppelt later reported, turned out to have an explanation. (Ruppelt, pp. 230-233.)

The radar track had been that of a jet aircraft with a mixed up flight plan. The interceptors, Ruppelt said, had chased and photographed a 20-foot radiosonde balloon whose transmitter box had caused the radar pick-up. This despite the statement in the Air Force Intelligence report, "It is obvious that all eyes and antennas put a fix on the same object."

In his report on the case, Maj. Donald E. Keyhoe, USMC (Ret.), notes that Maj. James B. Smith, the F-86 pilot who filmed the object, said that while he was observing the object through his telescopic gunsight, "[it] quickly accelerated, disappearing at a tremendous speed." Then, he cited and quoted directly from the Air Force Intelligence report on the case:

The ground radar squadron established two facts: Reaffirmation that the UFO moved at 400 knots (480 land miles per hour) and indications that the F-86s and the UFO appeared simultaneously on the GCI [Ground Control Intercept] scope....

(Continued on next page)

### Sighting Chronology, continued

The object was obviously not a balloon, since the speed was too fast. (A radiosonde balloon had been released about 10:00 a.m. and moved off to the east, while the UFO was sighted north-northwest of the base.) The object moved against the wind, its blip size that of a normal aircraft. The object was not a known aircraft because the altitude was too high. It was not astronomical, as the dual radar returns eliminate this.

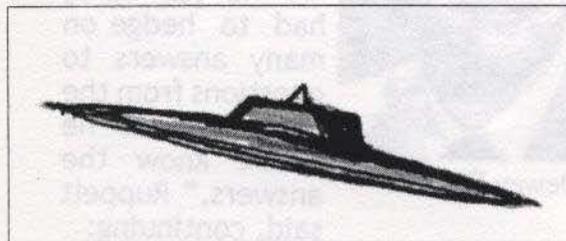
The intelligence report, given to Maj. Keyhoe by Al Chop, concluded that the object was "Unknown." (Keyhoe, pp. 107-109.)

On August 1<sup>st</sup>, a few hours after the Bellefontaine sighting, a family in Sharonville, Ohio, and fire and safety personnel, reported seeing a brilliantly luminous oval or disc-shaped object approach rapidly from the east, stop and hover overhead, pulsating. The object wobbled at times, alternately appearing disc-shaped or elliptical. Finally it sped away over the horizon. Sharonville is less than 100 miles from Bellefontaine in southwest Ohio.

**August 5, Baltimore, Maryland.** Dr. James C. Bartlett, astronomer, during daylight observation of Venus at about 1:10 p.m. saw two copper-like discs with diameters of 30 minutes of arc passing to the south and east, shortly followed by two more discs with slightly raised portions in the centers. (Report to NICAP.)

**August 5, Haneda AFB, Japan.** Radar-visual UFO sighting. About midnight control tower personnel and other airmen observed a bright white light emanating from a dark circular object as it slowly approached the base hovering several minutes near the

control tower. An F-94 jet interceptor was scrambled to investigate and got a radar lock-on. The object suddenly sped away, clocked on radar at 300 knots. As it did so it divided into three units that flew in formation. (Air Force intelligence report.)



Kerkrade, Holland

**August 7, Kerkrade, Holland.** In the early morning Will Jansen, a marine engineer, observed two disc-shaped craft with dome-like superstructures. One swooped down, hovered, zig-zagged, then sped away. A second similar object was then noticed hovering farther away which eventually tilted up vertically and accelerated upwards and out of sight. (Report to CSI of Los Angeles.)

**August 7, Aoulef, Sahara, Africa.** Jean Doray, a French transportation official at 12:45 a.m. saw a light gray elliptical object, which he presumed to be circular after allowing for the angle of vision, emerge from the mist in the northeast and fly in a straight line to the northwest. The object was visible in the bright moonlight. He observed no trail and no sign of self-luminosity. (Michel, pp. 111-112.)

**August 9, Moscow, Idaho.** Ground Observer Corps spotters at about

*(Continued on next page)*

### Sighting Chronology, continued

9:30 p.m. reported a huge glowing disc, estimated 200 feet diameter. Three F-86 jet fighters circled the object in an attempted intercept, but it abruptly sped up and outdistanced them. (Keyhoe, *Flying Saucer Conspiracy*, p. 30.)

**August 12, Rapid City, S. Dakota.** Capt. Edward J. Ruppelt said: "This was an unknown -- the best." At Ellsworth AFB a glowing object hovering to the East during the night was showing on radar as a solid object. Radar tracked it as it moved over the city, then back to its original position.

An F-84 jet fighter was vectored in and chased the object for 120 miles. When the pilot gave up and turned back, the object turned around and followed him, tracked by ground radar. A second F-84 chased the UFO about 160 miles and obtained a radar lock-on with his airborne radar; both the F-84 and the UFO were observed plainly on ground radar.

