

HISTORICAL INTRODUCTION
TO

PROJECT BLUE BOOK SPECIAL REPORT #14

by

Bruce Maccabee

Introduction

Early in 1951, Major General Charles P. Cabell, Director of Intelligence for the Headquarters of the U.S. Air force, made a verbal request for a review of the UFO situation at the time.¹ This request filtered its way down through channels to the Air Technical Intelligence Center (ATIC) at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, the home of Project Grudge. Edward J. Ruppelt was the intelligence officer assigned to fulfill the General's request. As a result of Ruppelt's review, Project Grudge was revitalized with Ruppelt as its chief. On November 30, 1951, Project Grudge issued the first of twelve reports which were to span the next two years, during which time (March 1952) the project nickname was changed to "Blue Book." As part of the overall upgrading of the UFO report research carried out by Project Blue Book (PBB), Ruppelt initiated a contract with a research organization that was supposed to provide him with consultants in astronomy, physics, mathematics, psychology, etc. Although Ruppelt refers to this organization as Project Bear because it did not wish to be publicly identified with UFO research, it is now known³ that the organization was the Battelle Memorial Institute which does a considerable amount of highly classified government sponsored research. The nickname of the project was "White Stork." As an indication of the desire for secrecy, Hynek⁴ has stated that the project was "considered top secret" and that "on many occasions I was reminded by Project Blue Book officials that under no circumstances must the name of