

DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENCE
INFORMATION SERVICES



MINISTÈRE DE LA DÉFENSE NATIONALE
SERVICES D'INFORMATION

1550-1 (DIS)

Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0K2
April 29, 1974

The Honourable Paul T. Hellyer
House of Commons
Ottawa

Dear *Mr. Hellyer*

With reference to the information request of Mr. Arthur Bray, I have checked the department files on UFOs and have discussed with appropriate officers the reported 1954 designation of the Defence Research Establishment Suffield as a "possible landing site for any extraterrestrial craft that wanted a place to land".

I have been unable, however, to find any official indication of such a decision.

Relative DRB records of that date are no longer available and present and former senior DRB officers say they are unaware of an official instruction designating the Suffield station as a UFO landing site.

It has been suggested that the Minister of National Defence in 1954 may have jokingly remarked that Suffield, because of its isolation and location in a relatively flat prairie area, would have been an ideal UFO landing site. A newspaper writer, hearing such comment, might have written in a serious vein of the possibilities, thus giving rise to the Suffield/UFO comment referred to in the Ottawa Journal and Canadian Press stories attached to your letter. This is just speculation, however.

During the early 1950s, many reports of UFO sightings were published in Canadian newspapers and the Department of National Defence undertook to evaluate some of them. A number were identified as free-floating meteorological and other types of balloons and some as aircraft; few could be attributed to any particular source.

About 1967, the National Research Council assumed responsibility for official Canadian UFO and associated interests. The Department of National Defence agreed to assist NRC, if and when requested.

Kindest personal regards,

Sincerely,

L. C. Morrison
Brigadier-General
Director General, Information