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AR 160
Revised Jan 81

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE

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SUBJECT: INVESTIGATION OF FLYING SAUCERS- POLICY.

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AR 1
Revised Sep 77

OLD AIR
554/1/30 Pt 3

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AF	84	3508

Pt 1

2-2-84

FILE EXAMINED
DATE 6-8-84

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DATE 7-5-84

A 273
Revised Aug 79
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MEMORANDUM

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION: UNCLAS

Write or Print Clearly

From	File	Date	References
DEFAIR	AFS54/1/30(32)	14 Jul 81	A. Telecon Sqn Ldr Jabornicky / Sqn Ldr Frame 14 Jul 81

To: HQEDN — Attention: OSO

For Information:

Subject: UAS REPORTING.

1. Enclosed are copies of the relevant Defair correspondence concerning UAS reporting. Current procedures are still in accordance with the 1974 letter. Basically the unit is responsible for obtaining as much information as possible as per the proforma enclosed. Defair are responsible for maintaining a record of reports only - very little investigation can be done at this level.

2. My good friend Flt Lt [illegible] in DAFIS informs me that at Edinburgh the UAS office has, at least in the past been allocated as a secondary duty within one of the Squadrons. I suggest you check it out. Additionally the HQAC Intelligence officer advised that he is still receiving the satellite bulletins regularly so I suggest that the RAAF Intelligence check out where he have got to.

3. If any more queries my phone is 062-652435.

Enclosures: 1. Copy Defair 554/1/30(21) of 19 Aug 74
2. Copy Defair 554/1/30(1) of 8 JUN 72

Signature	Name	Rank	Appointment	Phone No
[signature]	I.S. GRAME	Sqn Ldr	DAFF-RO	2435

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION: UNCLAS

31

ASRP-AF 430/81

ARTICLE IN THE WEEKEND AUSTRALIAN 9-10 MAY
ON INVESTIGATION OF UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS
BY THE RAAF

FLO

A/ASPS (through DCAS) 26/5/81

For Information: DAFIS (E-4-27)

1. As discussed, in response to a question raised by the Secretary you sought comments on the validity of the above newspaper article dealing with the investigation by the RAAF of Unidentified Flying Objects (UFO).

2. I have ascertained from the Director of Air Force Intelligence and Security (DAFIS) that the RAAF currently investigates reports of UFO sightings within Australia. Such investigations are undertaken, as a secondary duty only by RAAF Formation Intelligence Officers (FIO) at the Base receiving the report.

3. The FIO is tasked with issuing a reporting form to any member of the public claiming an UFO sighting and, following its receipt, conduct a local investigation of the sighting. Local investigation includes the collection and analysis of relevant data on local meteorological conditions, star positions, satellite movements and civil/military aircraft movements. On average, each reported sighting requires approximately three hours investigation. In addition, further investigation may be considered necessary from time to time, and the person reporting an UFO sighting may be interviewed by the FIO.

FLO You may need to comment on this - we don't put out yearly summaries any more do we?

4. All completed UFO reports are forwarded to DAFIS where they are maintained on files and used by the Foreign Liaison Officer (FLO) to produce a yearly sighting summary. Little additional investigation is possible beyond that conducted at Base level. Between 100 and 150 UFO reports (referred to as Unusual Aerial Sightings or UAS by the RAAF) are received each year and, again, are dealt with by the FLO as one of his secondary duties.

5. Whilst it is therefore true to say from the foregoing that UFO investigations are a part-time occupation by fourteen RAAF Officers and one senior RAAF Intelligence Officer, it is a gross overstatement to suggest that 'a network of RAAF officers', costing thousands of dollars a year, is engaged in investigating UFO reports.



/6. Furthermore,

6. Furthermore, the article incorrectly alleges that additional expenditure is incurred by the RAAF in the investigation of UFO reports. There is no additional provision made in the Budget for this activity which, as stated previously, is undertaken as a duty of a secondary nature only by Permanent Air Force Officers already engaged in other duties. Notwithstanding this fact, the investigation of UFO reports does create an additional workload.

7. You may wish to note that the USAF program referred to in the article was the 'Project Blue Book' ~~of~~ 'Condon Report' which investigated UFO reports from 1953 to 1965 and concluded 'that nothing has come from our study of UFOs that has added to scientific knowledge.' Consequently the USAF withdrew from all investigations of UFO.

8. I am advised that the latter part of the newspaper article, beginning from the mention of the 1953 statement by the then Minister of Air, is a condensed version of a prepared RAAF public relations handout concerning UFOs.

(M.J. MURRAY)
ASRP-AF

25 May 81

FLO

It seems to me that the newspaper article basically supports our contention that we should not be doing this! Pabot we can use that fact!

27 may

(Air Force Office)

AF554/1/30 (34)

16 October 1981

See Distribution List

UAS INVESTIGATION - SPACE DEBRIS RE-ENTRY

1. As you are aware, the recent re-entry of a meteorite near Marble Bar at the same time as Cosmos 434 was due to re-enter, caused considerable confusion. The statement by the Perth Observatory that it was nuclear powered, created great, and unwanted, media interest.

