

figured so prominently in the present epoch. 2) to operate a UFO CENTRAL, a clearing house to which persons can report UFO experiences without fear of ridicule or unwanted publicity, and with the knowledge that such reports will be given serious attention. 3) to provide Bulletins and Technical Reports and be a source of reliable information about the UFO phenomenon to schools and universities, scientific organizations, and to the public in general. 4) to assist and help guide correlative studies conducted in this and other countries through international symposia and conferences. It is not generally known, for instance, that active work in this field is being pursued on several continents.

The interdisciplinary nature of the UFO problem is clearly apparent. There are aspects of the problem which are of interest to psychologists, sociologists, medical practitioners and others. Indeed, there has rarely been a subject so interdisciplinary in character.

Implementation of the Objectives

To accomplish these objectives, the CENTER assumes the following functions and has at present, or is developing, the following facilities:

A. Central Data Bank

The CENTER has access to modern electronic computers so that a central data bank for UFO data can be maintained, queried, and constantly updated. Information theory and modern methods of information retrieval, pattern recognition, etc., are used to establish patterns and correlations between various UFO parameters (time, place, demographic factors, witness reliability, types of sightings, etc.).

B. Immediate Investigative Facilities

It is essential that current UFO sightings be reported as accurately, fully and as expeditiously as possible. A toll-free, nation-wide telephone number has been made available to law enforcement offices across the country, and to other responsible organizations on a 24 hour basis. This UFO CENTRAL facility is integral to the operation of the CENTER. It enables the CENTER to be quickly apprised of UFO events, to make preliminary evaluations, and to dispatch local investigators to the scene.

It has been well established that a UFO sighting represents a very real event, and often a very frightening experience, to the persons involved. The existence of UFO CENTRAL and its close association with police departments, civil defense and various aviation agencies, provides a ridicule-free avenue for the natural desire on the part of the witnesses to communicate their experience to someone in authority.

C. Laboratory and Theoretical Research

The CENTER'S main efforts are to be directed toward specific problems arising from the reported UFO cases. Thus, for instance, the large number of cases in which the UFO has been reported to have interacted with the environment presents a scientific toehold not available in the equally spectacular