

JUL 21 1967 "A"

UFO PROBE DUE

GOVT. TO FORM SPECIAL COMMITTEE

By VICTOR MACKIE

(Second of Two Articles)

OTTAWA (Staff) -- The National Research Council plans to set up a special committee to study latest reports of unidentified flying objects and to ascertain whether further investigations are warranted, it has been learned.

The committee probably will operate under the chairmanship of Dr. R. S. Rettie, head of the space research and facilities branch of NRC in Ottawa.

Defence Minister Paul Hellyer said in an interview that, since the special government committee investigating UFO sightings ceased to function 10 years ago, any such reports referred to his department have been recorded by the defence department staff. Where warranted, investigations have been carried out, he said.

In recent years, they have been cursory and on a hit-or-miss basis it is understood.

Five years ago, in attempt to further the study of optical effect in the upper atmosphere, such as shooting stars, and to assist in the recovery of fallen meteorites for scientific study, the NRC established a committee. That committee wasn't concerned with so-called flying saucer sightings.

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UFO PROBE PLANNED (CONTINUED)

Mr. Hellyer said, "One of the prime contributions of this committee has been an improvement in the reporting of fireballs or shooting stars on an organized basis. The Royal Canadian Air Force has co-operated in

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this endeavor through the collection of sighting reports made by pilots on night manoeuvres."

Any reports of an "unusual nature" are checked out by the defence department. But officials say these investigations are not as thorough today as they were when the special committee was operating.

The increasing reports of UFO sightings in recent months is reminiscent of the late 1940s and early 1950s. The rash of sightings at that time led the Canadian and United States governments to set up special committees to investigate.

The committees found nothing to indicate in the skies a threat to the national security of Canada or the U.S. The committees were disbanded.

Since then, North American scientists have been highly sceptical about so-called flying saucers. The proposed NRC study committee will check into the current UFO sightings and presumably seek to determine if there is justification for launching a new scientific investigation of the UFO phenomena.

The NRC became interested in the question again when the subject was raised in the Commons last month by E. R. Schreyer (NDP-Springfield). He addressed his question to Transport Minister J. W. Pickersgill and asked if the government had received any formal report from its scientific bodies on roughly 20 sightings made in about six weeks in eastern Manitoba.

He noted that RCMP constables were among those alleged to have seen UFOs in Manitoba. Mr. Schreyer asked if a special investigation branch of the U.S. air force had been invited to investigate.

He received no reply, partly because he directed his question to the wrong minister.

Outside the House Mr. Schreyer told newsmen he hoped the govern-

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ment was checking on the sightings and not leaving it entirely up to U.S. authorities to conduct investigations in Manitoba. He hopes to have his questions answered after the summer recess.

Anticipating more inquiries based on Mr. Schreyer's questions and perhaps other requests for information, NRC authorities have decided to take another look at the question.

A committee study of the new rash of sightings will be made, it is understood. This will give cabinet ministers something more substantial on which to base replies to questions in the House.

If that study concludes that there have been developments that can't be explained, then it could be that NRC would go still further and launch a scientific investigation. Such an investigation would be the successor to the scientific committee created 15 years ago and later disbanded.

That committee was set up because of demands of a concerned public, said Mr. Hellyer.

Wilbur Smith, who died a few years ago, was a member of that investigation group. He set up at Shirley Bay near Ottawa a specially-designed apparatus that could detect and record any metal object passing overhead.

It detected all passing aircraft. But it apparently never recorded the flight of an object that couldn't be explained.

Mr. Hellyer noted that there are many things which can lead to UFO reports. The introduction of new high-speed, high-altitude aircraft has contributed to such reports.

He recalled a great scare in Toronto in 1952. A cylindrical object was sighted over the city's airport. It was widely reported as a UFO and received world-wide press attention.

It was later found to have been a jet en route to the U.S. at

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40,000 feet and with a good tail wind. Jets at such high altitudes were unknown in Canada at the time and led to the UFO reports.