2. A Department of Defence meeting last week discussed procedures for reporting of space vehicle re-entry. As you are aware, the two main sources of information on re-entries available at base level are the DSTO Sattellite Bulletin and the NASA Spacewarn Bulletin. These two sources do not, however, contain any classified information; this is held by JIO. Similarly, JIO have access to information concerning nuclear powered satellites and know well in advance of any likely re-entry of a nuclear powered satellite. Department of Defence SOPs for reporting of re-entries are now being revised, with JIO being tasked as the central agency for the decisions on satellite re-entry.

3. The RAAF UAS investigation/reporting chain is to remain unchanged. Investigating officers are, however, requested to refrain from putting a possible name to any suspected space debris re-entry, as often the exact debris cannot be identified from unclassified records. Investigating officers are to classify the reports as 'probable space debris' or 'probable meteorite' as applicable. (Space debris usually has an orange/red tail while a meteorite often has a blue/green fringed 'tail'). Hopefully by not speculating upon the exact nature of the debris, undue media interest can be avoided.

(I.S. FRAME)
Squadron Leader
for Chief of Air Staff

WGOOR
DD-15
13/Apr 04

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For Information:

Headquarters Operational Command (SOINTEL)
Headquarters Support Command (SOINTEL)

[redacted]

Department of Defence

(AIR FORCE OFFICE)

MINUTE PAPER

FLO Stick with it! 33

Reference: 554/1/30 PT3(30)

Subject: INVESTIGATION OF UNUSUAL AERIAL SIGHTINGS (UAS)

DCAS (Through DGOPS-AF)

Yes We spoke. While I agree with you in principle, the practicalities suggest we will continue to bear the responsibility. Upon above, however, ensure that the impact of this chore does not unduly impede our normal business. DGOPS 25 AUG 81

1. My Directorate is charged with the responsibility for UAS investigation and reporting. It has been a contentious issue for many years with opinion varying from a questioning of the need for monitoring such sightings, to the organizational area most appropriately placed to deal with them. I understand that the RAAF has endeavoured to rid itself of the burden in the past, but has met with resistance as to which other authority would be prepared to assume the task. A recent Ministerial enquiry has prompted me to once more take up the issue. This particular enquiry, from a Mr B. Wright - a regular enquirer - has involved one of my SQNLDRs in investigations for several days, and has involved other Services and the Dept of Transport.

2. I am of the opinion that in the present economic climate and RAAF manpower/workload limitations, the efforts expended, results obtained and administrative burden involved in providing a 'service' for the general public is difficult to justify. Wide publicity was given to the USAF 'Project Blue Book' study of UAS from 1953 to 1965 and to the subsequent suspension of investigations after the study, known as the Condon Report, concluded that no conclusive evidence of extraterrestial activity had been gained. The Condon Report conclusions and recommendations are attached as Enclosure 1.

3. Generally our dealings with UAS involve:

a. Well meaning civilians who genuinely report UAS;

b. UAS/UFO organizations, both in Australia and overseas, who seek a considerable amount of detailed information (often not readily available);

c. school children seeking material for projects;

d. 'semi-cranks' who are constant letter writers on the subject, often through ministerial channels; and

e. 'cranks' who are readily identifiable, and are treated as such.

4. A review of Australian reported sightings has revealed no further substantiation of UAS and has only served to validate the USAF 'Condon Report' conclusions. On average, each investigation requires three hours work; not only by Formation Intelligence Officers, but by other specialist branch personnel, eg, Meteorology, Navigation and Air Traffic Control. All these branches are significantly undermanned and UAS investigation, for no visible result, is an unwelcome burden.

WGCDR
DD-IS
13 Apr 04

[redacted]

[redacted]

6. The only advantage I see in retaining UAS investigation responsibilities are:

a. it allows a security oversight of unusual events which, on the odd occasion, may have some military implication;

b. it provides 'cover' if we wish to investigate some incident, not necessarily related, in more detail; and

c. it provides some minor PR advantages (questionable) to the RAAF.

7. I seek your views on whether the RAAF should continue to carry the responsibility for the investigation of UAS. It would be my recommendation that the RAAF cease routine UAS investigation and recording and adopt a policy of pursuing only those incidents which have a direct Defence interest. All reports deemed not to be Defence related should be diverted to responsible civilian organizations which maintain a continuing interest in the subject. For the RAAF to maintain even a reduced form of reporting and recording would require maintenance of the existing system, as each report would still require a degree of investigation and recording at Formation level along with a measure of recording at DEFAIR.