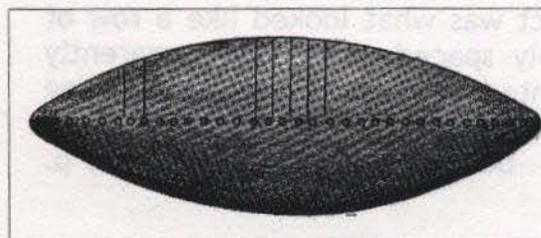
When the second pilot gave up and turned back, the UFO continued northward. Ground Observer Corps personnel in that direction, alerted by the base, saw a light speeding north. (Ruppelt, p. 303; *TRUE Magazine*, May 1954, p. 19.)

**August 19, West Palm Beach, Florida.** Controversial scoutmaster report of landed disc with dome, strong physical trace evidence. (Ruppelt, pp. 233-245.)

**August 20, Congaree AFB, Columbia, South Carolina.** Air Defense Command radar post tracked a UFO off to the east traveling at a calculated speed of 4,000 m.p.h. (Keyhoe, p. 90.)

**August 24, near El Paso, Texas.** An Air Force colonel piloting an F-84 to Turner AFB, Georgia, about 10:15 p.m. saw two round silvery objects flying abreast of him at 35,000 feet. One made a right turn in front of the jet. In the vicinity of El Paso one of the objects climbed straight up about 2,000 to 3,000 feet, joined by the other in close formation, disappearing at high speed. The colonel said (Air Force Intelligence Report):

From their maneuvers and terrific speed I am certain their flight performance was greater than any aircraft known today.



Pittsburg, Kansas; from Project Blue Book Special Report No. 14

**August 25, Pittsburg, Kansas.** At 5:35 a.m. a radio station employee driving to work noticed an elliptical object about 75 feet long hovering about 10 feet above a field, rocking slightly. He stopped and got out to look, and heard a deep throbbing sound.

The witness said that vegetation was blown around by the object when it was near the ground. As he got out of the car to investigate, the object began ascending, emitting a sound similar to that of a covey of quail, rising vertically through the broken clouds until it disappeared.

The Air Force case summary states:

(Continued on next page)

### Sighting Chronology, continued

A medium-blue continuous light shone through the one window in the front section. The head and shoulders of one man, sitting motionless, facing the forward edge of the object, were visible. In the midsection of the object were several windows extending from the top to the rear edge of the object; the midsection of the ship had a blue light which gradually changed to different shades.

A lot of movement and activity was visible in the midsection, but it was not possible for the witness to tell whether it was mechanical or "human" in nature. Around the outer edge of the object was what looked like a row of closely spaced propellers, apparently mounted on a bracket and spinning rapidly in a horizontal plane. (Project Blue Book Special Report No. 14, p. 90.)

**August 29, North Atlantic area.** An Air Force Intelligence Report released to Maj. Donald E. Keyhoe summarized a Navy report of "Three disc-shaped objects seen during tracking of a balloon." (Keyhoe, 1953, Appendix II.)

Fifty years later a detailed account of the report finally has emerged. Writing in the U.S. Naval Institute magazine *Naval History* for October 2004, Commander Edward P. Stafford, USN (Ret.) relates what the article title describes as a "Cosmic Curiosity" observed by a Navy patrol plane flight crew under his command, operating out of Thule, Greenland.

After a mission to track a Navy "Skyhook" cosmic ray research balloon on August 29, 1952, one of his plane commanders, Lt. John Callahan, had returned looking "tense and pale .... deadly serious and obviously shaken."

Callahan reported a startling sighting as he and his crew had been routinely following the giant balloon, periodically observing it through binoculars.

Suddenly Lt. Callahan noticed and alerted the others to "three shining, saucer-shaped metallic objects" that apparently had attached themselves to the trailing instrument package of the balloon.

After several minutes during which the binoculars were passed around, Callahan saw that the three discs had separated from the balloon and formed into a compact V-formation. As the air crew watched, the objects executed a vertical bank to the left, accelerated to a "blinding speed" and climbed out of sight in about 3 seconds.

Cmdr. Stafford states that Lt. Callahan immediately sat down and wrote a detailed report of the incident which was sent up through the chain of command to the Office of Naval Intelligence (ONI). "A report was also made to the Air Force authorities at Thule," he says.

(Editorial comment: This case is ideal for a Freedom of Information Act request. All the names and details are there. Since Maj. Keyhoe never made much of this case in his writings, it may be that the version reported to the Air Force that he saw is less detailed. However, both it and the ONI report should be obtained for the record.)

