

# UFO RESEARCH NEWSLETTER

A MONTHLY REPORT ON UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

Vol. I, No. 9

December 1971 - January 1972

## ENGLISH SIGHTINGS TOP REPORT ROUND-UP

A rash of UFO reports from England include objects that caused animal reactions, electro-magnetic (E-M) effects, frightened witnesses and emitted sounds. Most of the sightings occurred in August, others in May, June and September.

During the morning and early afternoon of September 8, hundreds of people reported seeing "a bright light traveling westward" over England. It was "sometimes hovering, sometimes moving at high speed," stated *The London Daily Mail*.

The November 28, 1971, edition of the *National Enquirer* reported the sighting in detail and included accounts from three witnesses in different cities.

Charles Blackwood, a chemist residing in Leeds, saw it at about 9 a.m. It was egg-shaped, had "a haze around it which glowed and changed color constantly," and was heading south.

"But it was not an aircraft," he stated. "I fly myself and I know what I'm talking about. It appeared to be searching the ground from about 2,000 feet... The last I saw, it was streaking away toward the south. It changed from an object of about 50 feet in diameter to nothing in about three seconds."

### *Electrical Engineer Sees It "Traveling at a Fantastic Speed"*

About two hours later, Michael Castle, an electrical engineer and Air Force veteran, saw it in Sheffield, approximately 30 miles south of Leeds. It was "traveling at a fantastic speed because I had no sooner seen it as a speck in the sky than it was overhead, where it seemed almost to stop."

"It was about a couple of thousand feet above and it glowed," Castle said. "First it was silvery, then a fluorescent blue and then it changed to an orange-yellow and seemed to be pulsating as if it was heating and cooling every few seconds."

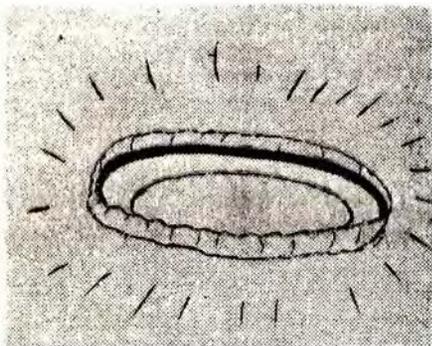
The witness said the object was egg-shaped and had a haze around it, as described by Blackwood in Leeds.

"It moved over Sheffield for about 10 minutes just like it was photographing the scenery," Castle continued. "Then it glowed orange, a yellow haze appeared at the back and it suddenly shot off toward the southwest. It was definitely controlled and I am sure it was not a normal flying machine."

At about 1 p.m., Richard Clarkson saw the UFO in Manchester, about 32 miles west of Sheffield. The bright, egg-shaped object was "moving very slowly."

"Suddenly," Clarkson reported, "orange flames seemed to come from its back. It shot across the sky at a fantastic speed and disappeared. Its movement was so definite that it appeared to be under control. I don't know what it was, but I know it was something I have never seen before."

A British Ministry of Defence spokesman said: "We are investigating it."



Sketch by Richard Clarkson  
of Manchester UFO

(Continued on page 3)

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THE SOVIET-AMERICAN EXTRATERRESTRIAL  
 LIFE CONFERENCE  
 (An Editorial Comment)

The Soviet-American scientific conference on the search for extraterrestrial (ET) life, held in Byurakan, Armenia, U.S.S.R., September 5-11, 1971 (see *UFO Research Newsletter*, Vol. I, No. 7, p. 2), was jointly arranged by the U.S. National Academy of Science and the U.S.S.R. Academy of Sciences, according to the October 8, 1971, issue of *Science*. Emerging from the conference was

the belief that modern science and technology was far enough advanced to enable "serious and detailed investigations" of electro-magnetic activity deep in space and "that such investigations are warranted because their fruits might influence the whole future of man."

A joint Russian-American statement called for stepped-up searches for extra-solar planetary systems "as well as for new investigations to be directed toward uncovering modes of search for signals." An interim U.S.-U.S.S.R. working group, eventually to be of international make-up, was created to direct further study.

