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December 13, 1976.

Mr. Robert Rickerd,
Public Information Branch,
National Research Council,
Montreal Road,
Ottawa, Ontario.

Dear Mr. Rickerd:

I have read your article "UFOs: Fact or Fictment" which appeared in Canadian UFO Report, vol. 4, no. 1, 1976 (reprinted from Flight Comment) and found it most interesting.

I have been very actively involved in UFO investigation and research for over twenty-five years and have followed very closely the attitude of the National Research Council to this matter. Your attitude, as expressed in your article, is somewhat refreshing as it seems to encourage people to make sighting reports and to research the subject. The usual attitude of NRC has been to "turn people off".

In particular, your statement that "there are no hoaxes thousands of feet in the air and crews are trained to recognize sun-dogs, Venus...." is quite a different thing from what scientists at NRC have been saying for many years. We have always been told that even highly-skilled aircrews can misinterpret what they see, the eyes play tricks, etc. etc.

I have wondered why NRC never seemed to feel the subject was worth investigating unless they had some specific physical evidence, while individuals such as Hynok, McDonald, Saunders et al have found plenty of things to investigate. There are many aspects to UFOs other than hard physical evidence. You made reference to the views of the AIAA.

Your reference to flight safety is also of particular significance. If UFOs are a potential hazard to aircraft, why is not the Ministry of Transport concerned? For years, I have tried to get the MOT to admit a flight safety hazard, without success.