

Use Only," Report No. 14 was available for review by press representatives at various Air Force Public Information Offices, but was not available to the public. In December 1956, however, a private UFO researcher succeeded, through an appeal to the Moss Committee (Congressman John Moss, D., California), in obtaining permission from the Air Force to reproduce the report privately, at his own expense, and did so, omitting the 240 tables that were included in the original.

Even after No. 14 had been in circulation for some time, however, the reports that preceded it were almost unknown, and inquiries about them met with little encouragement. Although these reports were officially declassified in 1960, their availability to the public was not established until 1967. On January 25 of that year, Lt. Col. George P. Freeman, Jr., of the Air Force Office of Information in Washington, wrote a NICAP staff member who wanted to examine these reports, as follows: "Special Reports #1 through #13 (sic) can be reviewed at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. These reports are administrative in nature and do not contain any technical information." Late in 1967, NICAP contacted the office of Congressman John Moss, head of the Foreign Operations and Government Information Subcommittee of the House Committee on Government Operations. Known familiarly as the "Freedom of Information Committee," this group has developed a reputation for freeing previously unavailable Government documents, including the above-mentioned Project Blue Book Report No. 14.

In December 1967, the Moss Committee persuaded the Air Force to make an additional set of Reports Nos. 1 - 12 available at the Pentagon, in Washington, and to permit duplication of these reports in part--something the Air Force had previously prohibited. Early in 1968 a NICAP staff member visited the Office of Information for the Secretary of the Air Force (SAFOI), inspected the reports and subsequently made the arrangements to obtain the copies that are reprinted herein.

These reports make it possible to study directly, for the first time in 15 years, the first-hand records of the Air Force investigations, their methods and conclusions. The reports, as presented in this volume, are largely self-explanatory. Status Reports 1 through 7 each contain a tabulation of the cases investigated during the period covered by the report; appendices describing details of individual cases; and usually a discussion of the status of the project at the time it was written. Reports 8 through 12, dealing with the many sighting reports made during the summer wave of 1952 and after, abandon the tabulations of cases because it was impractical to try to list them all. It will be noted that several cases are mentioned in more than one report. In each instance, this is because there were significant changes or additions of data, including corrected dates.

The organization of Reports 9 through 12 differs somewhat from that of the earlier reports, in which summary cases were described in the appendices.

Some of the pages of these last four reports have been omitted in preparing this version for reproduction. These contained only summary reports too brief or inconclusive to be of interest, or distribution list of the reports. It will also be noted that a few pages of less-detailed reports have been combined for the purpose of saving space. For continuity, NICAP's page numbers have been added at the top of each page.

Many of the cases described in these reports are also discussed in two other important books: The UFO Evidence, published in 1964 by NICAP, and in Ruppelt's book, previously mentioned. Since it was felt that readers might be interested in comparing the accounts of these cases in the three different documents, a table follows the Foreword which shows, for each case in the Blue Book reports, the pages in the Evidence and in Ruppelt (Ace paperback edition) where the same case is discussed.

In addition to sighting reports, many important organizational activities are discussed in these reports, and a cross-reference with Ruppelt's account provides a valuable insight into these various activities. Project "Twinkle," concerned with the unusual "green fireballs," is referred to in Reports 4, 5 and 6, and on pages 66-78 of Ruppelt. An unproductive Air Force project designed to photograph UFOs, using special diffraction grating cameras, is described from its proposal to ultimate failure in Reports 5 through 11; Ruppelt covers this subject on pages 198 and 300. The famous Life article, "Have We Visitors From Space," by Robert Ginna and H. B. Darrach, Jr. (Life, April 7, 1952) is referred to in Reports 5 and 6, and by Ruppelt on pages 119 and 175-76. The highly publicized press conference held by General John Samford, following the Washington, D.C. sightings late in July, 1952, is covered in Report No. 8, and by Ruppelt on page 132.

One of the most interesting examples of early scientific interest, the attempt by government scientists to correlate radiation increases with UFO activity, is mentioned in Report No. 10, and by Ruppelt on pages 283-84. Dr. J. Allen Hynek's participation in surveying a number of important astronomers on their views about UFOs is mentioned in Report No. 8. Other background material on this subject is mentioned by Ruppelt on pages 283-84.

The significance of these reports surpasses the mere details of the sightings referred to. The reader will note the Air Force's frequent statement that UFO documents have not been withheld, when in fact every report was stamped either "Secret" or "Confidential," and remained so for more than 15 years, in spite of their declassification in 1960. The reader can also judge whether or not these reports are "administrative in nature," as claimed by Colonel Freeman in January, 1967. It is also striking to notice, in the tables accompanying Reports 1 through 7, the large number of sighting cases that remained "pending," or for which no further investigation was made. It is interesting to speculate where these many cases eventually wound up in the Air Force's statistical evaluations.