

now ask ourselves what it could have been."

In an abrupt about face, Smith announced before the May 17, 1955 session of the Commons' Special Committee on Broadcasting that no UFOs had ever been detected at the Shirley Bay station. About this same time, Captain Edward J. Ruppelt (having earlier served as chief UFO investigator for the U.S. Air Force) was reportedly told by RCAF Intelligence officers that only "officially" had the Shirley Bay station produced negative results. These developments led some UFO researchers to conclude that Smith had been successfully silenced by officialdom.

Part Two (continued from the previous issue)

UFOs and the Canadian Government

by Gregory M. Kanon

[Copyright © Gregory M. Kanon 1976]

Another interesting UFO encounter occurred on the evening of November 6, 1957 near Lake Baskatong (100 miles north of Ottawa). An immense, bright object, which hovered low over a hill, was observed for 15 minutes by several people. The object was described as being so bright that it illuminated numerous trees on the hill, as well as clouds overhead. During the sighting, a radio ceased to function, and when one of the witnesses, an electronics engineer, attempted to use his short-wave receiver, he found all wavelengths blocked by a very strong, code-like

signal. When the object finally departed, the equipment returned to normal.

While some excellent UFO cases of the 1950's, like those mentioned above, have been successfully recorded and made public, most such cases undoubtedly fell victim to government apathy. The Canadian press further aggravated the situation by failing to ask the government any embarrassing questions. As such, Ottawa managed to create the illusion that it was doing a good job of investigating UFOs, but that there was really "very little to go on."

Unfortunately among the numerous UFO reports lost in the govern-

mental mire were those made by this country's commercial and military pilots. These cases, despite their obvious scientific value, were largely ignored by Ottawa. Although the Department of National Defence finally activated a series of "Communications Instructions for Reporting Vital Intelligence Sightings" in February, 1959, UFOs were indiscriminately lumped together with defence related sightings. Accordingly, once a UFO was determined to be no threat to the national security (regardless of the fact that it remained unidentified), the military lost all interest. It is no surprise that even today many pilots refuse to report anything strange they have seen.

Government indifference toward UFOs continued into the 1960's. Even the great build-up of sightings during 1965 and 1966 was routinely disregarded. As a result, Ottawa failed to see the coming storm.

In 1967, the UFO scene erupted. Sightings made by hundreds of Canadians from coast to coast served to confirm the fact that the skies were teeming with strange objects. The ensuing publicity proved tumultuous. Given these circumstances, Ottawa found it politically expedient to investigate competently at least some of the cases reported.

One such case that was investigated by no fewer than six departments and agencies of the Canadian government occurred shortly after noon on May 20 near Falcon Lake, Manitoba. Stephen Michalak, a 50-year-old industrial mechanic, was enjoying some weekend prospecting when his attention was suddenly distracted by two domed, disc-shaped objects, 35 to 40 feet in diameter, descending toward the ground. According to Michalak, one of the discs stopped and momentarily hovered low over the ground before rapidly departing, while its companion broke formation and landed nearby.

The landed object reportedly glowed brightly like intensely heated stainless steel, while giving off periodic gusts of warm air. A loud hissing noise and sulphur-like smell were also noticed. Later, a hatch on the side of the object opened, emitting an extremely bright purplish light.

As Michalak approached the strange object, he reportedly heard human-like voices coming from within. Hoping to establish contact, he called