The U-2 reconnaissance aircraft were responsible for similar reports a few years ago, Mr. Hellyer said. The basic explanation is that at night even ordinary aircraft aren't often recognized. Weather balloons, too, have caused public consternation, particularly the high-altitude type.

Lights reflected off low-lying clouds often give rise to UFO reports. Clouds near an airport will act as a screen against which the aircraft beacon will track at great speed. In addition, the multi-lighted shopping centres in large urban areas produce a wide variety of glows off low-lying cloudes [sic] which could be reported as strange flying objects.

Public opinion is split on UFO sightings. In a recent Manitoba incident, a farmer reported suffering severe burns from a strange "blue light" he said emanated from an aperture in what he described as a flying saucer that had landed in his field.

The Winnipeg Free Press, Friday, July 21, 1967, p. 1.

0 extraterrestrials coming close to Earth," he says.

"Eighty-five to 87 per cent of the cases reported these days are roughage. Either there isn't enough information about them or the information is so inconsistent they can't be traced."

Fewer than 10 per cent of the reported sightings can be explained through natural phenomenon.

"But it's this last five per cent or so that concerns UFO investigators," he says.

In these cases, there are enough things to indicate that it was not a bright planet, aircraft landing lights or a meteor, says McKay.

He groups UFO sightings in three categories, basing his classifications roughly on those of the model used in the movie, *Close Encounters Of The Third Kind*.

A-class sightings are those so far away that no detailed identification can be made. B sightings are those where the UFO is sighted below normal aircraft level or close enough to the ground to be seen and some features described.

C sightings are the rarest and involve actual contact with Earth... burned trees, flattened fields, animal disturbances and noises heard emanating from the ship.

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William Wehlau does not consider himself a skeptic, but believes scientists have grown tired of investigating UFO claims.

"There is no scientific basis which would prove or disprove their existence at this time," says the head of UWO's astronomy department. But there are many naturally occurring phenomena which could conceivably be mistaken for UFOs, he says.

The planet Venus in daytime can be a very striking spectacle, Wehlau says. Although normally seen as the morning or evening star, it is not uncommon for Venus to be seen in broad daylight. When this occurs, it may look like a bright light, which can appear and disappear very quickly, giving the illusion of moving at incredible speeds.

"Sun dogs" are another phenomenon which Wehlau says are quite common and can present an interesting illusion of something being there which really isn't.

These are caused by sunlight refracting through ice crystals in the Earth's atmosphere. They usually appear in cold weather.

Likewise, a pillar of fire effect can be produced during times of very cold, still weather, when a bright light on the ground is concentrated through the cold air and channelled upward like an intense shaft of light. "I have seen them myself many times and they really are quite spectacular," says Wehlau.

"To say I believe UFOs exist is a

little strong, but let's just say it is quite likely that elsewhere in the universe life does exist."

"UFO-ologists say that 10 per cent of the cases investigated are still unexplained, but I'm surprised the figure is not a lot higher," says Allen McNamara, space physicist

Jules Verne's 1887 novel, *Masters Of The Universe*, was the first modern science fiction work to use the concept of flying machines

with the planetary sciences division of the National Research Council's Herzberg Institute in Ottawa. "The information we receive is so sketchy or so vague that we can't offer any explanation and, of course, it goes into the books as being an unexplained incident.

"We haven't had one shred of proof that UFOs exist. We need to see one and see what is controlling it before we'll believe anything."

There have been about 3,000 reported UFO sightings in Canada since 1951, when the air force started keeping records. In 1963, the job of tracking UFOs was passed over to McNamara's department at the NRC, as a sideline to studying meteorites.

"Right now we're receiving around 100 reports a year, but that seems to be dropping off," McNamara says, noting sightings usually come in waves inspired by group reactions. "One person sees something, then tells someone else, or it gets reported in the papers or on television and then more and more people think they must have seen something, too."

Meteorites are more common than UFOs these days. They are far more interesting and they have the potential to tell us more about the universe, says McNamara.

