

11 May 1975
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Mr. Arthur Bray
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Dear Arthur:

Thanks for mailing me the copy of your letter to Gregory. I think frank discussion of these issues is a good thing and should be continued.

For my part, I don't care that much one way or another about erecting a formal Canadian UFO organization that duplicates and parallels existing organizations. I'm not keen on the idea, but I'd join and participate in any that might be formed. I'm more concerned that existing UFO researchers talk with each other and share data.

Some of your comments lead me to believe that we have had different experiences when it comes to UFO research. While I'm not interested that much in creating still another UFO group, my experience has made me question the practical usefulness of NICAP, APRO, etc. on many fronts. It seems to me that by and large UFO reports that get sent to these groups stay there unless you have the time and money to physically travel there. For me APRO is nothing more than a UFO journal. I've written them maybe a dozen times in the last 5 years (volunteering to be a field representative, to work on their computer project, etc). I've yet to receive a post card of acknowledgement.

At this point in time NICAP seems pretty well out of the picture as far as Canadian stuff is concerned. In a letter of last month they said they have no Canadian UFO field investigators. And I can believe this inasmuch as they have the policy that you can only be one if you hold no position in any other UFO group. I'll be using their files when I'm in Washington, D.C. But their files are such that you can't retrieve information on the basis of some specific criteria other than date without actually being there physically. Again, you can send information, but you have a devil of a time getting any.

It seems to me that one practical implication of suggesting that people in Canada just send down material to existing US groups is that as these groups are presently run it merely means that you send in information, but get little or none in return. That's ok if you only want to be a data gatherer for other researchers. But if you want to organize and interpret this data as well, it makes you no closer to your goal.