Two of the conference's organizers, Drs. Carl Sagan and Frank Drake, of Cornell University's Center for Radiophysics and Space Research, said that there were probably in space "other civilizations whose technological sophistication would make earthlings look as though they had just crawled out of the primordial slime" and that a kind of "interstellar communications club" may exist, ready to receive earthlings as members if we could only reach them. Our high-frequency radio, TV and radar emissions into deep space began about 50 years ago, the scientists remarked, hardly enough time to reach solar systems some light years away.

*Sagan's Arguments Supporting ET Civilization Theory*

ET civilizations are around somewhere in outer space, Sagan argues, because: (1) earth is in the "galactic boondocks" and the next step will be to realize that life may not be unique to our planet; and (2) chemical and energy sources constituting the "building blocks of life" have been found in space. Both Sagan and Drake even hinted at the possibility that ET civilizations could have discovered a means of traveling faster than the speed of light.

The scientists chided the U.S. government for spending "virtually nothing" on the search for ET intelligence except a \$100,000 design study by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration on a huge multi-million dollar receiver, which would be about 10 times as large as the world's largest radio astronomy telescope in Arecibo, Puerto Rico. Most other countries, they continued, have shown a similar lack of interest. The Soviet Union, however, is constructing "a giant ring-shaped telescope, one of whose duties will be to look for signs of intelligence from outer space."

At a press conference in the U.S. on the conference, Sagan also touched on UFOs, which, he claimed, could not be ET "because they are uneconomical. Since all planets are round, and therefore finite, their resources are limited; creatures competing for the same resources must use them efficiently. Therefore, radio astronomy would universally be the most effective and cost-effective vehicle for cosmic explorations."

*Lack of Scientific Scrutiny a Curious Phenomenon*

A curious phenomenon among many scientists, including Dr. Sagan, is that, while many admit the possibility -- even probability -- of extraterrestrial life perhaps

many centuries advanced from that of earth, very few admit even the slight possibility that even one ET civilization may be observing us, as we will undoubtedly be personally exploring Mars, Venus and other planets within the next few decades. Why? Despite evidence (as opposed to hard-core proof) to the contrary in the form of credible, reliable UFO reports from sober, trained citizens and the discovery of life elements in space, man still prefers to believe he is alone in the universe.

It was a scientific fact in the 15th and 16th centuries that the earth was the center of the universe and all the other planets, including our own sun, revolved around it. Similarly, prior to 1803, when overwhelming evidence in the form of a gigantic meteorite fall closely observed by French citizens proved otherwise, it was a scientific fact that stones could not fall from the sky. As the late astronomer, Dr. Frank Halsted, once put it: too often we tend to judge conditions in the universe by conditions here on earth. In other words, by human reasoning, if we cannot reach Wolf 359 in less than four or five light years, then beings on Wolf 359 (if there are any) could not reach us in less than that length of time. Unfortunately, we tend too much to base our human reasoning on our *present* state of technology. Consider how far we have advanced in the last 50 years, then look ahead to the next 50, 100, 1,000 or one million years. Where will we be then? If not deceased from our pollution and technological stupidity, then, at least, far beyond Jupiter and, most probably, into other solar systems.

#### *Speed of Light May Not Be Absolute*

Dr. Sagan was one of the six witnesses at the UFO hearings before the House Science and Astronautics Committee on July 29, 1968. Under questioning by *ad hoc* chairman J. Edward Roush (D-Ind.), he admitted that the speed of light may not be an absolute for all time, leaving open the clear indication that, at some point in the future, we may develop a means of traveling at speeds in excess of this and admitting that we already have the theoretical capability of traveling at velocities approaching the speed of light. The impression was also left that, possibly, some advanced ET civilization had already solved this problem.

There are, of course, many other theories too numerous to mention, such as: perhaps the ETs are so physiologically and psychologically different from us that they may look upon us as we look upon ant-hills or, as the late Dr. James E. McDonald used to put it, the kangaroo in Australia. But, whatever the reasoning, the evidence is still there in the form of unexplained reports and Dr. Sagan is not going to explain them away that easily. It would, indeed, be ironic if he -- as a leading opponent of UFOs -- was to be one of the first to contact an ET civilization and provide irrefutable proof that we have been observed by creatures in "flying saucers."

Report Round-Up (Continued from page 1)

#### *"Silver Metallic" Object Descends*

Garry Harrison was driving near West Mailing, England, at 8:45 a.m., August 27, when "something shone in my eyes..." stated the August 31, 1971, edition of the *Kent Evening Post*. He saw a UFO hovering above some trees. The witness stopped his automobile and got out for a closer look.

