

A DAY AT NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

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To spend a day in the Upper Atmosphere Research Section of the Radio & Electrical Engineering Division of NRC Ottawa perusing their UFO files is an interesting experience for a dedicated UFO researcher. I was able to arrange such a day recently through the courtesy of Dr. Peter M. Millman, Head of the Upper Atmosphere Research Section.

I discovered that UFO sighting investigation is under the direction of Dr. Millman, and not Dr. R.S. Rettie as the news media have repeatedly told us. NRC does not identify their files as "UFO" files, but as "Non-meteoritic Sighting Files". This is because the prime function of this section is the study of meteors. This classification then distinguishes anything else as being other than meteoritic, which could include many things.

NRC recently assumed governmental responsibility for the investigation of Canadian UFO sightings, having taken this over from the Department of National Defence, at the request of DND which considered they lacked the qualified staff and facilities for adequate investigation of such phenomena.

How does NRC now stack up as our official investigating agency? They have picked up the strings where DND left off, and under the direction of the world-famous astronomer Dr. Millman, we have a man whose mind is open to many possibilities and who readily admits that there are many puzzles for which science has no answer. However, Dr. Millman has had to accept this task in addition to his many other responsibilities, and he was assigned no additional staff. Therefore, UFO investigation is only a part-time function. The reason for this is that no funds have been allocated by the government to conduct UFO investigations. This bears out a point I made in my recent book, SCIENCE, THE PUBLIC AND THE UFO.* All expenditures must come from existing appropriations for regular NRC activities. This, then, is the main difficulty. We cannot expect great things to come from NRC investigations when no funds are available for any large-scale or full-time activity, no matter how competent the project chief is. So, if anyone was hoping for anything comparable to the size of the University of Colorado project, forget it.

When NRC accepted this responsibility from DND, they acquired the DND files; that is, some of them. My close perusal of these files made it clear that they contain sighting reports, and investigation data, from March 1965 to March 1968. DND has stated that all investigations prior to March 1965 were conducted by Air Defence Command, and as ADC concluded that there was no evidence to suggest that UFOs posed a threat to national security, it was decided to transfer investigating responsibility to CFHQ. As ADC was unable to reach any fixed conclusions, their files were considered to be of no use to CFHQ and were apparently destroyed, with the exception of a few now in the Public Archives