

*Johnson*

In 1964, however, following high-level White House discussions on what to do if an alien intelligence was discovered in space and a new outbreak of UFO reports and sightings, DCI John McCone asked for an updated CIA evaluation of UFOs. Responding to McCone's request, OSI asked the CD to obtain various recent samples and reports of UFO sightings from NICAP. With Keyhoe, one of the founders, no longer active in the organization, CIA officers met with Richard H. Hall, the acting director. Hall gave the officers samples from the NICAP database on the most recent sightings. (68)

After OSI officers had reviewed the material, Donald F. Chamberlain, OSI Assistant Director, assured McCone that little had changed since the early 1950s. There was still no evidence that UFOs were a threat to the security of the United States or that they were of "foreign origin." Chamberlain told McCone that OSI still monitored UFO reports, including the official Air Force investigation, Project BLUE BOOK. (69)

At the same time that CIA was conducting this latest internal review of UFOs, public pressure forced the Air Force to establish a special ad hoc committee to review BLUE BOOK. Chaired by Dr. Brian O'Brien, a member of the Air Force Scientific Advisory Board, the panel included Carl Sagan, the famous astronomer from Cornell University. Its report offered nothing new. It declared that UFOs did not threaten the national security and that it could find "no UFO case which represented technological or scientific advances outside of a terrestrial framework." The committee did recommend that UFOs be studied intensively, with a leading university acting as a coordinator for the project, to settle the issue conclusively. (70)

The House Armed Services Committee also held brief hearings on UFOs in 1966 that produced similar results. Secretary of the Air Force Harold Brown assured the committee that most sightings were easily explained and that there was no evidence that "strangers from outer space" had been visiting Earth. He told the committee members, however, that the Air Force would keep an open mind and continue to investigate all UFO reports. (71)

(68) See Maxwell W. Hunter, staff member, National Aeronautics and Space Council, Executive Office of the President, memorandum for Robert F. Parkard, Office of International Scientific Affairs, Department of State, "Thoughts on the Space Alien Race Question," 18 July 1963, File SP 16, Records of the Department of State, Record Group 59, National Archives. See also F. J. Sheridan, Chief, Washington Office, memorandum to Chief, Contact Division, "National Investigation Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP)," 25 January 1965.

(69) Chamberlain, memorandum for DCI, "Evaluation of UFOs," 26 January 1965.

*CIA*  
*Haines UFO Report*

Center for Legislative Archives  
National Archives and Records Administration  
700 Pennsylvania, NW  
Washington DC 20408



November 17, 2000

Hello,

I have written to ask assistance in response to a letter that I received from the Johnson Library regarding to the Preparedness Investigative Subcommittee chaired by the Senator Lyndon Johnson.

I am most interested in any statement made by Senator Johnson on UFOs, correspondence with NICAP about UFOs, or any mail that might be in the files concerning UFOs.

I have enclosed an article which outlines the issue, and a letter from the President Johnson Archives that describe what they were able to obtain on the subject.

I hope you can add something. Thanks.

Grant Cameron  
649 Silverstone Ave  
Winnipeg Manitoba  
Canada R3T 2V8

*More Johnson*

intelligence agencies are taking an interest in the activities of civilian UFO researchers as little more than rank paranoia. Yet, as the remarkably detailed document we saw above shows, those of us who enter into the world of the UFO can expect to soon attract the attention of officialdom.

A further report found in Bureau archives, this time dating from January 1967, relates additional details of the proposed Air Force-sponsored 'Condon investigation':

DR EDWARD CONDON, HEAD OF A GOVERNMENT-FINANCED SCIENTIFIC STUDY OF UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS (UFO), SAID TODAY HE HAD RECEIVED A LETTER TELLING HIM WHEN AND WHERE A FLYING SAUCER WOULD LAND ON EARTH.

CONDON, PROFESSOR OF PHYSICS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO, SAID HE WOULD WRITE TO THE MAN AND ASK HIM ON WHAT BASIS HE MADE THE PREDICTION.

'HE GAVE ME THE EXACT DATE AND THE EXACT LOCATION THE SAUCER WOULD LAND [AND] SAID IT WOULD BE MANNED BY PERSONS FROM ANOTHER PLANET,' CONDON SAID.

'HE SUGGESTED WE CONTACT THE SPACE TRAVELERS AND MAKE FRIENDS WITH THEM,' THE UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO PROFESSOR SAID. CONDON WOULD NOT DISCLOSE THE NAME OF THE PERSON WHO WROTE THE LETTER, SAY WHERE THE PREDICTED LANDING WOULD TAKE PLACE OR THE DATE. HE DID SAY IT WOULD BE SOME TIME THIS SPRING.

'I'M GOING TO ANSWER THE LETTER TO TRY AND FIND OUT WHAT THE BASIS IS FOR THE MAN'S PREDICTION,' CONDON SAID.