"I think the most common explanation is that most UFOs are satellites," says Murial Enock, public affairs officer with the Dominion Astrophysical Observatory in Saanich, B.C.

NASA has compiled a 40-page list containing "well over 1,000 names" of satellites revolving around the Earth which are visible on a clear night. "They don't leave trails the way meteorites do," says Enock.

But what Canadians lack in quantity, they make up for in novelty.

The people of St. Paul, Alta., 185 kilometres northeast of Edmonton, are so convinced UFOs exist they built a UFO landing pad, nine metres (30 feet) in diameter, as a centennial project in 1967. They have also sought to have the pad declared an international republic to encourage alien visitors to come here free of diplomatic red tape.

"Who knows, we might wake up some day and find somebody sitting there who's a lot smarter than we are," says town clerk Wayne Horner. "It's quite an attraction and brings in a lot of tourists."

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Until something — or someone — from another world makes real documented contact with someone on this planet, the argument will continue about whether UFOs exist or not. Supporters and detractors are equally convinced in their beliefs.

The big question scientists have to ask themselves, says McNamara, is if UFOs exist, why would they want to visit Earth?

Our sun is just one of about 200 billion stars in the Milky Way Galaxy, so the possibility certainly is there for life to exist on another planet, he says. Yet Earth is a relatively young planet in the time scale of the universe, and mankind has not even scratched the surface of interstellar technology yet.

Earth has been sending out radio signals for only about 60 years now, so those signals would not have come close to reaching any of the stars nearest the Earth to attract any extraterrestrial attention.

"Why would space travellers come to Earth and not land? It's hard to accept that they are just here to monitor us."

Wheeler says remarkable similarities exist in the incidents reported by people who claim to have been abducted by UFOs.

Radiation burns, the types of physical examinations conducted by the extraterrestrials, and feelings of post-abduction confusion bordering on hysteria all result after the person has been picked up in a UFO, she says.

"It has been suggested that one reason extraterrestrials might be coming here is because Earth is a dying planet and they want to save some of us before the planet kills itself.

"Maybe it is God doing it... coming to save us and take some of us home to start life over again.

"I'd really like to believe God was doing it because I want to think somebody is out there looking after us," O.

Cam Johnston is a freelance writer.

25 February 1978

Dear Grant:

Each time you write you remind me of how much of the political and social history of the UFO phenomenon in Canada I have to learn about. I keep files on each UFO "personality" in Canada as I come across references. But I have none at all for A.W.L. Bridge. Perhaps you can enlighten me. It is possible that I do have something--but to be quite honest my UFO files are in a mess. I have about 10 large boxes full of file folders and papers as well as a file drawer full, and papers scattered all over. I just don't have the money now to arrange the stuff I have and it's beginning to be a burden.

My files on Suffield are not much more enlightening than the newspaper article you sent (the article was reproduced in many papers throughout Canada). On reading the article I wonder if the committee Hellyer refers to is in fact the Project Second Story committee.

I may have more information on Project Second Story than you do. The Center for UFO Studies (Evanston) for some years has had a number of documents from this project for sale. Mostly minutes. H.C. Oatway is the secretary. Different people chaired the meetings at different times, and the people in attendance changed from meeting to meeting. Usually Dr. P.M. Millman chairs the meetings which were attended by people like Wilbert Smith as well as NRC, and Department of Defense types. If you don't have this documents I could photostat it for you (about 40 pages).

I look forward to reading your report. Perhaps later this year when I begin looking at the social/political side more directly, I'll have some specific requests for information.

Best wishes,

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(gcameron@mira.cc.umanitoba.ca [130.179.16.8]) by
electra.cc.umanitoba.ca (8.8.5/8.8.5) with SMTP id TAA10390
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Date: Fri, 17 Oct 1997 19:54:25 -0500
From: Grant Robert Cameron <gcameron@cc.UManitoba.CA>
Organization: University of Manitoba
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The Port McNeill Project (Canadian)

The Canadian Government set aside 1,000 square miles of land near Port McNeill British Columbia to attract Aliens and persuade them to land and make contact.

