

Department of External Affairs



Ministère des Affaires extérieures

Canada

OTTAWA K1A 0G2

24 November 1977

Dear Mr. Bray,

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Don Jamieson, has asked me to reply to your letter of 7 November 1977. I am interested to learn of your support for Prime Minister Gair's proposals concerning the establishment of an agency or department of the UN to conduct and coordinate research into unidentified flying objects and related phenomena. Although I cannot predict in advance exactly how Canada will vote on the draft resolution, there are a number of general comments that I might make on this question.

In the first place, I am not sure that the United Nations is necessarily the best body in which to conduct research on UFO's (private research organizations might prove better). There has been a tremendous growth in the range and quantity of UN activities in recent years, especially in the economic and social fields. At present, Canada considers that it is better to focus attention on improving existing institutions, rather than creating new ones. This is one point which we will have to bear in mind in considering the draft resolution.

A second point arises from the proposal in the draft resolution that 1978 be declared as the International Year of Unidentified Flying Objects. Normally, a great deal of work is necessary to prepare for such Years, and there does not appear to be sufficient time to carry out these preparations before 1978. 1979 has already been declared as the International Year of the Child, and there are other proposals under consideration for future years as well. Thus I doubt that it would be practical to declare a specific Year of Unidentified Flying Objects.

It is difficult to predict what the outcome of Prime Minister Gair's initiative will be. However, we will keep your views in mind in considering how Canada will vote on this draft resolution.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J.R. Francis".

J.R. Francis
Director
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Affairs Division

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