

UNCLASSIFIED



OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE

**Preliminary Assessment:
Unidentified Aerial Phenomena**

25 June 2021



1
00:00:37,910 --> 00:00:16,100

[Music]

2
00:00:42,549 --> 00:00:39,670

ufos in congress

3
00:00:44,950 --> 00:00:42,559

by charles lear it's official

4
00:00:47,270 --> 00:00:44,960

unidentified aerial phenomena exists

5
00:00:49,190 --> 00:00:47,280

the pentagon takes the subject seriously

6
00:00:50,069 --> 00:00:49,200

but no one can say if aliens are

7
00:00:52,069 --> 00:00:50,079

involved

8
00:00:54,150 --> 00:00:52,079

this is according to the unclassified

9
00:00:55,590 --> 00:00:54,160

report from the office of the director

10
00:00:57,510 --> 00:00:55,600

of national intelligence

11
00:00:59,670 --> 00:00:57,520

that was delivered to congress this past

12
00:01:01,029 --> 00:00:59,680

friday the fact that congress is

13
00:01:03,110 --> 00:01:01,039

interested in the subject

14
00:01:05,109 --> 00:01:03,120
of what have long been known as ufos has

15
00:01:07,030 --> 00:01:05,119
gotten quite a bit of media attention

16
00:01:09,590 --> 00:01:07,040
ever since the report was commissioned

17
00:01:11,750 --> 00:01:09,600
in legislation passed in 2020

18
00:01:13,670 --> 00:01:11,760
but this is not the first time congress

19
00:01:16,469 --> 00:01:13,680
has shown an interest in the subject

20
00:01:18,230 --> 00:01:16,479
in the 1960s ufos were discussed in

21
00:01:20,310 --> 00:01:18,240
congress on two occasions

22
00:01:22,390 --> 00:01:20,320
both times prompted by concerns that

23
00:01:26,070 --> 00:01:22,400
publicly funded ufo studies

24
00:01:28,149 --> 00:01:26,080
were not being taken seriously in 1966

25
00:01:29,910 --> 00:01:28,159
there was a series of ufo sightings in

26

00:01:30,310 --> 00:01:29,920

michigan that got the attention of the

27

00:01:32,390 --> 00:01:30,320

press

28

00:01:33,350 --> 00:01:32,400

and the air force there was a great deal

29

00:01:35,510 --> 00:01:33,360

of excitement

30

00:01:37,510 --> 00:01:35,520

in project blue book the code name for

31

00:01:40,870 --> 00:01:37,520

the air force's ufo study

32

00:01:43,670 --> 00:01:40,880

scientific consultant dr j allen heineck

33

00:01:44,710 --> 00:01:43,680

was sent in to help calm things down at

34

00:01:47,270 --> 00:01:44,720

a press conference

35

00:01:49,109 --> 00:01:47,280

he offered some possible explanations

36

00:01:51,429 --> 00:01:49,119

due to sightings over a marsh

37

00:01:53,510 --> 00:01:51,439

he speculated that people there had seen

38

00:01:55,510 --> 00:01:53,520

ignited balls of swamp gas

39

00:01:57,270 --> 00:01:55,520

some going out and others igniting and

40

00:01:58,069 --> 00:01:57,280

that this created the illusion of

41

00:02:00,069 --> 00:01:58,079

movement

42

00:02:02,389 --> 00:02:00,079

the swamp gas explanation made the

43

00:02:03,109 --> 00:02:02,399

headlines and outraged many michigan

44

00:02:05,270 --> 00:02:03,119

residents

45

00:02:07,670 --> 00:02:05,280

including michigan representative and

46

00:02:11,350 --> 00:02:07,680

house minority leader gerald ford

47

00:02:12,869 --> 00:02:11,360

he sent a letter dated march 28 1966 to

48

00:02:14,150 --> 00:02:12,879

the chairman of the science and

49

00:02:15,990 --> 00:02:14,160

aeronautics committee

50

00:02:17,830 --> 00:02:16,000

and the armed services committee

51
00:02:20,070 --> 00:02:17,840
suggesting that one of them schedule

52
00:02:22,150 --> 00:02:20,080
hearings on the subject of ufos

53
00:02:24,229 --> 00:02:22,160
he mentioned heineck's explanations in

54
00:02:25,030 --> 00:02:24,239