Landing pads were prepared for UFOs and similar pads were set up at St Paul Alberta.

See Also: PROJECT ALBERTA LURE.

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July 2, 84

Jason,

Just a short note to you to relate some information and ask a few questions.

① I got your wife's requests from Chris and the four pages of documents from your first requests. Many thanks. I would appreciate seeing or hearing about any documents mentioning Smith or from 1937.

② Have made my first request. Copy enclosed.

③ Will be talking to a couple people in the U.S. in mid August related to Smith's research. I will be in St. Louis N. Carolina, Washington DC, New York, Phila, Chicago. If you know of any good researchers who might know of Smith I would appreciate their addresses that I might contact them. Related to this Hyman research gave me the name of Fred Beckman, Univ. of Chicago. Do you know anything about him?

④ Have enclosed a 67 True Press article. Mrs. Smith confirmed to me that Smith was behind this. Can you add anything to this account, names, departments etc.

⑤ Are W. Todd Zechel, and Steve Stokes still active in the document field? Are they still in New York?

⑥ Has anyone filed for documents in the U.S. under bio-magnetics, or anti-gravity?

⑦ I got a pile of documents from my request, perhaps you might review them when you are in Ottawa? Okay not plans at present to go there.

GR

You have to do it as it comes up, and I believe that the kind of system we are trying to develop is best developed, best molded, best devised for that kind of a theory.

Q. Clark R. Mollenhoff, Des Moines Register: Mr. President, it has been reported in the last week that Senator John Williams of Delaware had to enlist your personal support to get the Treasury to take action on some personnel cases involving persons linked with the Truman administration tax scandals. I wonder if you could tell us precisely what you did in that; whether it was a routine referral or there is some follow through, and what your policy is when these things come to your attention?

THE PRESIDENT. Frankly, I don't recall any specific report to me. I have talked to Senator Williams from time to time, starting before I was inaugurated. I always listened to whatever he has to report to me, and I passed it along, because I believe we have there a very honest, concerned individual. But I can tell you what the policy is without any question whatsoever.

Everybody in this Government who has a position of responsibility is instructed if there is anything that comes to his attention that looks like it is off-color or there is someone that has been criminally negligent or is otherwise to blame for anything that goes wrong in Government, it is to be immediately reported to the proper authorities, and the prosecution to the limit.

Now, there are no exceptions to it.

Q. Mr. Mollenhoff: Have you had any indication, either from Senator Williams or from any other Cabinet members, of his dissatisfaction since his meeting with you last April? At a press conference on April 29, you did confirm that you had talked with Senator Williams with regard to a bad situation in the Internal Revenue Service.

THE PRESIDENT. Well, I haven't had another word about it that I know of; so far as I can remember, not a one.

Q. Garnett D. Horner, Washington Star: Mr. President, if I can change the subject rather drastically, recent news reports indicate that some European governments are investigating quite seriously the flying saucer problem. And not too long ago there was a book published in this country that purported to show that our Air Force thought that some of these flying objects, at least might come to be of extraterrestrial origin. I wonder if you could tell us if our authorities really do suspect

something of that kind or, if not, what is the form of the things?

THE PRESIDENT. Well, with regard to these recent reports, nothing has come to me at all, either verbally or in written form. And I must say, when I go back far enough, the last time that I heard this talked to me, a man whom I trust from the Air Forces said that it was, as far as he knew, completely inaccurate to believe that they came from any outside planet or otherwise.

Q. Raymond P. Brandt, St. Louis Post-Dispatch: Mr. President, have you worked out the mechanics of consultation with the Democratic leaders step by step?

THE PRESIDENT. As a matter of fact, I don't know, Mr. Brandt, whether it will just conform to any pattern.

I made this one statement yesterday, and it probably was published: I invited them at any time that they saw fit—responsible officials on the Hill—that they saw anything in this whole field we covered yesterday, that they believed would need my attention, to bring it up.