The Bureau seemed none too impressed by Condon's comments, as is shown by the following handwritten note at the base of the document: 'Condon is a publicity hound.' An examination of the handwriting

*Nicholas Redfern*

confirms that this brief character assessment of the good professor was written by none other than J. Edgar Hoover himself. This is perhaps not surprising: on 29 May 1946, Hoover had sent to the White House various reports suggesting that an enormous Soviet spy ring in Washington was attempting to obtain information about US atomic energy research. Among the people Hoover believed involved, and 'noted for their pro-Soviet leanings' was none other than Edward U. Condon. According to one of Hoover's sources, Condon was 'nothing more or less than an espionage agent in disguise'.<sup>9</sup> In 1967, apparently, Hoover's feelings towards Condon had not improved.

Almost three years later, on 17 December 1969, the Secretary of the Air Force announced the termination of the US Air Force's only publicly acknowledged UFO research body, Project Blue Book. 'The decision to discontinue UFO investigations was based on an evaluation of a report prepared by the University of Colorado entitled, "Scientific Study of Unidentified Flying Objects"; a review of the University of Colorado's report by the National Academy of Sciences; past UFO studies; and the Air Force's two decades of experience investigating UFO reports,' stated the Air Force.

The salient points of the report were that (a) UFOs demonstrated no threat to national security; (b) UFOs were not a manifestation of advanced technology; and (c) there was no evidence to suggest that any UFOs were extraterrestrial in origin.

Although the available UFO files declassified by the FBI do not reflect Hoover's personal opinions on Condon's work with the Colorado University project, given his suspicions about Condon in the 1940s, I find it inconceivable that Hoover would not have monitored intimately Condon's work for the Air Force in the 1966-9 period. And as history has shown, in its final years Blue Book was little more than a public-relations exercise, with the truly important work undertaken by the US intelligence community. This has led a number of researchers to conclude that the 'Condon Report', as the Colorado University report is generally called, was specifically designed to absolve the Air Force (and by definition, the entire US government) of any further involvement in the UFO subject.

As we have seen, FBI files on Condon's UFO-related work with the Air Force are scant; it should be noted, however, that after Hoover's death on

## UFO Inquiry Is Attacked as Nonscientific

By JOHN LANNAN

Star Staff Writer

*Washington Evening Star*

May 1, 1968

If there's any one element on which all parties to the Unidentified Flying Object controversy agree, it's the fact that every thing about UFOs is up in the air.

And the situation didn't hange a whit yesterday as the Leader of the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena announced in State Department tone and rhetoric that "we have broken relations" with a government-funded UFO investigation.

Retired Marine Corps Maj. Donald E. Keyhoe charged that the University of Colorado study headed by physicist Edward U. Condon was anything but scientific and that Condon and the resident project head were openly biased.

The move followed publication in *Look* magazine of a report of deceptive memos, staff firings and a negative outlook on UFOs by the project leaders.

### Series of Tempests

The current UFO crisis is but one of a series of tempests surrounding the oft-reported, but scientifically undocumented, sightings of strange saucer-like forms and shapes in flight.

Long under study by the Air Force in several separate projects, UFOs have managed to move even the studiously academic scientific community as well as government into support ing an objective study. NICAP, one of the less strident, but no-nonetheless dedicated parties, claims it also wants a balanced, scientific appraisal of the problem.

At its behest, and at that of others, the government financed a \$500,000 project to answer UFO questions.

NICAP, which also challenged the earlier Air Force probes, now terms that study the "Colorado Fiasco."

### Message to Johnson

Maj. Keyhoe announced at yesterday's press conference that he has also written President Johnson apprising him of NJCAP's views and asking a new study.

Before the session turned into a nose-to-nose confrontation between Keyhoe and author Philip Klass over Kiass' allegations that UFOs are a form of ball lightning, Keyhoe read portions of a memo allegedly from the project leader, Robert Low, to the university of Colorado's vice president, Thurston Manning.

In it, Low is alleged to have said that to enter such a study objectively, "one has to admit the possibility that such things as UFOs exist. It is not respectable to give serious consideration to such a possibility."

Further, the memo continued:

"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..."

Maj. Keyhoe also charged that the investigating staff of the project was made up chiefly of psychologists whose goals were to examine the credibility of the witnesses rather than their purported evidence for sightings.

NICAP does not argue, he added, that either Low or Condon was being dishonest. "Both seemed to believe they were being correct in their approach," he said.

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

~~EXEMPT~~  
OS  
PR 6-2/C  
7G 130

October 13, 1966

x Univ of Colorado

FOR MR. W. MARVIN WATSON

B. U.

The attached letter from Dr. ~~x~~ Condon to Juanita Roberts was  
bucked to me on October 6. Since I had no knowledge about  
the Air Force grant for the UFO study, I asked Defense to  
give me a memo. Defense responded with a copy of its press  
release dated the following day. Thus, we can now only express  
our "regret" that it was not possible for the President to make  
this announcement at a press conference. (It would not have  
been advisable to release this from the White House, in any case.)