**September 12, Flatwoods, W. Virginia.** Alleged "alien monster" sighting, in all probability a genuine case of hysteria stimulated by a large fireball meteor observed over several adjacent states and the District of Columbia, in the  
(Continued on next page)

## Sighting Chronology, continued

context of the extensive Summer 1952 newspaper reporting on UFOs.

**September 14, Belle Glade, Florida.** An employee at the Florida Everglades Agricultural Experiment Station at about 4:30 a.m. heard a loud humming sound and saw that the herd of cattle had bolted from the barn. Then he saw a disc-shaped object with alternate red and amber lights spaced around its rim descending to about 40 feet above the barn.

The object veered away, then returned on a different course, its glow illuminating the ground. At this point the cattle bolted again. The witness noticed an acrid odor which caused his eyes to smart. Finally the object gained altitude and flew out of sight. (*Miami Daily News*, Sept. 17, 1952.)

**September 19-21, North Sea.** "Operation Mainbrace" and European Continent sightings. During NATO fleet exercises involving 200 ships and 1,000 aircraft, a flurry of significant sightings occurred. An RAF jet approaching the airfield at Topcliffe, Yorkshire, was followed by a bright silvery disc that swayed back and forth, wobbling and rotating on its axis while hovering. Then the object took off at high speed. (Michel, p. 130.)

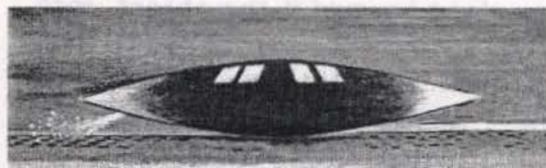
At Karup Airfield, Denmark, Air Force officers saw a shiny, metallic-appearing disc approaching from the direction of the Operation Mainbrace fleet. The object flew overhead and disappeared in clouds to the east. (Michel, p. 133.) Personnel on the aircraft carrier U.S.S. Franklin D. Roosevelt observed and photographed a silvery spherical object moving rapidly across the sky behind the fleet. A thorough check was made

and no one had launched a balloon. (Ruppelt, 257-58.)

RAF pilots flying a formation of jets over the North Sea on September 21 saw a shiny spherical object coming from the direction of the fleet. They pursued it, but gave up and turned back, then saw the object following them. (Ruppelt, p. 258.)

**October 11, Newport News, Virginia.** A Ground Observer Corps spotter at 2:50 p.m. observed a hovering disc-shaped object with a dome on top, reflecting sunlight. The witness watched it for 20 minutes, then called Langley Field and two F-86 jet fighters were sent up to intercept it. As the jets neared, the UFO tilted up, accelerated and sped away climbing out of sight. (Report to NICAP.)

**October 13, Oshima, Japan.** Maj. William D. Leet and his flight engineer on a C-54 mission about dusk observed a round unidentified object hovering in a cloud formation. After about 7 minutes the object became elliptical in appearance and sped away to the west, disappearing in seconds. (Report to NICAP.)



Marignane, France. Sketch adapted from Michel, 1956.

**October 27, Marignane, France.** Shortly after 2:00 a.m. a customs officer at the airport saw a light slowly descend and touch the ground, stopping about 100 yards away. Moving closer to within

(Continued on next page)

### Sighting Chronology, continued

about 50 yards to investigate it, he saw that the object was elliptical, with pointed ends, and had four windows following the curve of the top surface. A flickering blue-green light was visible through the windows. As he neared it, the object took off with a "swish" sound, emitting a trail of sparks, and disappeared in 2-3 seconds. (Michel, pp. 151-152.)

**November 16, Florence, S. Carolina.** About 5:00 p.m. a huge glowing disc was observed through binoculars by an air traffic controller at the airport as it crossed the sky. He reported that the object tilted up steeply before climbing out of sight. About 6 minutes later a group of five round glowing objects were sighted near Landrum, S.C., and a witness took 40 feet of 8 mm color film before the objects disappeared to the west. (Keyhoe, pp. 4-5, 8-10.)

**December 4, Laredo, Texas.** At 8:49 p.m. an F-51 pilot flying at 6,000 feet several miles from the base suddenly noticed a fast-moving blue-white light making a sharp turn. As he banked the fighter plane toward it the object rose quickly to his level, circling at high speed, then "shot up in an odd, flitting ascent." After climbing almost 9,000 feet in a matter of a few seconds, the object dove back down to his level, and the pilot began chasing it at full power.

Suddenly the object rushed head-on at the F-51 to within about 30 feet, then flashed past his right wing so fast that it appeared only as a blur. The pilot looked back and saw the object shoot upward in another flitting climb, then plunge back down as if to make a

second pass at him. Frightened, he threw the fighter into a spiraling descent and dove down to about 2,000 feet. There the pursuing light turned away, climbing sharply, and disappeared into the night sky. (Air Force Intelligence Report.)