"When I looked again, the sun had come off it and I could make out an oblong-shaped object with rounded ends," he said. "It had a silver metallic finish with a black rim around the bottom... It was about 50 feet long... It was completely stationary. Then it started to come down very slowly behind the trees and I lost sight of it... It was definitely not a balloon or any type of conventional aircraft."

Local police stated that they had received no corroborative reports, but one County Police Headquarters official said: "Whatever these things are, they are no laughing matter. I saw one myself in Malaya."

Less than two days earlier, two separate sightings that occurred at about the same time were reported from different cities.

*One Disc Reflects in River and Another Causes Animal Reactions*

On the evening of August 25, Maurice Wakefield, a former Royal Air Force member, was fishing with his wife, Patricia, at Stanford-upon-Soar when he saw "a bright disc flying over the river." It reflected twice in the water and sped across the sky.

"Suddenly three feet to the left there was this stationary light, absolutely brilliant," Wakefield stated in the *Nottingham Evening Post*, August 26, 1971. "It lasted about two seconds. A few minutes after it appeared again. Then I saw the same brilliance zip across the sky from south to north... I can't associate this with an aircraft. I have never seen anything like this before."

That same evening, at about 9 p.m., numerous citizens phoned the *Liverpool Daily Post* to report seeing "mysterious lights... turning to orange and blue and traveling in a southeast to northwest direction..." Around Formby, the paper reported the next day, the objects apparently emitted "strong rumblings" and caused dogs in the area to react.

Mrs. Olwyn Grainger and two other Guide leaders were at camp at Himbleton Manor, Dritwich, Worcestershire, on or about August 12 when they heard "a tremendous roar." They saw an "enormous" UFO that looked like it was going to crash into the leaders' tents, stated the August 14, 1971, edition of the *London Daily Mail*. It kept on into the next field about 50 yards away, however, "and hovered lower than the trees around it." There was "a red glowing light."

One of the Guides wanted to investigate, but the others were "frightened to death" and refused. Two more Guides also reportedly saw the object at this time.

According to the *London Times*, the UFO was cigar-shaped and had red and green lights. Mrs. Grainger said it rose and vanished over some trees "with a noise..."

*E-M Effects Highlight Earlier British Reports*

Mr. and Mrs. Graham Tell were strolling near Guernsey, in the Channel Islands, on or about June 26 when they saw four spinning objects in a cluster, according to the *Glasgow Herald*, June 28, 1971. The witnesses said the UFOs were "silvery and spinning like flying saucers." After hovering for about a minute, they rapidly ascended, changed formation, and disappeared to the north "at a high speed."

Almost exactly a month earlier a woman in Leicestershire reported a strange encounter.

At about 10:55 p.m., May 25, Mrs. Eunice Rose was driving between Oddstone and Belchar's Bar when she saw a glow in the sky, stated the *NUFORO Bulletin* (12, Dorset Road, Cheam, Sutton, Surrey, England) and also reported in the December, 1971, edition of *Skylook* (Box 129, Stover, Missouri 65078). Then the "glow," which the witness described as "about the size of a double decker bus," crossed the road above her automobile and lit up the countryside.

The car engine began to die out as the object passed overhead. The headlights dimmed and Mrs. Rose's transistor radio "faded out completely for a few minutes." She said she was "so frightened she could feel the hair on her neck bristling."

Reports from the U.S. and Australia include an object that was "sparkling and shimmering" and emitting smaller objects; another that "swooped to within 20 feet of the ground"; a UFO described as a "Mexican hat-shaped" object that changed shape; an object that flipped over; and craft that frightened witnesses and caused animal reactions. Witnesses included a bank president, a newspaper editor, police officers, and a security patrolman.

*Animal Reactions in East Berne*

It was almost 9:30 p.m., November 8, and all was quiet in East Berne, New York. Then it all "began with the howling of the dogs in the Willsey Road area..." stated the November 14, 1971, edition of the Rochester, N.Y., *Times-Union*.

Mrs. Harry M. Fries was one of the witnesses to the apparent cause -- a "blinding bright" object with a blue-white and red light revolving on a band around the

middle. It was hovering about 50 feet from her home "on a level with the garage roof" and appeared to be constructed of "dull metal."