the letter and in a press release that

55
00:02:26,949 --> 00:02:25,040
same day

56
00:02:28,550 --> 00:02:26,959
it is noted that he described heinek's

57
00:02:31,190 --> 00:02:28,560
swamp gas explanation

58
00:02:31,750 --> 00:02:31,200
as flippant documents relating to ford's

59
00:02:33,910 --> 00:02:31,760
efforts

60
00:02:35,270 --> 00:02:33,920
and the resultant open hearing are

61
00:02:38,309 --> 00:02:35,280
housed at the gerald r

62
00:02:40,150 --> 00:02:38,319
ford presidential library museum the

63
00:02:41,550 --> 00:02:40,160

armed services committee held an open

64

00:02:44,150 --> 00:02:41,560

hearing on april 5th

65

00:02:46,470 --> 00:02:44,160

1966 there to answer questions for

66

00:02:48,470 --> 00:02:46,480

secretary of the air force harold brown

67

00:02:49,589 --> 00:02:48,480

director of project blue book hector

68

00:02:51,589 --> 00:02:49,599

quintanilla and

69

00:02:52,790 --> 00:02:51,599

heinek when the session was opened to

70

00:02:54,630 --> 00:02:52,800

the press and public

71

00:02:55,910 --> 00:02:54,640

the first person to answer questions

72

00:02:59,030 --> 00:02:55,920

from the committee chairman

73

00:03:01,030 --> 00:02:59,040

I mendel rivers was harold brown brown's

74

00:03:03,110 --> 00:03:01,040

answers reflected a belief that most

75

00:03:03,750 --> 00:03:03,120

sightings could be explained in prosaic

76

00:03:05,990 --> 00:03:03,760

terms

77

00:03:08,070 --> 00:03:06,000

and that any remaining unidentifieds

78

00:03:09,750 --> 00:03:08,080

were due to lack of information

79

00:03:11,110 --> 00:03:09,760

heinek was next and he started by

80

00:03:13,990 --> 00:03:11,120

stating that he was treated

81

00:03:14,470 --> 00:03:14,000

rather unfairly by the press I mendel

82

00:03:16,470 --> 00:03:14,480

rivers

83

00:03:17,589 --> 00:03:16,480

responded you ought to be chairman of

84

00:03:19,750 --> 00:03:17,599

this committee

85

00:03:21,990 --> 00:03:19,760

hanukk then added that he was described

86

00:03:22,790 --> 00:03:22,000

by the press as a puppet of the air

87

00:03:24,789 --> 00:03:22,800

force

88

00:03:26,949 --> 00:03:24,799

in response he had prepared a written

89

00:03:29,270 --> 00:03:26,959

statement and he was allowed to read it

90

00:03:30,789 --> 00:03:29,280

heinek declared that he had attempted to

91

00:03:32,869 --> 00:03:30,799

remain open-minded

92

00:03:34,710 --> 00:03:32,879

throughout his involvement despite the

93

00:03:37,350 --> 00:03:34,720

fact that the whole subject

94

00:03:41,270 --> 00:03:37,360

seemed utterly ridiculous he mentioned

95

00:03:43,990 --> 00:03:41,280

that he'd recommended in 1953 and 1965

96

00:03:45,670 --> 00:03:44,000

that a small civilian scientific panel

97

00:03:48,309 --> 00:03:45,680

be used to study selected

98

00:03:49,030 --> 00:03:48,319

unknowns heinek then told rivers that

99

00:03:51,110 --> 00:03:49,040

he'd been

100

00:03:53,030 --> 00:03:51,120

scooped by brown who'd mentioned that

101
00:03:55,030 --> 00:03:53,040
the scientific advisory board

102
00:03:57,070 --> 00:03:55,040
a group put together to review project

103
00:03:58,309 --> 00:03:57,080
bluebook released the report in march

104
00:04:00,789 --> 00:03:58,319
1966

105
00:04:02,869 --> 00:04:00,799
had recommended the same now under

106
00:04:04,869 --> 00:04:02,879
pressure from congress and the public

107
00:04:05,990 --> 00:04:04,879
the air force was moved to act on that

108
00:04:08,229 --> 00:04:06,000
recommendation

109
00:04:09,830 --> 00:04:08,239
the civilian scientific panel would turn

110
00:04:11,429 --> 00:04:09,840