**December 6, near Galveston, Texas.** At 5:25 a.m. the crew of a B-29 bomber saw and tracked on three radar sets about 20 objects, singly and in small groups, that sped head-on toward their plane, appearing as blurs of blue-white light as they passed. Their speed was calculated at 5,240 m.p.h. Once a group of objects slowed to the speed of the bomber and paced it for about 10 seconds, then accelerated and pulled away. At the same time a huge target (a half-inch blip) appeared on the radar scope. Still moving at high speed, the smaller objects merged into the larger object, which then accelerated to about 9,000 m.p.h. and sped away. (Keyhoe, pp. 161-66; from Air Force Intelligence Report.)

**December 10, Hanford, Washington.** The pilot and radar observer of an F-94 jet, flying at 26,000 feet, encountered a luminous white object with dim reddish light emanating from two windows. Each time they attempted to close in on it the object reversed direction and dove away. After losing sight of it visually, they got a radar lock-on. (Air Force Intelligence report)

**December 29, Northern Japan.** At 7:30 p.m. an Air Force colonel in an F-84 jet fighter and other pilots independently, saw an object with steadily revolving red, white, and green lights and emitting three white  
(Continued on page 12)

# United Nations

## Press Release

Office of Public Information  
Press Section  
United Nations, New York

Thirty-third General Assembly  
Special Political Committee  
35th Meeting  
AM SUMMARY



GA/AH/1478  
27 November 1978

### GRENADA PROPOSES APPOINTMENT OF EXPERT GROUP TO SET GUIDELINES

#### FOR UN STUDY ON NATURE AND ORIGIN OF UFOs

Grenada proposed this morning that the Secretary-General appoint a group of experts, under the aegis of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, to define guidelines for a United Nations study of "the nature and origin of unidentified flying objects and related phenomena".

The Prime Minister of Grenada, Sir Eric Gairy, speaking this morning in the Special Political Committee to introduce the discussion on an item submitted by his delegation on this subject, introduced the draft resolution.

Other speakers this morning were Wellington Friday, Grenada's Minister of Education, and three experts who appeared as part of the delegation of Grenada: J. Allen Hynek, Jacques F. Valley, and Lieutenant Colonel Larry Coyne.

A documentary film was then presented, showing a number of reported sightings of UFOs, with Mr. Hynek narrating as the film was shown.

The Committee will meet again at 3 p.m. today to continue consideration of the item, which is entitled "Establishment of an agency or a department of the United Nations for undertaking, co-ordinating and disseminating the results of research into unidentified flying objects and related phenomena".

The draft resolution, which will be circulated before this afternoon's meeting, asks the General Assembly to recommend that the United Nations, in consultation with the appropriate specialized agencies, "initiate, conduct and co-ordinate research into the nature and origin of unidentified flying objects and related phenomena".

The Secretary-General would be requested to invite Member States, specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations to transmit to him by 31 May 1979 information and proposals which would facilitate the proposed study.

He would also be asked to appoint, at the earliest possible date, a three-member group of experts, under the aegis of the Outer Space Committee, to define guidelines for the proposed study. The group of experts would meet during the sessions of the Outer Space Committee and would report on its work, through that body, to next year's General Assembly session.

## UNITED NATIONS 1978 UFO SESSION

United Nations 33<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly Agenda Item 126 on November 27, 1978, was *Establishment of an Agency or a Department of the United Nations for Undertaking, Co-Ordinating and Disseminating the Results of Research Into Unidentified Flying Objects and Related Phenomena.*

The *Summary Record of the 35<sup>th</sup> Meeting*, Special Political Committee, paraphrases remarks made by Dr. J. Allen Hynek appearing as a guest member of the Grenada delegation:

[He] said that the scope and extent of the phenomenon of [UFOs] was not generally recognized. It was a phenomenon so strange and foreign to man's terrestrial mode of thought that it was frequently ridiculed by persons and organizations unacquainted with the facts....

According to his records, UFO reports had been assembled from 133 different countries...by such highly responsible persons as astronauts, radar experts, pilots, government officials and scientists....It was his considered opinion, based on many years of study and as an involved scientist, that the UFO phenomenon, whatever its origin might be, was eminently worthy of study.

Dr. Jacques Vallee and UFO witness, Lt. Col. Larry Coyne, also addressed the meeting. Coyne described the October 18, 1973, encounter between his Army helicopter and a structured UFO that had rushed at them, hovered, and illuminated the cabin.

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### Sighting Chronology, continued

beams of light outwards. The object also was showing on radar. When an intercept was attempted the object sped away. (Air Force Intelligence report.) □

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