

INTERNATIONAL HERALD  
TRIBUNE

London & Paris

2 MAY 1997

## Believing in UFOs

*Regarding "For Many Americans, Existence of UFOs is an Article of Faith" (April 5):*

The writer smugly dismisses John Mack, the Harvard psychiatrist, as having the view that "if people believe they have been taken by aliens it must be true."

But Dr. Mack is no believer. Indeed, he continually disappoints the UFO fanatics by denying that he is one of them. He is first and foremost a scientist, honor-bound to try to develop theories that fit all of the facts, not only the ones that are convenient. A theory is not a belief.

I transcribed several hypnotic regression sessions used as raw material for Dr. Mack's best-selling 1994 book, "Abduction," and despite the writer's suggestions to the contrary, I never heard evidence of Dr. Mack leading a patient in any particular direction.

JOEL SPEERSTRA,  
Gothenburg, Sweden.