

far too many instances UFO reports and case histories have been in fact, if not in intent, the private property of the individual or group that collected them. And all too often, again whether by intent or neglect, they are unknown to the rest of the world. Part of this can be blamed on geography; it isn't always that easy for contacts to be made in a country as vast as Canada. But it is often not really a case of ignorance - of not having any idea of what to do with the reports after they are collected. As an example, not too long ago the editor of *Canadian UFO Report* wrote a number of UFO clubs throughout Canada asking for a brief report of UFO sightings of the previous year. I'm told only two groups submitted reports. No doubt some groups were not reached, and there were two or three who said their information was too incomplete to justify a report. But those that simply failed to reply should ask themselves what they are for anyway. Are UFO groups just social clubs or are they truly interested in promoting UFO research? If they are in fact organized to promote the study and investigation of the UFO phenomena, the exchange of information should be high on their list of aims and objectives.

In my view, a network is needed not only to help make UFO sightings in Canada public, but also to coordinate research activities. I'm sure more than one investigator has spent considerable time (and money as well) to track down a UFO witness, only to discover that some other investigator or group has already thoroughly investigated the sighting. Some of this duplication would be avoided if sightings were published or somehow exchanged. In addition, as it sometimes happens that one UFO lead is tracked down at the expense of another, coordination would mean not only that efforts will not be needlessly duplicated, but also that sightings are investigated that might otherwise be neglected for lack of time.

These are two good reasons for the existence of some kind of UFO network. I'm sure you thought of others as you read, for example the setting up of SKYNET. What I wish to propose here is not so much a formal organization as a spirit of cooperation. While I, and I'm sure others, do feel uneasy about the fact that a great deal of what Canadian UFO research is organized is centered abroad (for example, NICAP, APRO, MUFON), and in many instances the most complete files, artifacts, and case histories of Canadian sightings are located in Arizona or Maryland, I am not at this time proposing that a new structure be erected with a half-dozen or so officers complete with new stationery headings. I'm not against such a structure, but before a Canadian UFO organization can be effectively established, we must have cooperation - and at present there isn't all that much cooperation between Canadian investigators. However, I do feel that there are some specific first steps which can be taken and which might lead to a confederation of UFO groups and individual investigators - with perhaps a view to a more formal organization in the future.

First, and most fundamental: UFO researchers should acknowledge that an important, if not the most important, part of their investigation is the obligation to share their reports with others. UFO reports should not be thought of as private property. Let's leave UFO secrecy to governments. Second: a listing of all Canadian groups and individuals *actively* engaged in UFO research, along with their special interests, skills and resources, should be compiled and distributed. Such a directory would allow informal networks to develop, even if it doesn't insure that they will in fact develop. Third: researchers should particularly make it a point to keep in touch with other investigators in their own and adjacent territories to coordinate research activities. Fourth: every Canadian UFO sighting should be reported to, and if possible a brief summary written up in, *Canadian UFO Report* or some similar Canadian magazine (perhaps in some future *Canadian UFO Report - Case Histories* if demand and response warrants.)

No doubt readers can suggest other, and perhaps better, ways to promote cooperation, and I'd like to hear of them. Admittedly I've spoken about a problem without giving many concrete solutions. But this is in part because the solutions are for everyone to think through. However, as a beginning I will take it upon myself, at my expense, to compile a directory of every Canadian group and individual who is *actively* engaged in UFO research (interest alone in UFOs isn't enough). The proposed directory will not only include names and addresses, but such things as current research projects, interests, skills (e.g., photography, astronomy) and resources (e.g., tape recording equipment, telescope). If enough interest is shown to actually compile it, I'll mail a copy to every group or person who is listed. Any group or person wishing to be included should write me either at my home address: 10510 86th Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta T6E 2M6, or c/o *Canadian UFO Report* for an application form. Needless to say, such a directory will be no more than a tool. Ultimately, cooperation is the concern and obligation of every UFO group and investigator.

*Editor's note: The author's proposal to compile a Canadian UFO directory will call to mind that pioneer Canadian ufologist Gene Duplantier of Willowdale, Ont., published a list of Canadian and other UFO organizations before taking a less active part in the UFO scene. Carried in his publication OUTERMOST, this list is still useful for reference purposes but naturally needs updating. John Musgrave's proposal to prepare a new directory with added details comes at an opportune time, and all interested groups and individuals will surely find it to their own advantage to answer his request.*

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