Now the question remains: Do we want to send Condon the  
inscribed photo he requests for use in his campaign<sup>for</sup>/election  
to the Board of Regents?

*Paul*  
Paul M. Popple ← Rtn to

Attachments

November 4, 1966

SEND PHOTO \_\_\_\_\_  
DO NOT SEND \_\_\_\_\_ ✓

FOR MRS. ROBERTS

Juanita,

The attached file is self-explanatory.

I see nothing to be done now  
except send the whole works to  
Central Files and forget it.

*Paul*  
Paul Popple

Encls.

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

12 OCT 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR Mr. Paul M. Popple  
Assistant to the President  
The White House

Pursuant to your memorandum of 6 October and the telephone conversation between Sergeant Stroup of this office with a member of your office, attached is a copy of the DoD News Release (7 October) concerning Unidentified Flying Objects (UFO's).

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "John M. Steadman", is positioned above the typed name.

John M. Steadman  
The Special Assistant

Attachment

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# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (PUBLIC AFFAIRS)

WASHINGTON, D.C. - 20301

PLEASE NOTE DATE

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 7, 1966

NO. 847-66

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## AIR FORCE SELECTS UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO TO INVESTIGATE UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT REPORTS

The University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado, has been selected by the Air Force to conduct independent investigations into unidentified flying object (UFO) reports.

A research agreement, valued at approximately \$300,000, is being negotiated with the university by the Air Force Office of Scientific Research to analyze phenomena associated with UFO sightings and to make recommendations on the Air Force's methods of investigating and evaluating UFO reports -- a program known as Project Blue Book. A report is expected to be made to the Air Force in early 1968.

Dr. Edward U. Condon will direct the scientific phases of the work, while Robert J. Low will serve as project coordinator. Principal investigators working with Dr. Condon will be Dr. Franklin E. Roach and Dr. Stuart W. Cook.

Dr. Condon, former director of the National Bureau of Standards (NBS), is a professor of physics at Colorado and a fellow of the Joint Laboratory for Astrophysics which is co-sponsored by the university and NBS. Mr. Low is an assistant dean of the university's graduate school. Dr. Cook is chairman of the university's psychology department, and Dr. Roach is an astrophysicist with the Environmental Science Services Administration (ESSA).

Colorado is expected to select several other universities to take part in the research. These and other consultants will bring the number of scientists involved to over 100.

The National Academy of Sciences has indicated its willingness to assist by appointing a panel--at the time the Colorado report becomes available to the Air Force--to review the investigating team's work. This panel will not be part of the investigating team, but will provide a further independent check on the scientific validity of the method of investigation.

In announcing the selection, Air Force Secretary Harold Brown said, "We are more than pleased to be able to place this grant with respected individuals in a university of such high standing in the scientific community. Additionally, the location of the university should prove invaluable to the investigators, since the National Center for Atmospheric Research and the research headquarters of the Environmental Science Services Administration are located at Boulder. These organizations conduct research on the properties of man's natural environment, specializing in the physical characteristics of the atmosphere and the near-space medium."

MORE

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Air Force Project Blue Book files, as well as any other UFO information in the possession of the Air Force, will be made available to the team. Additionally, all Air Force installations within the U.S. will assist the team if requested. The investigators will, however, conduct their research independently of and without direction from the Air Force.

The decision to enter into a research agreement for this work was based on a recommendation of the Air Force Scientific Advisory Board which completed a review of the resources, methods and findings of Project Blue Book earlier this year. While complimenting the Air Force on the organization of Project Blue Book, the Board recommended that the program be expanded to include investigation of selected sightings by independent scientists.

Within the Department of Defense, the Air Force has the responsibility of investigating UFO reports. The Air Force has been investigating such reports since 1948 under its role of air defense of the United States, and the university's research does not alter Project Blue Book responsibilities of receiving, investigating and evaluating UFO reports.

END

(DOD Release No. 388-66, May 9, 1966, refers.)

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THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

REFERRAL

To: Secretary of Defense

Date: October 6, 1966

ACTION REQUESTED

\_\_\_\_\_ Draft reply for:  
\_\_\_\_\_ President's signature.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Undersigned's signature.

(\*) \_\_\_\_\_ ☒ Memorandum for use as enclosure to reply.

\_\_\_\_\_ Direct reply.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Furnish information copy.

\_\_\_\_\_ Suitable acknowledgment or other appropriate handling.

\_\_\_\_\_ Furnish copy of reply, if any.

\_\_\_\_\_ For your information.

\_\_\_\_\_ For comment.

NOTE

*Prompt action is essential.*

If more than 48 hours' delay is encountered, please telephone the undersigned immediately, Code 1450.

Basic correspondence should be returned when draft reply, memorandum, or comment is requested.