"It was about as big as a car...", Mrs. Fries stated.

A few hours earlier, at 6:48 p.m., John A. Zakutny, in nearby Colonie, saw a glowing "rim of white light" about "four feet in diameter" going fast from south-southwest to north-northeast.

"It looked like a white circle, with a phosphorescent glow to it...", the witness said. "It had it all over a jet -- I never saw anything go that fast."

It was 10:30 p.m. when Albany County Sheriff's deputies Sgt. Neil Taber and Joseph Risziza received the request to investigate the sighting at the Fries home. As they approached Pleasant Valley Road at 10:50, Sgt. Taber related, "I saw a bright light" traveling to the northwest "at a high rate of speed."

As the deputies arrived at their destination, they found the dogs "still jumping and barking."

"Our German shepherd was really scared," said Mrs. Fries, who also stated that she and others had seen apparently the same object on two previous occasions during the year.

### *The Klamath Valley Sightings*

At 11:45 p.m., October 8, Nelson E. Divine, Denny, California, saw a "Mexican hat-shaped" UFO outside his home. It had approximately three bands of lights, was slowly circling over a watershed, and appeared to change shape.

Three days later, in nearby Willow Creek, Mrs. Mary Ann Wegner saw a strange object. At about 11 p.m., October 11, the witness had rounded a corner in her car when she saw "an extremely bright light" hovering over the river.

"I looked and I was stunned," Mrs. Wegner related in the October 27, 1971, edition of *The Klamath County Courier*. "It was a flying saucer. I was scared and kept on going, but I did see the large, round object with what looked like windows around the middle part of it. This was where the light was coming from."

At approximately 7:30 p.m. on or about October 10, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Spiro saw an object near Columbia City, Washington. They were between Highway 30 and the Columbia River when they first spotted it.

"We had it in view for several minutes," Spiro wrote in the October 15, 1971, edition of the *Longview, Washington, News*, "and it appeared to be motionless. It was almost as though a bright light had been turned on in the clouds."

The blimp-like object had three bright lights "spread out quite widely" on it. Spiro turned right into Columbia City, "drove about a block towards the river, stopped, and looked back towards the object, just as it was disappearing into a cloud."

### *Object Swoops Down Near Witness*

Near sunset, September 21, Kimmy Gammon was riding his bike about four miles south of Wayne City, Illinois, when a boomerang-shaped UFO with a wingspread about 50 to 60 feet and a center section approximately eight feet high appeared over the woods. It was apparently trying to land and "swooped to within 20 feet of the ground."

Then the object "suddenly pivoted, rose up and took off at an altitude of about 100 feet toward a neighbor's house." Kimmy, 11, called to a friend, Rodney Green, who also saw it with his father. Just prior to its disappearance, the UFO "appeared to be blue on one side and red on the other."

Kimmy was reportedly frightened for some time after the incident.

At the same time, Harlan Yates, president of the Cisne State Bank, and Tom Mathews, editor of the *Wayne County Press*, were in a parking lot in Wayne City when they saw the same object. Meanwhile, near Dahlgren, Kimmy's mother, Mrs. Gerald Gammon, and two others, Mrs. Mabel Gammon and Mrs. M. Isles, saw it while driving. Mathews reported an account of the sighting in his paper on September 23.

Mrs. Alice Hearle, of the Midwest UFO Network (MUFON) investigated the incident, which was recounted in MUFON's *Skylook*, December, 1971.

A few days earlier, on September 18, Terry Cox saw a black V-shaped UFO at 1 p.m. near Decatur, Illinois. The same edition of *Skylook* stated "the object looked like the swept-back wings of a modern airplane, but without any body or tail." It headed in one direction, then "seemed to flip over and move in the opposite direction." It did this several times during the six minute observation. "Then it suddenly seemed to emit streamers of 'smoke' and it disintegrated or dissolved and disappeared."

#### *Australian Aircraft Engineer Sees Object*

P.G. Hebron, an aircraft engineer, and his two brothers, Philip and Peter, saw an object in Blacktown, Australia, at 10:50 p.m., August 11. The light was going from east to west.

"It was just above the two-story building roofline on the opposite side of the road," Hebron stated. "It resembled the same effect as a high beam car headlight from about 100 yards off, which made it at an angle of about 30° elevation. It was moving at a considerable speed and appeared to be about two to 3,000 feet up."