out to be a group put together at the

111
00:04:14,229 --> 00:04:11,439
university of colorado

112
00:04:15,509 --> 00:04:14,239
led by dr edward u condon this would

113
00:04:17,430 --> 00:04:15,519

become known as the

114

00:04:19,509 --> 00:04:17,440

condon committee and evidence of

115

00:04:21,749 --> 00:04:19,519

negative bias on the part of condon and

116

00:04:24,150 --> 00:04:21,759

the project's coordinator robert lowe

117

00:04:25,189 --> 00:04:24,160

prompted another discussion of ufos in

118

00:04:27,110 --> 00:04:25,199

congress

119

00:04:29,510 --> 00:04:27,120

some representatives felt there was a

120

00:04:32,150 --> 00:04:29,520

need to evaluate the colorado study

121

00:04:34,870 --> 00:04:32,160

after public comments made by condon to

122

00:04:36,550 --> 00:04:34,880

the effect that ufos were nonsense

123

00:04:38,390 --> 00:04:36,560

for some time the national

124

00:04:39,189 --> 00:04:38,400

investigations committee on aerial

125

00:04:41,990 --> 00:04:39,199

phenomena

126

00:04:43,909 --> 00:04:42,000

led by major donald kehoe retired have

127

00:04:45,990 --> 00:04:43,919

been lobbying congress for hearings on

128

00:04:47,670 --> 00:04:46,000

the air force's handling of the ufo

129

00:04:49,510 --> 00:04:47,680

problem and had managed to gain

130

00:04:50,310 --> 00:04:49,520

supporters one of these was

131

00:04:52,950 --> 00:04:50,320

representative

132

00:04:54,350 --> 00:04:52,960

louis c wyman of new hampshire on

133

00:04:57,830 --> 00:04:54,360

october 17

134

00:04:59,189 --> 00:04:57,840

1967 wyman introduced house resolution

135

00:05:01,029 --> 00:04:59,199

946

136

00:05:02,230 --> 00:05:01,039

it called for the committee on science

137

00:05:04,310 --> 00:05:02,240

and astronautics

138

00:05:05,350 --> 00:05:04,320

to conduct a full and complete

139

00:05:08,230 --> 00:05:05,360

investigation

140

00:05:10,550 --> 00:05:08,240

and study of unidentified flying objects

141

00:05:11,830 --> 00:05:10,560

in a house floor speech to gain support

142

00:05:15,350 --> 00:05:11,840

for his resolution

143

00:05:17,510 --> 00:05:15,360

wyman referred to nycap and ufo evidence

144

00:05:19,350 --> 00:05:17,520

a publication nycap had prepared and

145

00:05:21,110 --> 00:05:19,360

sent to every member of congress

146

00:05:23,350 --> 00:05:21,120

in an effort to show that the ufo

147

00:05:25,510 --> 00:05:23,360

subject should be taken seriously

148

00:05:27,510 --> 00:05:25,520

representative j edward rausch of

149

00:05:28,070 --> 00:05:27,520

indiana was sympathetic with wyman's

150

00:05:30,070 --> 00:05:28,080

views

151
00:05:31,909 --> 00:05:30,080
but he thought the action called for by

152
00:05:33,830 --> 00:05:31,919
the resolution was premature

153
00:05:35,189 --> 00:05:33,840
as the results of the colorado study

154
00:05:37,590 --> 00:05:35,199
hadn't been released

155
00:05:39,510 --> 00:05:37,600
roush proposed a symposium instead and

156
00:05:40,870 --> 00:05:39,520
through his efforts one was arranged

157
00:05:42,790 --> 00:05:40,880
where six scientists

158
00:05:45,029 --> 00:05:42,800
would present their views on the subject

159
00:05:47,590 --> 00:05:45,039
before the committee on astronautics

160
00:05:48,230 --> 00:05:47,600
the symposium on unidentified flying

161
00:05:51,430 --> 00:05:48,240
objects

162
00:05:53,909 --> 00:05:51,440
was held on july 29 1968

163
00:05:54,870 --> 00:05:53,919

among the scientists invited to speak

164

00:05:57,749 --> 00:05:54,880

were heineken

165

00:05:59,350 --> 00:05:57,759

atmospheric physicist dr james mcdonald

166