REMARKS:

(\*) Memorandum requested re final paragraph only.

Description:

\_\_\_\_\_ ☒ Letter: \_\_\_\_\_ Telegram: Other:

To: Mrs. Juanita D. Roberts, Personal Secretary to the President

From: E. U. Condon, Condon for Regent Hq., 761 Cascade Ave., Boulder, Colorado 80302

Date: September 20, 1966

Subject: AF grant to U. of Colorado to conduct study of UFO's.

By direction of the President:

aer

  
Paul M. Popple  
Assistant to the President

(Copy to remain with correspondence)

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CONDON FOR REGENT HEADQUARTERS

761 CASCADE AVENUE  
BOULDER, COLORADO 80302  
TELEPHONE 443-7448

September 20, 1966.

Please address campaign  
contributions to  
GEORGE C. WILLIAMS  
Finance Chairman  
in care of  
First National Bank in Boulder  
Boulder, Colorado 80302

Juanita D. Roberts,  
The White House,  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Miss Roberts:

I deeply appreciate the President's thoughtfulness in sending me the photo taken at the White House on August 1 on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the signing of the Atomic Energy Act.

As you see from this letterhead and the enclosure, I am campaigning like mad for election to the Board of Regents of the University of Colorado. As the Chief well knows it would be extremely valuable to me to have a print of the same picture that was autographed by him. Would it be too much of an imposition to ask to have another print made, and then, some day, when he has nothing more important to do for a few seconds, for you to slip it in front of him when he was a pen in hand and have him write something like, "With best wishes to Dr. Condon, from Lyndon" or whatever else he chose to write in similar vein? I ought to get it, of course, well before November 8.

If you have a chance to tell him, he will also be interested to know that in a few weeks the Air Force will announce making a grant to the University of Colorado for us to conduct the study about UFOs (flying saucers) that grew out of criticism of the Air Force on this by the House Committee on Armed Services last spring. I am to be in charge and will do my best to put together a serious and responsible team to deal with it.

Thanking you,

Sincerely,

Ell Condon

Would he be willing to  
announce this at a White House press conference?

**VOTE for CONDON for REGENT**

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Vote for . . .

- Edward U. Condon
- Democrat
- Candidate for Board of Regents
- University of Colorado
- Resident of Boulder
- Internationally known Atomic Scientist

CONDON



*for Regent*

CONDON

# CONDON *for* REGENT

Edward U. Condon should be elected to the Board of Regents of the University of Colorado because of his outstanding achievements in teaching research and public affairs:

1. Condon believes that the University of Colorado is becoming one of the great universities of America and is now a major asset to Colorado's educational, cultural and economic growth.

2. Condon is in the forefront of the effort to win for Colorado the new \$375 million National Accelerator Laboratory of the Atomic Energy Commission, serving as Chairman of the University's Proton Accelerator Committee, Co-chairman of the Governor's Scientific Advisory Commission, and as Member of the Colorado Scientific Development Commission, established in May 1966 by the special session of the Colorado General Assembly.

3. Condon is constantly seeking ways to advance the University of Colorado, by promoting working relations with the National Bureau of Standards, by working for its world-famous Summer Institute for Theoretical Physics, and for its new graduate program in chemical physics, of which he is Chairman.

4. Condon's experience in public affairs includes service as Scientific Advisor to the Special Senate Committee on Atomic Energy which drafted legislation establishing the Atomic Energy Commission, as Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Color Television to the U. S. Senate, and as a Member of the President's Evaluation Commission for the Naval Atomic Bomb Tests at Bikini in 1946.

5. Condon was appointed Director of the National Bureau of Standards in 1945 by President Truman, and in 1950 established its Boulder Laboratories, a milestone in Colorado's scientific development. In 1951 he became Director of Research and Development for Corning Glass Works and continues as an active member of that company's consulting staff.

6. Condon's work in World War II included leadership of research in microwave radar for the Westinghouse Electric Corporation, and membership on the Government S-1 Committee which established the atomic bomb project, and work on that project.

7. Condon's scientific research has been honored by his election to the National Academy of Sciences, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the American Philosophical Society, the Société Française de Physique (Paris), the Royal Swedish Academy of Engineering Sciences (Stockholm), and the award of honorary degrees by four universities, including the University of Delhi, India.

8. Condon's professional stature has been recognized by election to high office: President of the American Physical Society (1946), President of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (1953), President of the American Association of Physics Teachers (1964).

9. Condon has taught at Columbia University, Princeton University, University of Michigan, University of Minnesota, Stanford University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Washington University, before joining the CU faculty in 1963.