But beyond that, I am preparing a draft now, asking each of the Cabinet officers that deal with these subjects, any time that they are proposing a new plan, before it is crystallized, before it is presented to Congress, themselves to confer with the security committees, the foreign committees, and so on.

Q. Edward T. Folliard, Washington Post and Times Herald: Mr. President, your able Press Secretary, Mr. Hagerty, made some news the other night. He was on a radio program, and he was asked this question: "Mr. Hagerty, would it be foolhardy for the Republican Party to approach the 1956 election with any other idea than to draft President Eisenhower as a candidate?" Mr. Hagerty gave it as his personal opinion that it would be foolhardy.

Mr. President, is there any point in asking you to comment? [Laughter]

THE PRESIDENT. Well, I would like to say this: Mr. Hagerty is included as one of those staff officers, I have told you before, to whom I accord the great privilege of having his own opinion; and, as a matter of fact, as long as he expresses it, and there has been no established administration policy, why, I support his right as Voltaire did to say what he thinks. [Laughter]

Q. Mrs. May Craig, Maine Papers: Mr. President, some time ago Secretary Humphrey said on a television program that he approved of

the elimination of sioners. Do you budget?

THE PRESIDENT one of the elimina

I think it is pro on. My impressi point, it seems to I am not going to

Q. Mrs. Craig income, the pens they have unearn more than a ce pensions.

THE PRESIDENT

Q. Mrs. Craig

THE PRESIDENT have a talk with you are getting in answer it careless

Q. Marvin L. the congressional about a new mili Johnson said wou thing about the na

THE PRESIDENT other words, it is Secretary Wilson have a press conf with Mr. Hagerty

It is on Friday, tions to that press

Q. Nat S. Fin cussions with the renewed debate o

THE PRESIDENT

Merriman Smi

MEMORANDUM

V 2000-4 (DG Prog)

5 July 67

SA/VCDS

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS (UFO's) -
DND INTEREST

1. Attached is a copy of a letter, dated 30 Jun 67, from Dr. Rettie of NRC, requesting a meeting in August to discuss the Canadian position with respect to a Scientific Study of Unidentified Flying Objects.
2. Dr. Rettie is the Canadian representative of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and as such, is the Canadian representative at the United Nations on this matter.
3. Although the letter has been addressed to DG Prog, it is considered that it would be more appropriate for you to act as OPI in determining the Department's position with respect to UFO's. As you know, Dr. Arnell has had a long-time interest in this subject and is the author of an article, "UFO's: Figment, Fact, or Fiction", which appeared in the June 1966 issue of "The Sentinel". A copy of this article is attached. More recently, he prepared data for use by the Minister in opening the Flying Saucer Pad which was built as a centennial project at St. Paul, Alberta. I understand that recently Mr. Greenwood, DSC/DC OPS, has been involved in answering questions with respect to the DND position which were posed by a Japanese source. DGI, of course, has an interest from a point of view of intelligence.
4. It is requested that you assume responsibility for determining the Department's position with respect to UFO's and communicating this to Dr. Rettie, as requested in the attached letter.
5. Although DG Prog Division is not directly involved, I have a personal interest in the subject and would appreciate being kept in the picture, and would be pleased to assist you in any way that I can.

R. Aldwinckle

Encl. 2

R.M. Aldwinckle
Air Commodore
DG Prog
2-5619

lights – red, white and green'. The Air Force had picked up the UFO on radar but the B-26 was too slow to intercept; at that point the F95 pilot radioed in confirming the sighting.

Shortly after this Colonel Low's own wing commander sighted the red, white and green object and ground control asked him to attempt an intercept.

Colonel Low climbed and switched off his lights. At 35,000 feet and much closer to the lights, Colonel Low could see that it was a saucer-shaped object revolving at counter-clockwise direction something between eight and twelve times a minute. Although there was this movement there was also the stability of three white, constant, unmoving beams and it appeared that only part of the saucer was rotating. Colonel Low pushed his plane up to full power, something like 500 miles per hour, but the saucer easily pulled away and disappeared within thirty seconds.

