

1187 Agincourt Road,
Ottawa 5, Ontario,
21 October, 1965.

Canadian Press,
136 Sparks Street,
Ottawa 4.

Dear Sirs:

I have been conducting a study of the subject of unidentified flying objects for eighteen years, as a hobby. The subject, as you are well aware, is one which creates much controversy as such varying opinions are offered as to what "flying saucers" really are.

The press has always played a very important role in shaping public opinion on this subject, by its own attitude. For instance, until recently, it was apparent that the general attitude of the press was one of detachment and ridicule. It was unusual for a sighting report to be carried in newspapers other than the local press of the nearest town or city concerned. There were exceptions, this is true, but the usual practice was to report sightings in the local area, plus the views of so-called experts in the subject as to what the "saucers" supposedly were. Whether the "explanations" made any sense or not never seemed to matter. They were accepted and printed simply on the strength of being the opinion of someone who was supposedly expert in such matters.

However, recently there appears to have been a change of attitude on the part of the press, in that sightings from all parts of the world are frequently carried by the national news services and the tendency to ridicule the witnesses is greatly diminished. I have even seen the odd occasion when the "explanations" offered by "experts", including the U.S. Air Force, the best-known investigating body, have been questioned as being too ridiculous to be believable. An example of a ridiculous explanation is the report which appeared in the Ottawa Citizen on 3 August, 1965, wherein the USAF claimed that four "saucers" in a diamond formation were stars in the Orion constellation! Who has ever seen a constellation of stars moving around the sky for half an hour?

I am interested in knowing just what the attitude of the press really is, as far as UFO's are concerned, bearing in mind that they have proved not to be just a passing fad, as sightings have continued unabated over many years, and have been reported by many highly-respected individuals, such as Air Chief Marshall Lord Dowding; Admiral Delmer Fahrney, former US Navy missile chief; Professor Hermann Oberth, rocket expert; Vice Admiral R.H. Hillenkoetter, former head of the C.I.A., and many others.