**Democrat for Regent of the University of Colorado**

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OCT 1966

OCT 6

## CONDON FOR REGENT HEADQUARTERS

761 CASCADE AVENUE  
BOULDER, COLORADO 80302  
TELEPHONE 443-7448

Please address campaign  
contributions to  
GEORGE C. WILLIAMS  
Finance Chairman  
in care of  
First National Bank in Boulder  
Boulder, Colorado 80302

To the Voters of Colorado:

I respectfully ask for your vote in the General Election of November 8, so that I may serve you from 1967-73 as a member of the Board of Regents of the University of Colorado. To vote you must be registered by October 19. Every voter will want to be informed about issues and candidates and to make a choice for every office, otherwise good government can not be obtained by the democratic process.

The Board of Regents is the governing body of the University, consisting of six members, of whom two are chosen at each general election. Of the four candidates for two positions, I hope that Richard Bernick, incumbent, will be elected, as well as myself.

Since the career outline on the other side was printed I have been chosen as President of the Colorado Scientific Development Commission (Par. 2) and will be working harder than ever to win for Colorado the AEC's National Accelerator Laboratory. Also "Measures for Progress, a History of the National Bureau of Standards," has been published which gives a full account of my service as its first post-war director. It says, "Reorganizing the Bureau in the postwar period, he cleared its attics of 50 years of accumulated lumber and began the modernization and systematizing of present bureau operations."

Here is what President Truman wrote in accepting my resignation in 1951: "You have served in a most critical position with continued and loyal attention to your duties as director, and by reason of your standing among scientists and the supervision you have given to the bureau's activities, you have made of it a more important agency than it has ever been before."

"A Greater University for a Greater Colorado." A modern great university affects the welfare of the people in all phases of their educational, cultural and economic life. As the principal source of our future teachers, lawyers, doctors, engineers, scientists and business men, the quality of the University will largely determine the quality of the society we are to have in Colorado. This total relationship of the University and the rest of our educational system to the entire development of Colorado within the United States of America interests me deeply. I will work hard to make our University serve us in ways that are as outstanding as our beloved mountains.

I ask for your vote, and I invite you to tell me how we can make a Greater University for a Greater Colorado. I will do my best to help make this come to pass.

Sincerely,



E. U. Condon

**VOTE *for* CONDON *for* REGENT**

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BOULDER, COLORADO 80302

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*Unack*

2 May 1968

1006 JILA Bldg.

Mr. Douglass Cater  
Special Assistant to the President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Cater:

X  
Howard Higman tells me that it might be useful to you to have a brief statement about the UFO study. Perhaps the enclosed letter sent today to Harold Brown will meet the need. Will be glad to supply anything additional. Nick Golovin on Hornig's staff knows the earlier story.

*James* X McDonald in an April 1967 speech to the American Society of Newspaper Editors advocated an UFO budget comparable to NASAs, and in a January 1968 speech in Hartford, Conn., advocated UFO studies whose cost would "dwarf the space program," thereby raising the ante.

Sincerely,

*E. U. Condon*

X  
E. U. Condon

EUC:kes

Encl: ltr to Secy. Harold Brown

RECEIVED  
MAY 9 1968  
CENTRAL FILES

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO

BOULDER, COLORADO 80302

DELETEDXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

1006 JILA Bldg.

2 May 1968

Hon. Harold Brown  
Secretary of the Air Force  
The Pentagon  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Probably the article about flying saucers in the current issue of Look Magazine (dated May 14) has been called to your attention. When I read it last Sunday it seemed amazing to me that Gardner Cowles would allow Look to be used for such a tawdry piece of yellow journalism. I sent him a telegram at once urging him to review the situation with me, to which he has not yet replied.

Ever since I learned on February 7 of the earlier theft of certain papers from the personal files of my associate, Robert Low, we have been expecting a coordinated attack. Two staff members here who admitted involvement were discharged the next day. Despite its falsehoods and misrepresentations, the Look article contains some material that is factually correct, such as the mention of the passing of one item of the stolen material in Denver on December 12, 1967, to Prof. James McDonald of the University of Arizona during the course of a dinner party attended by the two staff members who were later discharged, McDonald, and Prof. J. Allen Hynek of Northwestern University, who has long served as consultant to Project Blue Book. The article says that Hynek left before the stolen material changed hands; on this point I have no information.

McDonald revealed his possession of this stolen item in a letter to Low dated January 31, 1968. Incidentally, although the date of this stolen item was August 9, 1966, this was my first knowledge of its existence because it was not part of the project files. McDonald's letter led to the inquiry that led to discharge of our two staff members. I also took steps to inform McDonald that the item had been stolen from Low's files and asked him to return it. He refused, saying that he knew that a number of people besides himself had copies - this could easily be true, thanks to the speed and efficiency of modern electrostatic copying devices. We soon learned that other copies exist because, on February 12, a local newspaperman came to me saying that he had a copy. Also, this week (April 30) at his press conference in Washington, Donald Keyhoe of NICAP handed out copies of this stolen item to the press. We have been told by a man who was present that Keyhoe himself referred to the material handed out as "stolen" and that a reporter present asked him about the propriety of his giving stolen material to the press. He is said to have replied defensively that the stolen material was not classified. The reporter persisted, asking what Keyhoe would do if one of his NICAP staff stole material from NICAP files and passed it around. To this Keyhoe is said to have replied, "I'd fire him!"

