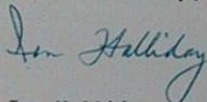


I participated in Dr. Sturrock's survey and do not attach much significance to the fact that most astronomers are not familiar with unusual atmospheric effects. I understand his lecture fees are not low.

We disagree on many interpretations I am sure, but I think the quotation in your heading 3 is accurate and not misleading. Certainly the Ubatuba case is far from convincing and as far as I know the National Enquirer's large reward has never come close to being claimed. As for government secrecy, I am quite confident the Canadian government is not holding back amazing truths in this field. In general it would be impossible for any democratic government to do so for long and a government which could not hide Watergate could not hide the biggest scientific discovery of all time for decades.

Although, as stated above, we have learned nothing of value in astronomy from studies of UFO's, there has been some spinoff in other areas, for example the recent data on atmospheric pulsating lights being caused by electrical discharges from spruce budworm moths in strong electric fields. As in all areas of research a chance discovery might prove important. I am confident the next 30 years will produce as little astronomical information from Ufology as the past 30, and I would not argue that the possibility of the spinoff results would justify a major expense in this field.

Yours sincerely,



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IH:vp