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UFO UpDates Mailing List

Re: Project 1947: APRO and Blue Book Meeting - 1953

From: Jan Aldrich <jan@CYBERZONE.NET>
Date: Thu, 30 Oct 1997 20:47:05 -0800
Fwd Date: Sat, 01 Nov 1997 01:05:10 -0500
Subject: Re: Project 1947: APRO and Blue Book Meeting - 1953

Greetings List Members (Attention: Mike Hall. This will be of interest you.)

N. D. = National Director (i. e. Coral Lorenzen)
APRO = Aerial Phenomena Research Organization

APRO Bulletin, 15 July 1953, Volume II, No. 1, page 1

N. D. CONFERS WITH W. P. [Wright-Patterson] MEN

The following will in essence be an account of the N. D.'s meeting with two representatives of the Wright-Patterson Air Intelligence Command on the evening of June 12 at Milwaukee, Wis.

The prior weekend, a Miss Dorothy Madle [?] of Milwaukee Sentinel called the N. D.'s home in Sturgeon Bay and stated that Edward Halbach of the Milwaukee Astronomical Society had suggested that her paper do a feature story on APRO. We consented, arranged to go to Milwaukee for the interview and pictures and also for a little rest. Two days later Mr. Halbach called and said a Professor Hynek (J. Allen) of the Ohio State University (Astrophysicist) and a representative from Wright-Patterson were coming to town the following Wednesday, stated their desire to talk the Director, and after finding that she would be in Milwaukee that Friday, delayed their own trip to that part of the state so that their presence would coincide with hers.

On Friday, June 12, the N. D. went to Milwaukee, talked with APRO special investigator from Rockford, Illinois, interviewed the reporter and retired to her room until 6 p.m. when she was to have dinner with the professor, Mr. Halbach and the officer from W-P. She was instructed during the dinner that she was not to give names to the newspaper, and complied. The Professor's name is given here because he also autographed a pamphlet written about aerial phenomena, therefore could not have been so guarded about his identity getting out as the officer was.

The Professor called the N. D.'s room at 5:50 and they arranged to meet in the lobby at 6 p. m., and then to dinner. The discussion of saucers and astronomy in general was held during dinner and later at Mr. Halbach's home.

We can't go into detail because of lack of space, but the N. D. was encouraged to finish her book, and urged to include a good deal of scientific fact written simply so that it could be easily understood by the lay population. These conclusions were stated by the Air Force officer: That the 'Monster' of West Virginia was a meteor, that Booth [Conway, SC case] shot a blimp, and with a few

well-placed remarks gave the impression that the Air Force does not consider the interplanetary theory a good one, but did not at any time deny that the theory is being considered. His personnel opinion was that the interplanetary theory is all wrong.

The whole discussion was certainly encouraging to say the least and the N. D. will receive regulation blanks on which to record all the facts and figures of sightings in the Wisconsin area which she considers to be bona fide unidentified aerial phenomena. The Professor and the officer seemed to believe the N. D. qualified to discern between misconception[s] of conventional or slightly unconventional objects (such as meteors) and actual sightings of unidentified aerial objects which is, of course, an honor as she considered both men experts in their respective fields.

The subject of crackpots and out-and-out hoaxers was discussed and several named. All members are familiar with the worst offenders in these fields so it not be necessary to enlarge upon what was said. However, the officer stated that Wright-Patterson is glad that such organizations as our own exist, and that they encourage those groups which deal with facts and do not thrive on rumors which have no basis in fact.

The time has come, in our opinion, for each and every member of the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization to take an extremely conservative view of the mystery and to make every attempt to break down all sightings and reports so as to categorize them as meteors, birds, balloons, reflections, planes, Venus, etc. In this line of operation, all sightings which cannot be included in one of the categories will be considered bona-fide unidentified aerial phenomena.

APRO has at last succeeded in getting some sort of recognition by the Wright-Patterson hierarchy, and this may lead to a more active part in the eventual solution of the saucer enigma. Rationalization in regard to the many reports will merely tend to keep us in a dreamer's world. We all know that most organizations of our type hesitate to label as hoaxers those dreamers and egotists who pretend contact with the saucers and we have pioneered in the field of exposing. Now our project should be to narrow the field and with the use of every resource at hand, attempt to bring about a full explanation.

There are some among our members who may think the Director has sold out, so to speak, to the enemy camp. This is not so. She merely recognizes a superior force, and remembers the old adage, "If You Can't Beat 'Em---Join 'Em."

We would like to advise all members who do not already take an interest in the fundamentals of astronomy, properties of meteors, celestial phenomena and the like, do so in order to have a reliable source of information with which to work in disseminating reports of unidentified aerial phenomena.

Many individuals unconsciously misconstrue the appearance of various conventional objects in order to be able to say they have seen a 'saucer.' This is not done purposely in all cases, and those who do are not to be condemned as it is often the result of an overwhelming desire to actually observe a so-called 'flying saucer.'

Incidentally, the astronomer and the W-P man both believe that Menzel's theory is not the whole answer although in some cases it might apply.

In the future, we might all cast a jaundiced eye upon those who seem to desire to cause friction between saucer enthusiasts and any Intelligence group working on the mystery under the auspices of any government. Those who do are attempting, by underhanded methods, to create an air of animosity and at the same time elevate themselves as the 'high priests of saucerdom.' They have no proof of their evidence, as they call it. They only attempt to disqualify the one group which can give the 'official' verdict on the enigma. They are motivated by jealousy, frustration and greed.

We can and will cooperate with Air Technical Intelligence but at the same time retain our identity as an independent group. As the Director clearly stated to the Investigator and the Astronomer, we can and will cooperate to the best of our ability but must retain our right to our own ideas.

[End]

In the September 15, 1956, APRO Bulletin, Mrs. Lorenzen was a little more forthcoming with information on this meeting. On page 7:

In June 1953 1st Lt. Robert Olssen, Air Technical Intelligence Command, then working on the saucer project at Wright-Patterson (Ruppelt's outfit), in the presence of J. Allen Hynek, consulting astro-physicist to the Air Force on the same subject, told the Director of APRO in effect--"We are going to keep these reports (of saucers) out of the papers. We believe most of them are due to mass hysteria and the power of suggestion. IF people are allowed to forget this matter they'll quit seeing them." The Director did not inquire as to how this was to be accomplished but Lt. Olssen's attitude suggests that the *arrangements had already been made.* We do not doubt the Lt.'s sincerity but believe that he was merely parroting the 'party line' that had been passed to him down the chain of command. We feel that he inadvertently gave away the gimmick that was to be used to help insure the cooperation of all major news services....

[End]

Comments we do not know how much cooperation APRO gave Project Blue Book. CSI-LA sent the Air Force their material. However, the CSI-LA material was apparently not incorporated into the Project Blue Book files. Nor are there any APRO reports.

In 1955 Isabel Davis of CSI-NY made contact with Dr. Hynek. They corresponded and met, but Hynek wanted the contacts kept secret. Hynek would from time to time tip CSI-NY and Davis on cases or interesting information.

Best regards,

--

Jan Aldrich
Project 1947
<http://www.iufog.org/project1947/>

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