2 May 1968

When our staff members admitted their involvement they also admitted that they had expected McDonald would try to use his copy of the stolen item in a way unfavorable to the University of Colorado and to the Air Force, that is, they admitted conscious intent to produce an effect harmful to the interests of their employer.

Such an action on McDonald's part was not long in coming for on February 9 he wrote a letter to President Frederick Seitz of the National Academy of Sciences, criticising our project, and transmitting to him a copy of the stolen item. (There was an ingenious piece of deceitfulness involved here: McDonald behaved with formal correctness in sending me a copy of his February 9 letter to Seitz, the text of which makes no reference to the stolen item; that he also sent a copy of this to Seitz we learned from another source.) This was after McDonald had been told that the item had been stolen and had refused to return it.

John Fuller, author of the Look article, came to Boulder in March and attempted to put Low and myself off guard by saying he was not working on UFOs any more, but was merely paying a social call while on his way to Arizona to write a book on Indian archeology. But he gave himself away by importuning both of us for details about the discharge of the two staff members, which we refused to give him. We have been told that he struck a bargain with the local newspaperman mentioned above (who in the meantime is no longer employed by the Boulder Daily Camera) to get materials from him for his yellow piece in Look.

The coordinated nature of the attack is evident from the Keyhoe press conference (April 30) a few days after the appearance of Look, but more particularly, from the fact that on Monday, April 28 at 11 a.m., I was served with two summonses initiating threatened libel actions against me, the two discharged staff members being the plaintiffs, each demanding damages in the amount of \$165,000. This set a date of Wednesday, May 1, for the taking of my deposition, but this was soon called off by the plaintiffs' attorney. I can only surmise that the attorney realizes that the Look article has knocked the props out from under an already weak case.

Despite these harrassments we are going forward on our project and expect to be able to submit its final report by the presently scheduled date of September 30.

Turning to other matters, allow me to say how delighted I am to learn of the recent promotion of Col. Hector Quintanilla, head of Project Blue Book. In my opinion this dedicated officer is performing an exceedingly difficult task with great skill and competence. He richly deserves his promotion.

When I visited him at Wright-Patterson on April 15 and 16 we discussed, among other things, the disposition of the UFO case files at Project Blue Book in the event that at some time in the future UFOs might be handled by the Government in some other way. We agreed that a good place to send these files might be the Library of Congress.

2 May 1968

I have thought of this some more during this week's furore, which includes demands for congressional investigation. Anticipating such demands I discussed the situation by telephone Monday with my friend, the Hon. Frank Evans of Pueblo, Colorado, who is a member of the House Armed Services Committee.

I am inclined now to think these files should be moved to Washington at once, perhaps to the Pentagon, perhaps to the Library of Congress. Although they have long been completely declassified, their location at Wright-Patterson makes access to them inconvenient for the press and congressional staff members. If they were freely and conveniently available in Washington, I think this would do a great deal to knock out the clamor of the UFO cultists who still say that they can not be seen by the public.

Another consideration is that the Project Blue Book office at Wright-Patterson is in a building which seems to me to be something of a fire hazard. These files are valuable to the study of one peculiar phase of American history, and so should be carefully preserved. I shudder at the thought of the loud charges of Air Force carelessness which would be made if they were unfortunately to be lost in a fire.

I do, therefore, recommend that the old files, and possibly also the current files and working office of Project Blue Book, be moved to fireproof quarters in the Washington area as soon as possible.

I apologize for this long intrusion on your time, but a good deal has been happening, the full details of which would be much longer. As you know by now, I telephoned on Monday to your military aide, Col. E. C. Cook, and expressed a willingness to come to Washington any time this month at your convenience to give you and your staff such additional details as you and they may desire.

With best regards,

Sincerely,



E. U. Condon

EUC:kes

cc: Dean T. E. Manning, vice-president, University of Colorado  
Mr. John Holloway, Resident Counsel, University of Colorado  
President Frederick Seitz, National Academy of Sciences

17  
encl.  
Audience  
8-17-68

Surv

ROBERT S. EASLEY  
834 EAST SECOND ST.  
DEFIANCE, OHIO 43512

1 August 1968

Honorable Lyndon B. Johnson  
President: United States of America  
White House  
Washington  
D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

I am sure you are somewhat aware of the mystery and intrigue surrounding the phenomena of Unidentified Flying Objects here in the U.S. as well as all over the world. This phenomena has been a continuing one since Biblical times and will no doubt continue on into the future for generations to come.

Last Monday, 29 July 1968, six prominent Scientists met with the House Science Committee to discuss the possibility of a scientific study done in the field of UFOs. I think you will agree with me that a scientific study is urgently needed to once and for all identify the UFOs.