Peter Hebron then saw a second light over the roofline.

"They were about 10 seconds between each other," the main witness continued. "We disregarded them momentarily and drove away from the [Blacktown] Bowl, traveling towards them... I told my brother to stop the car. Both UFOs had begun to move erratically... This lasted a matter of seconds before they resumed level flights..."

The aircraft engineer dismissed any possibility of an aircraft being responsible for the sighting.

"A night flying aircraft is easily identifiable by flashing anti-collision beacons on top and bottom and starboard (green) and port (red) wing tip navigation lights," he explained. "These did not display these and also an aircraft doesn't appear as a bright sharp light. There was no engine noise accompanying them as they passed over, which immediately cuts out aircraft."

#### *UFO Emits Smaller Objects*

J. Burfitt, of West Ryde, New South Wales, Australia, is a security patrolman who works mainly at night at his routine job. But, at 11:40 p.m., August 5, his routine was somewhat altered.

"Suddenly I noticed a very bright white light and I knew immediately it was not a star," he related. "It was about one-eighth to one-quarter the size of the full moon."

The light, he said, was "sparkling brilliantly and shimmering" and moving to the southeast.

"...As it moved along," Burfitt continued, "it would slowly fade to the size of a pinpoint of light and then slowly brighten again to its original size, taking about 10 to 15 seconds to go through the cycle... A small white light dropped from the first light and as it fell, it grew in size... After five to 10 seconds, the second light began to fade slowly, then went out, leaving the original light, which continued to move slowly in my direction. A few seconds later, another light fell and behaved exactly like the first... In all 3-4 lights fell from the first light..."

The witness, who was driving his car at the time, stopped and got out.

"...The original light was directly above me," he concluded, "still as brilliant as before, but as I watched it began to fade and finally went out."

(Editor's note: this report is reminiscent of an aircraft dropping flares except for one important point -- at least one of the "flares" was seen moving horizontally and Burfitt did not report hearing any sound).

[The above two reports from Australia were recounted in the September/October, 1971, edition of *U.F.O.I.C. Newsletter* (P.O. Box E170, St. James, Sydney, Australia 2000)].

ARE UFOs EXTRATERRESTRIAL SURVEILLANCE CRAFT?

By Dr. James E. McDonald

[Part 6 of a series. Before his death in June, 1971, Dr. McDonald was senior physicist, The Institute of Atmospheric Physics, The University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona. Following are excerpts from a prepared statement of a talk given March 26, 1968, before the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA), Los Angeles, California]

If it were insisted that I limit my entire talk to a one-word answer to the question posed in [the] title, I should find it hard to choose between the safer answer, "possibly," and the riskier answer..., "probably." The ever-increasing weight of the evidence I have been examining would drive me to the latter answer, if I had to compress an hour's remarks into a single word.

Surely AIAA members would wholeheartedly agree that if there were even a slim possibility that the earth were under extraterrestrial surveillance in any form, that would be a matter of the greatest scientific importance, warranting the most vigorous investigation. In fact, the evidence that seems to point to the conclusion that UFOs could be such devices is far from negligible; yet because of the history of official and scientific response to the earlier UFO reports, we continue to see mainly neglect or ridicule of this intriguing question.

After nearly two years of intensive study of many facets of the long-standing UFO problem, after examining around a thousand UFO reports and directly interviewing several hundred witnesses in selected UFO cases of outstanding interest, and after weighing alternative hypotheses, I find myself driven steadily further towards the position that the extraterrestrial [ET] hypothesis is the most probable hypothesis to account for the UFO.

That hypothesis is, of course, not original with me; it has been urged for many years by persons knowledgeable with respect to the UFO problem, who spoke from outside scientific circles. Our collective failure to examine scientific aspects of the UFO problem will, I fear, be held against the scientific community when the full dimensions of the UFO evidence come to be recognized. And the latter date may not be far off.

*ET Probe Possibility Scientifically Ignored*

The principal points which I wish to emphasize include the following:

(1) For the past half-dozen years, our American space program has been keyed to "the search for life in space," yet the now impressive UFO evidence that "life" may, in some sense, already have found us is either scoffed at or wholly ignored, even within such space-oriented agencies as NASA. I speak from first-hand experience in making that observation.