Five minutes later the wing commander spotted the object again, this time moving parallel with the F-84. Colonel Low left his lights on and tried to close in but the object fled again.

LOW, ROBERT J.

Robert J. Low was the project co-ordinator of the **Colorado (University) UFO Project**, the investigation into UFOs. On 9 August 1966 he produced a memorandum of instruction which has called this official investigation into question ever since. It stated, 'Our study would be conducted almost exclusively by non-believers, who, although they couldn't possibly prove a negative result, could and probably would add an impressive body of evidence that there is no reality to the observation. The trick would be, I think, to describe the project so that, to the public, it would appear a totally objective study but, to the scientific community, would present the image of a group of non-believers trying their best to be objective, but having an almost zero expectation of finding a saucer.'

It is difficult to decide which of the above extraordinary phrases is most significant considering that the investigation was supposed to be scientific, but perhaps the most telling expression is 'the trick'.

LOWMAN, DR PAUL

Dr Paul B. Lowman Jr, a NASA scientist at the Goddard Space Flight Center, was sensibly critical of persistent rumours that NASA had uncovered proof of the extraterrestrial origin of UFOs, particularly on some of the Apollo moon flights and notably the *Apollo 11* flight. He stated, 'I am continually amazed by people who claim that we have concealed the discovery of extraterrestrial activity on the moon. The idea that a civilian agency . . . operating in the glare of publicity, could hide such a discovery is absurd. One would have to swear to secrecy not only the dozen astronauts who landed on the moon but also the hundreds of engineers, technicians and secretaries directly involved in the missions and the communication links.'

LOWRY, BILLY

On 1 September 1983 Billy Lowry was motorcycling from Brighton to Blackpool. At 11.45 in the evening he telephoned his friends to give them an estimate of his likely arrival time while he was near Whitchurch in Shropshire. He drove on, noticing a bright light in the sky. When he got out into the open country near Warrington he noticed the light seemed to be coming towards him. He felt that he was being watched and stopped his motorbike in the middle of the road.

He considered photographing the object but for some reason decided not to do so, feeling this was perhaps by instruction. In fact, he turned out his lights and was all the more better able to appreciate the dark object in the sky with lights all around it that was now hovering directly above him.

Car headlights appeared ahead of him and the object moved away; Lowry suddenly realised it was dangerous to be where he was in the middle of the road and drove off; he discovered that he was just outside Chester on the wrong road and it was some two hours after the time he had stopped.

No attempts have been made to unlock the missing two hours of memory using either regression hypnosis or various other visualisation techniques.

LUBBOCK LIGHTS

A pattern of V-shaped lights is frequently seen near Lubbock, Texas for which no concrete explanation has been given. It is thought that they are a natural phenomenon though other suggestions have included flocks of birds illuminated from below and, inevitably, fleets of flying saucers.

They were photographed in August 1951 and those photographs have been shown all over the world, held up as proof of all sorts of possibilities.

I was told by one American colleague that the town of Lubbock had set up 'UFO watches' as part of a tourist attraction. As he put it, 'All Lubbock ever had was Buddy Holly and the lights, and now they've only got the lights.'

LURE, PROJECT

The Lure Project, or Operation Lure, was devised by the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (**NICAP**), and particularly promoted by Major Donald E. Keyhoe in his book *Aliens from Space* (see References and Background Material).

The basis of the Lure was that it should be a landing site in an isolated area designed to attract the aliens' attention, with a view to interaction between aliens and humans.

It was based on a Canadian government attempt to create a 'UFO landing field' at **Alberta** in 1958. This earlier project is held to have failed because there was nothing to attract the aliens' attention.

The Lure was to be designed to attract alien attention by having displays clearly intended for them; dummy UFOs, items of particular interest to aliens, such as cars, planes, models of dams and reservoirs, etc. All of the base would then be covered by TV cameras and microphones connected to