00:06:02,550 --> 00:05:59,360

and noted astronomer dr

167

00:06:05,990 --> 00:06:02,560

carl sagan other scientists including dr

168

00:06:08,710 --> 00:06:06,000

donald h menzel dr r leo sprinkle

169

00:06:09,749 --> 00:06:08,720

and stanton t friedman submitted written

170

00:06:11,830 --> 00:06:09,759

statements

171

00:06:13,510 --> 00:06:11,840

friedman whose place of employment is

172

00:06:15,830 --> 00:06:13,520

listed as the westinghouse

173

00:06:17,990 --> 00:06:15,840

astronuclear laboratory would later

174

00:06:19,830 --> 00:06:18,000

become a well-known ufo lecturer

175

00:06:22,150 --> 00:06:19,840

and achieve celebrity status in the

176
00:06:24,150 --> 00:06:22,160
field heineck was first to speak

177
00:06:26,309 --> 00:06:24,160
and during the majority of his statement

178
00:06:26,950 --> 00:06:26,319
he made the case for scientific ufo

179
00:06:29,909 --> 00:06:26,960
study

180
00:06:31,990 --> 00:06:29,919
with international cooperation he ended

181
00:06:34,950 --> 00:06:32,000
by recommending that congress establish

182
00:06:37,830 --> 00:06:34,960
a ufo scientific board of inquiry

183
00:06:39,270 --> 00:06:37,840
mcdonald was up next mcdonald had become

184
00:06:41,110 --> 00:06:39,280
interested in ufos

185
00:06:42,550 --> 00:06:41,120
after investigating sightings in his

186
00:06:44,469 --> 00:06:42,560
home state of arizona

187
00:06:46,309 --> 00:06:44,479
and was one of the first scientists

188
00:06:48,230 --> 00:06:46,319

willing to publicly come forward

189

00:06:49,350 --> 00:06:48,240

and advocate for the serious study of

190

00:06:51,589 --> 00:06:49,360

ufos

191

00:06:53,589 --> 00:06:51,599

mcdonald briefly summarized the ufo

192

00:06:54,870 --> 00:06:53,599

problem and then gave details of

193

00:06:57,189 --> 00:06:54,880

individual cases

194

00:06:59,270 --> 00:06:57,199

and his investigations of some of them

195

00:07:01,270 --> 00:06:59,280

he concluded his summary by stating that

196

00:07:03,110 --> 00:07:01,280

the possibility that ufos or

197

00:07:06,150 --> 00:07:03,120

extraterrestrial devices

198

00:07:07,909 --> 00:07:06,160

is a possibility i take very seriously

199

00:07:10,469 --> 00:07:07,919

he concurred with heinek's view that a

200

00:07:11,270 --> 00:07:10,479

worldwide ongoing scientific study was

201
00:07:12,870 --> 00:07:11,280
called for

202
00:07:14,830 --> 00:07:12,880
and urged the committee to hold more

203
00:07:18,150 --> 00:07:14,840
extensive hearings on the subject of

204
00:07:20,309 --> 00:07:18,160
ufos dr carl sagan spoke next

205
00:07:22,390 --> 00:07:20,319
he said that it was his understanding

206
00:07:23,510 --> 00:07:22,400
that the committee wanted him to discuss

207
00:07:26,550 --> 00:07:23,520
the possibility

208
00:07:28,390 --> 00:07:26,560
of intelligent extraterrestrial life he

209
00:07:30,469 --> 00:07:28,400
told the committee that he was delighted

210
00:07:33,029 --> 00:07:30,479
to speak about the contemporary

211
00:07:34,550 --> 00:07:33,039
scientific thinking along these lines

212
00:07:37,189 --> 00:07:34,560
he let it be known that it was his

213
00:07:40,070 --> 00:07:37,199

belief that the evidence of intelligent

214

00:07:43,029 --> 00:07:40,080

extraterrestrial origin for ufos was not

215

00:07:43,990 --> 00:07:43,039

persuasive but evidence that no ufos are

216

00:07:46,790 --> 00:07:44,000

of that origin

217

00:07:47,350 --> 00:07:46,800

was not convincing he felt the question

218

00:07:50,469 --> 00:07:47,360

was

219

00:07:51,909 --> 00:07:50,479

an open one after a slide presentation

220

00:07:53,990 --> 00:07:51,919