(2) Twenty years of USAF [U.S. Air Force] responsibility in handling UFO reports appear to me to constitute about the same number of years of superficial and scientifically incompetent response to the UFO problem... USAF investigations of UFO reports have been perfunctory, aimed generally at finding any "explanation," however inadequately it might match the reported facts.

(3) The principal reason that no adequate scientific investigation has ever been initiated has been that, despite almost complete lack of any scientific expertise in the USAF program (Project Bluebook), public pronouncements have repeatedly given strong assurance that the investigations were drawing upon the best scientific talent available to the Air Force [AF]. Nothing could be further from fact...

(4) The present AF-sponsored study at the University of Colorado offered promise initially. However, repeated indications of negative bias in public statements by the Project Director, combined with lack of vigorous investigation of the most provocative types of UFO cases reported over the past 20 years, suggest that the Colorado program will fall far short of the required level of investigation. It is very desirable that some program be set up entirely divorced from AF affiliation...

(5) I have just returned from a visit to Canada where I... emphasized the likelihood that UFO investigatory programs in countries other than the U.S. may have distinctly better chances of making rapid scientific progress towards clarification of the UFO question by virtue of the fact that they'd not be fighting uphill against the kind of thinking that USAF handling of the problem has engendered here...

*Public Unaware of Most "Intriguing" Reports*

(6) The types of UFO reports that are most intriguing, and point most directly to an extraterrestrial hypothesis, are *close-range sightings of machine-like objects* of unconventional nature and unconventional performance characteristics, seen at low altitudes, and sometimes even on the ground. The general public is entirely unaware of the large number of such reports that are coming from credible witnesses, because ridicule and scoffing have made most witnesses reluctant to report openly such unusual incidents...

(7) Suggestions that such observations can be explained away in terms of meteorological optics (Menzel's principal thesis) or in terms of atmospheric plasmas (Klass' principal thesis) cannot be supported with cogent scientific arguments...

(8) Many obvious questions and challenges can be, and must be raised against the ET hypothesis... To [some of] these... questions that exist [there are] some quite good answers and some possibly relevant speculative answers; to others..., there exist no satisfactory answers, to date.

*New Sensors for UFO Research Urged*

(9) The first need in accelerating UFO research is for many more scientists and engineers to review carefully and critically the existing evidence in order to design new sensors. (Electromagnetic effects accompanying UFO sightings offer real promise herein). Also, it is urgently important to exploit already existing radar networks. Data from the latter networks should be brought under scientific scrutiny to search for systematic patterns of UFO appearances and movements. Present *anecdotal* data, plus fortuitously revealed radar data, are inadequate to define such patterns accurately (due to the ridicule-lid effect acting as a non-random filter). Following design of sensor-networks specifically planned for UFO detection, a host of other investigations would naturally follow...

(10) As a low-cost, minimal-level precursor to such efforts to attain instrumental monitoring of UFOs, it is urged that various organizations and agencies take steps to establish exploratory programs, *even if these involve only two or three scientists per organization...* The immediate need is to establish a broader base of scientific recognition of the astonishing nature of the existing UFO evidence. Scientific scoffing at UFOs has gone on long enough. Serious attention is long overdue. AIAA could perform a very useful role in stimulating new and vigorous examination of this intriguing, yet neglected scientific problem. (I am encouraged to learn that AIAA has, in fact, recently formed a UFO Subcommittee and am in touch with it). Although only a percentually small number of scientists yet realize it, the past 20 years of yawning neglect of the UFO problem has become a scientific scandal, albeit still well-hidden. The sooner we take a serious new stance and confront the UFO question with adequate scientific talent and manpower, the less embarrassing will be the ultimate admission that we have, for two decades, been overlooking a problem of potentially enormous scientific importance to all mankind.

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Vol. I, No. 10, of *UFO Research Newsletter* will be ready for mailing on or about January 10, 1972. Included will be (1) excerpts from a prepared statement of a speech by Dr. James E. McDonald before the Chicago chapter of the American Meteorological Society, May 31, 1968, and (2) opinions on the UFO problem by a Johns Hopkins University astrophysicist.  
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Enclosed is an information sheet with a coupon for subscribing to *UFO Research Newsletter*. We ask that you pass it along to anyone who may be interested. Thank you.