I will be in Washington on the nite of 17 August 1968 and would consider it an honor, privilege and great opportunity to meet with you to discuss UFOs; if you can possibly arrange it in your schedule as I know you are an extremely busy man. I would even appreciate just five minutes of your valuable time.

I sincerely hope that a meeting - if even very brief - can be arranged sometime during the night of 17 August. As an American citizen I would also like to meet the Leader of our great Nation.

Thank you for the time given to this letter.

Cordially yours,

*Robert S. Easley*

Robert S. Easley: Ass't Editor;  
UFO MAGAZINE

PHONE (419) 784-4686

ASSISTANT EDITOR  
UFO MAGAZINE

ROBERT S. EASLEY  
LECTURER - WRITER - RESEARCHER  
IN THE STUDY OF FLYING SAUCERS

834 E. SECOND

DEFIANCE, OHIO 43512

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①  
GENERAL

OS

PR 8-2 / E\*

August 6, 1968

Dear Mr. Easley:

In response to your letter of August 1st to the President, he does not expect to be in Washington on August 17th whereby consideration might be given to your request to talk with him.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

James R. Jones  
Special Assistant  
to the President

Mr. Robert S. Easley  
Assistant Editor  
x UFO Magazine  
834 East Second Street  
Defiance, Ohio 43512

JRJ:mhr - 2

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THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

REFERRAL

GENERAL  
OS  
FG130

To: The Secretary of Defense

Date: May 3, 1968

ACTION REQUESTED

- ☐ Draft reply for:  
☐ President's signature.  
☐ Undersigned's signature.
- ☐ Memorandum for use as enclosure to reply.
- ☐ Direct reply.  
☐ Furnish information copy.
- ☒ Suitable acknowledgment or other appropriate handling.  
☐ Furnish copy of reply, if any.
- ☐ For your information.
- ☐ For comment.

NOTE

*Prompt action is essential.*

If more than 48 hours' delay is encountered, please telephone the undersigned immediately, Code 1450.

Basic correspondence should be returned when draft reply, memorandum, or comment is requested.

REMARKS:

Description:

☒ Letter: ☐ Telegram: ☐ Other:

To: The President +  
From: Maj. Donald E. Keyhoe, USMC, Ret., Director of National Investigations  
Date: 4/30/68 Committee on Aerial Phenomena, 1536 Connecticut Ave, N. W.  
Subject: Washington, D. C.

Submit evidence of deficiencies in University of Colorado UFO investigation, financed by Air Force with taxpayers' money; urge creation of Commission--offer assistance.

By direction of the President:

RECEIVED  
MAY 4 1968  
CENTRAL FILE

Whitney Shoemaker  
Assistant to the President

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rah

NATIONAL INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE

ON AERIAL PHENOMENA

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20036

MAJOR DONALD E. KEYHOE  
USMC (RET.) DIRECTOR

GORDON I. R. LORE, JR.  
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

30 April 1968

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES:  
1536 CONNECTICUT AVE., N.W.

TELEPHONE: (202) 667-9434

The Honorable Lyndon B. Johnson  
President of the United States  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

We believe it our duty to submit to you the enclosed evidence of grave deficiencies in the University of Colorado UFO investigation, financed by the Air Force with \$523,000 of taxpayers' money, which was publicly and officially announced as a totally objective scientific study.

Our knowledge is based on 17 months of close cooperation, at the Colorado Project's request. During this time we briefed and frequently conferred with Dr. E.U. Condon, project head, Mr. Robert J. Low, project coordinator, and the project scientists. Our investigating subcommittees, located throughout the country, aided in the training and operations of Project field teams. From our thousands of UFO reports, we released hundreds of cases at the project's request, many of them verified reports by scientists, veteran pilots, aerospace engineers, tower and radar operators and other competent observers. To help the project weed out hoaxes and unfounded claims of meetings with extraterrestrial beings, we privately briefed its members. Project scientists frequently visited and examined information at NICAP, which is the world's largest UFO fact-finding organization, with over 300 scientific, military and technical advisers.

In the Air Force-Colorado University contract (copy enclosed), Dr. Condon was named as the first principal investigator. Despite this, Dr. Condon has not made a single field investigation. He has not interviewed any of the pilots, scientists, aerospace engineers or other competent witnesses in the hundreds of cases supplied to the project. This was personally confirmed to me and to NICAP Assistant Director Gordon Lore by Coordinator Low and several times by Dr. David Saunders, project scientist in charge of the computer section.

In a number of press interviews with Dr. Condon (copies enclosed), it appeared that he was strongly biased and was rejecting evidence of UFO reality. Some of the quoted statements included: "My attitude right now is that there's nothing to it... but I'm not supposed to reach a conclusion for another year." Elmira N.Y. Star Gazette, January 26, 1967. "This is like being chief of a fire department that only answers false alarms... The whole business is crazy." Sydney, Australia, Sun-Herald, November 26, 1967. "...There would be no sense in our checking into routine reports." Rocky Mountain News, October 8, 1966. "It is highly improbable that they

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(UFOs) exist." Denver Post, October 8, 1966.

