

investigating procedures had decreased the percentages of unknowns during the following years: Unknowns (i.e., reports of phenomena that could not be identified despite sufficient information to allow identification) for 1953 and 1954 combined were 9%, and for the first part of 1955 were only 3% of the UFO reports received. (The summary, which was echoed in the press release of October 25, 1955, did not mention that during 1952, the first year of "better reporting and investigating," the Unknown percentage was about 20%.)

Thus the implication of the summary was that if each report were thoroughly investigated, and if enough information were thereby obtained, each report could be explained. The press publicized this implication and claimed in general that the Air Force study had proven that "flying saucers" did not exist.

Despite the use of information contained in the summary as part of the press release, it is clear that it was not written to be a press release. Rather, it was written to supplement the information given in the main text. In other words, it was assumed that whoever read the summary would also read the main text.

The main text of SR 14 consists of a historical introduction, a description of the computerized processing of the data, a detailed description of how "discrete facts" were deduced from raw reports and coded onto computer cards, a description of the various categories for statistical analysis, a collection of forty pictorial presentations and thirteen tabular presentations of the results of the statistical analysis, short summaries of twelve UFO cases ("Twelve Good Unknowns"), an argument which ostensibly shows that the dissimilarities between the descriptions in the twelve UFO cases prove that there is no such thing as a "model flying saucer" (and therefore there are no flying saucers), and a conclusion. In the appendix there are 240 tables of statistically arranged