

MINISTER
OF
MINES AND TECHNICAL SURVEYS



MINISTRE
DES
MINES ET DES RELEVES TECHNIQUES

Ottawa, Ontario
September 28, 1965.

Mr. A.R. Bray
1187 Agincourt Road
Ottawa 5, Ontario.

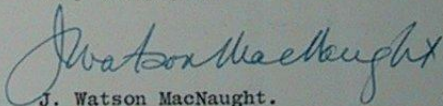
Dear Mr. Bray:

The Prime Minister has asked me to reply to your letter of August 31 addressed to him.

Scientists at the Dominion Observatory are interested in all aspects of both solar system research and research concerning the other stars in our Milky Way galaxy. They are aware of the numerous reports of unidentified flying objects but it is their opinion that these reports do not imply the existence of space vehicles from another planet. Indeed, the results of the Mariner II and Mariner IV flights to Venus and Mars have greatly strengthened the opinion that these planets were never suitable for the evolution of intelligent life.

Current theories suggest that the formation of a planetary system surrounding a star may be a common part of stellar formation. If this is so then there must be other stars which have planets for which the conditions are not too different from those on earth. We can only speculate on the existence of advanced forms of life on such planets but this is a topic of interest to our scientists. Any communication with such civilizations is more likely to begin by radio techniques than by space vehicles and our Department is actively engaged in research in radio astronomy.

Very truly yours


J. Watson MacNaught.