where he showed the limits of our

221

00:07:55,990 --> 00:07:54,000

optical technology to detect

222

00:07:57,909 --> 00:07:56,000

civilizations on other planets

223

00:07:59,670 --> 00:07:57,919

and provided a sense of perspective on

224

00:08:02,309 --> 00:07:59,680

our position in the universe

225

00:08:04,309 --> 00:08:02,319

sagan took questions he was asked about

226

00:08:05,430 --> 00:08:04,319

electrical pulses detected by sir

227

00:08:07,670 --> 00:08:05,440

bernard lovell

228

00:08:09,189 --> 00:08:07,680

that level couldn't explain and sagan

229

00:08:11,909 --> 00:08:09,199

replied that these were from

230

00:08:13,430 --> 00:08:11,919

objects called pulsars he said that

231

00:08:15,909 --> 00:08:13,440

while there were problems with the

232

00:08:17,990 --> 00:08:15,919

hypotheses presented to explain them

233

00:08:19,110 --> 00:08:18,000

one should exclude all physical

234

00:08:21,350 --> 00:08:19,120

explanations

235

00:08:23,110 --> 00:08:21,360

before concluding that some intelligent

236

00:08:25,270 --> 00:08:23,120

being was involved

237

00:08:26,950 --> 00:08:25,280

sagan began his conclusion by pointing

238

00:08:29,029 --> 00:08:26,960

out that the scientific method

239

00:08:30,869 --> 00:08:29,039

calls for keeping an open mind while

240

00:08:32,709 --> 00:08:30,879

pursuing the facts at hand

241

00:08:34,230 --> 00:08:32,719

with that said he brought attention to

242

00:08:34,870 --> 00:08:34,240

the fact that there were none on the

243

00:08:36,790 --> 00:08:34,880

panel

244

00:08:39,430 --> 00:08:36,800

who strongly disbelieve in the

245

00:08:41,670 --> 00:08:39,440

extraterrestrial origin of ufos

246

00:08:43,829 --> 00:08:41,680

as far as recommending funds for ufo

247

00:08:44,470 --> 00:08:43,839

study he felt that money was better

248

00:08:46,949 --> 00:08:44,480

spent

249

00:08:49,030 --> 00:08:46,959

on the programs of nasa and the national

250

00:08:50,150 --> 00:08:49,040

science foundation radio astronomy

251
00:08:53,350 --> 00:08:50,160
programs

252
00:08:54,550 --> 00:08:53,360
now almost 53 years later ufos are in

253
00:08:56,070 --> 00:08:54,560
congress again

254
00:08:58,389 --> 00:08:56,080
with the release of the office of

255
00:09:00,630 --> 00:08:58,399
defense national intelligence report

256
00:09:03,030 --> 00:09:00,640
while the report was inconclusive there

257
00:09:07,110 --> 00:09:03,040
was this interesting recommendation

258
00:09:08,070 --> 00:09:07,120
the uaptf unidentified aerial phenomena

259
00:09:10,070 --> 00:09:08,080
task force

260
00:09:11,829 --> 00:09:10,080
has indicated that additional funding

261
00:09:13,590 --> 00:09:11,839
for research and development

262
00:09:15,990 --> 00:09:13,600
could further the future study of the

263
00:09:17,910 --> 00:09:16,000

topics laid out in this report

264

00:09:19,829 --> 00:09:17,920

such investments should be guided by a

265

00:09:23,350 --> 00:09:19,839

uap collection strategy

266

00:09:24,710 --> 00:09:23,360

uap r d technical roadmap and a uap

267

00:09:27,110 --> 00:09:24,720

program plan

268

00:09:29,110 --> 00:09:27,120

so while the symposium failed to prevent

269

00:09:29,910 --> 00:09:29,120

the air force's termination of project

270

00:09:31,750 --> 00:09:29,920

blue book

271

00:09:32,949 --> 00:09:31,760

based on the negative conclusions of the

272

00:09:35,190 --> 00:09:32,959

condon report

273

00:09:37,910 --> 00:09:35,200

congress now has the opportunity to

274

00:09:48,829 --> 00:09:37,920

revive dod study of the uap

275

00:10:06,670 --> 00:09:49,980

requested

