

UFO CENTRAL ANNUAL REPORT

1974

The Center for UFO Studies is an association of scientists, recognized for research in their own scientific disciplines, but who are also interested in the UFO phenomenon. One of the Center's original objectives was to establish a clearing house to which persons could report UFO experiences without fear of ridicule or unwanted publicity, and with the knowledge that their reports would be given serious attention. To accomplish this objective, and to insure immediate reaction capability in follow-up investigation, the Center implemented, on January 1, 1974, UFO CENTRAL, a toll-free twenty four hour nationwide "hot-line" for the use of official agencies in transmitting UFO sighting reports.

Initial distribution of this number was accomplished with the assistance of Mr. James Slavin, Director of the Traffic Institute of Northwestern University. Mr. Slavin assisted the Center in distributing this number to over 4,000 police chiefs and sheriffs around the country. Largely, these were officers of law enforcement agencies that had participated in various Traffic Institute training courses at Northwestern University.

The decision to use police as reporters was based on several factors:

1. To insure a "filter" or screening process for reports. Directives were issued to police, allowing them to distinguish which reports were of interest to the Center, eliminating distant lights in the night sky being reported, for instance, which have little scientific value because they afford so little data for study.
2. To insure quality of information. Police, in their daily work, are accustomed to determining relevant details, and have been trained to note exact times, names, addresses, and phone numbers.