In September, 1967, NICAP ceased transmitting UFO reports to the Project after we learned there was a split, with Dr. Condon and Mr. Low evidently preparing for a negative conclusion, and the majority of the scientists, including Dr. David Saunders and Dr. Norman Levine, strongly opposed. In a visit to NICAP headquarters, Mr. Low admitted the project split. In the presence of Assistant Director Lore and myself, he also confirmed that Dr. Condon had made no field investigations or questioned witnesses and added, "If he were to write a report today, the conclusion would be negative."

On November 14, I sent a list of questions to Dr. Condon and Mr. Low, stating we would resume transmissions if the answers were satisfactory. The questions (copies enclosed) asked if Dr. Condon intended to make any investigations, if he had examined any of the hundreds of NICAP submitted reports, and if the project was actually objective and impartial, as stated by university officials, the Air Force and Dr. Condon himself.

Both Dr. Condon and Coordinator Low refused to answer the questions.

Shortly after this, I was privately given a copy of proposals made by Mr. Low to University Vice President Thurston Manning and other university faculty members, discussing whether to accept the Air Force offer and if so how to handle the investigation.

In this proposal memorandum by Mr. Low (copy enclosed), he summed up some of the faculty members' views as follows:

"In order to undertake such a project one has to approach it objectively. That is, one has to admit the possibility that such things as UFOs exist. It is not respectable to give serious consideration to such a possibility. Believers, in other words, remain outcasts.... Our study would be conducted almost exclusively by nonbelievers, 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 observations. 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 nonbelievers trying their best to be objective but having an almost zero expectation of finding a saucer. One way to do this would be to stress investigation, not of the physical phenomena, but rather of the people who do the observing.... If the emphasis were put here... I think the scientific community would quickly get the message."

In the Air Force contract, signed by Vice President Manning and Dr. Condon, an entirely different set of Colorado University proposals was incorporated, including this statement:

"The work will be conducted under conditions of strictest objectivity by investigators who, as carefully as can be determined, have no predilections or preconceived positions on the UFO question. This is essential if the public, the Congress, the Executive and the scientific community are to have confidence in the study..."

At the request of Dr. David Saunders, we permitted our subcommittees to continue field-team cooperation, though we transmitted no further reports. Dr. Saunders explained that a majority group of project scientists still hoped to persuade Dr. Condon to take a different approach and examine all the serious evidence.

Some time later, a copy of the Low proposals was given to Dr. James E. McDonald, a University of Arizona atmospheric physicist who has carried out an extensive single-handed UFO investigation under a university grant.

Early in February, 1968, Dr. Condon and Mr. Low learned of this. Dr. Condon summarily discharged Drs. Saunders and Levine, who were chiefly involved in giving McDonald the document. In a press release, Dr. Condon stated the cause was "incompetence." The project administrative secretary, Mrs. Mary Louise Armstrong, resigned in disapproval of the firings and the handling of the project. Dr. Condon wrote McDonald and the President of the University of Arizona and demanded return of what he called "stolen" papers, but McDonald refused.

Shortly afterward, information about the firings, NICAP'S role, and the Low proposals was given to author John Fuller for an article in LOOK Magazine (copy enclosed). The article includes a box statement by me as to our long cooperation and the reasons for our final break with the Project.

We sincerely regret the failure of the project, to which so many people looked for a fully impartial UFO evaluation, if not final answers. We fear that public loss of confidence may make the project's report, being prepared by Mr. Low, of little value.

The most serious effect, we believe, is that Congress, the press and public may refuse belief in any further investigation arranged by the Defense Department, although we know of no evidence that the Air Force was aware of the negative proposals.

We respectfully suggest, Mr. President, that the void resulting from the Colorado fiasco be filled as soon as possible by the creation of a commission of carefully selected scientists, selected by you but completely independent of any military or civilian agency of the Government. From reactions to the Colorado situation, stated to us by NICAP advisers and outside scientists, we feel sure that scientists of high stature are available, with neither negative nor positive conclusions but convinced that the UFO situation is a problem serious enough to require total investigation.

We suggest that all major decisions of such a commission be by majority vote, that the chosen men be recognized authorities on astronomy, aerospace operations and planning, electronics, and other fields related to UFO investigations.

More detailed suggestions will be forwarded to you as soon as we study the opinions of our Board of Governors, advisers and outside scientists. Meantime, NICAP offers any such created commission its full cooperation, including our massive evidence, and the assistance of our field investigators.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Donald E. Keyhoe". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the left of the typed name.

Maj. Donald E. Keyhoe, USMC, Ret.  
Director of NICAP