

UFOs and the Canadian Government

by Gregory M. Kanon

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(We are pleased to introduce the author as a new contributor to *Canadian UFO Report*. Gregory M. Kanon is a free-lance writer presently living in Halifax, Nova Scotia. He has been actively investigating UFOs and related phenomena for over ten years, and is a field investigator with the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization. Through 1966 and 1967, as a columnist with the *Huntsville News* (Huntsville, Alabama), he wrote a series of articles on UFOs and, presently, authors the column, *THE UNKNOWN*, which appears weekly in *The 4th Estate* (Halifax). Further, Kanon has been interviewed on numerous radio and television programs, including ATV's "Counterpoint" and, most recently, CBC Radio's "Identities".

(It will be noted the author touches on ground covered in previous issues by our Ottawa correspondent Arthur Bray and by former contributing editor Brian Cannon who did a three-part series on the Stephen Michalak case and discussed the work of Wilbert Smith, both referred to here. However, to retain the continuity of this excellent report which contains much previously unpublished material, and for the benefit of those readers not familiar with the issues mentioned, we will carry the article in its complete form in two parts. Part Two will appear in the next issue.)

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While routinely monitoring an east-bound Air Canada flight on the night of July 7, 1967, the radarscope at the Winnipeg International Airport suddenly picked up an unknown object streaking toward Kenora, Ont. The radar return was observed by three air traffic controllers and two technicians.

Later that evening, the same or a similar object heading N.E. was detected on the Kenora Airport radarscope. During its stay, the object cavorted through the airways at will, executing 180-degree turns and chasing two Air Canada flights, before resuming its original N.E. heading and finally disappearing from the scope.

Total elapsed time: three hours.

This is just one of more than 1,000 such cases presently on file at the National Research Council in Ottawa. The files include reports made by airline pilots, air traffic controllers, police officers, and other technically trained individuals: In short, reliable observers.

Unfortunately, however, due to the quality of the original teletype reports (which are in many cases totally incoherent) and the subsequent lack of investigation, the reports remain virtually inert - all the result of the "dead storage" status afforded the UFO phenomenon in general by the Canadian Government.

Despite the government's lack of enthusiasm and seriousness, unidentified flying objects continue (as they have for at least several centuries) to invade the air space over this country, as elsewhere throughout the world. Preceded by elusive "foo fighters" of World War II and the so-called "ghost rockets" sighted over Scandinavia during 1946, the enigma invaded the North American continent in alarming numbers during the summer months of 1947, thus beginning the "modern era" of UFOs.

Accordingly, numerous reports of these inexplicable objects began to collect in the files of various government agencies. Due to the absence of any ensuing official policy on the subject, however, the reports were neither investigated nor catalogued. Most such reports were eventually relegated to the incinerator.

Canadian officials were clearly unaware of developments elsewhere. In December, 1947, the United States Air Force commissioned a project to investigate UFOs in depth. The following year, scientists, engineers, and Air Force Intelligence personnel connected with the project concluded in their Top Secret "Estimate of the Situation" that unidentified flying objects were real, and interplanetary.

In December, 1950, Ottawa finally authorized a limited project (designated "Project Magnet") to examine the UFO question. Although officially sponsored by the Deputy Minister of Transport for Air Services (Department of Transport),