8. Submitted for your consideration.

(G.A. PERSKE)
GPCAPT
DAFIS

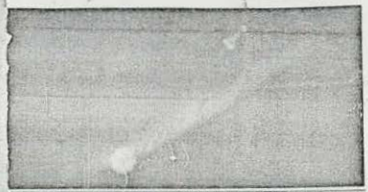
26 May 81

Enclosure: 1. The Condon Report Conclusions and Recommendations

[redacted]

ENCLOSURE 1 TO
AF 554-1-30 (30)
DATED 26 MAY 81

554-1-30 (27)



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On October 7, 1966 the United States Air Force commissioned the University of Colorado to make a scientific study of UFOs. Since then a group of the nation's leading scientists have conducted the most intensive investigation of this heatedly debated phenomenon in history. ****

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THE COMPLETE REPORT COMMISSIONED BY THE U.S. AIR FORCE

SCIENTIFIC STUDY OF UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS



CONDUCTED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO UNDER RESEARCH CONTRACT NUMBER F44620-67-C-0035 WITH THE U.S. AIR FORCE

DR. EDWARD U. CONDON

PROJECT DIRECTOR

WITH AN EXCLUSIVE INTRODUCTION BY

WALTER SULLIVAN

OF

The New York Times

OVER 75 PHOTOGRAPHS

Not HQSC suggest this may be a better format. (36)

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE

With the Compliments

of the

Operations Branch

Sir,

1 x UFO pro forma as discussed by phone

B Fairclough

HEADQUARTERS SUPPORT COMMAND
ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE
VICTORIA BARRACKS
MELBOURNE VIC 3004

U Report of Meetings of Scientific Advisory Panel on Unidentified Flying Objects (Robertson Panel), 14-18 January 1953.....905

V Natural Philosophy of Flying Saucers.....922

W Acknowledgments 934

X Editors and Authors, Staff of the Colorado Project 938

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Section I

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Edward U. Condon

We believe that the existing record and the results of the Scientific Study of Unidentified Flying Objects of the University of Colorado, which are presented in detail in subsequent sections of this report, support the conclusions and recommendations which follow.

As indicated by its title, the emphasis of this study has been on attempting to learn from UFO reports anything that could be considered as adding to scientific knowledge. Our general conclusion is that nothing has come from the study of UFOs in the past 21 years that has added to scientific knowledge. Careful consideration of the record as it is available to us leads us to conclude that further extensive study of UFOs probably cannot be justified in the expectation that science will be advanced thereby.

It has been argued that this lack of contribution to science is due to the fact that very little scientific effort has been put on the subject. We do not agree. We feel that the reason that there has been very little scientific study of the subject is that those scientists who are most directly concerned, astronomers, atmospheric physicists, chemists, and psychologists, having had ample opportunity to look into the matter, have individually decided that UFO phenomena do not offer a fruitful field in which to look for major scientific discoveries.

This conclusion is so important, and the public seems in general to have so little understanding of how scientists work, that some more comment on it seems desirable. Each person who sets out to make a career of scientific research, chooses a general field of broad specialization in which to acquire proficiency. Within that field he looks for specific fields in which to work. To do this he keeps abreast of the published scientific literature, attends scientific meetings, where reports on current progress are given, and energetically discusses his interests and those of his colleagues both face-to-face and by correspondence with them. He is motivated by an active curiosity about nature and by a personal desire to make a contribution to science. He is constantly probing for error and incompleteness in the efforts that have been made in his fields of interest, and

looking for new ideas about new ways to attack new problems. From this effort he arrives at personal decisions as to where his own effort can be most fruitful. These decisions are personal in the sense that he must estimate his own intellectual limitations, and the limitations inherent in the working situation in which he finds himself, including limits on the support of his work, or his involvement with other pre-existing scientific commitments. While individual errors of judgment may arise, it is generally not true that all of the scientists who are actively cultivating a given field of science are wrong for very long.

Even conceding that the entire body of "official" science might be in error for a time, we believe that there is no better way to correct error than to give free reign to the ideas of individual scientists to make decisions as to the directions in which scientific progress is most likely to be made. For legal work sensible people seek an attorney, and for medical treatment sensible people seek a qualified physician. The nation's surest guarantee of scientific excellence is to leave the decision-making process to the individual and collective judgment of its scientists.

Scientists are no respecters of authority. Our conclusion that study of UFO reports is not likely to advance science will not be uncritically accepted by them. Nor should it be, nor do we wish it to be. For scientists, it is our hope that the detailed analytical presentation of what we were able to do, and of what we were unable to do, will assist them in deciding whether or not they agree with our conclusions. Our hope is that the details of this report will help other scientists in seeing what the problems are and the difficulties of coping with them.

If they agree with our conclusions, they will turn their valuable attention and talents elsewhere. If they disagree it will be because our report has helped them reach a clear picture of wherein existing studies are faulty or incomplete and thereby will have stimulated ideas for more accurate studies. If they do get such ideas and can formulate them clearly, we have no doubt that support will be forthcoming to carry on with such clearly-defined, specific studies. We think that such ideas for work should be supported.

Some readers may think that we have now wandered into a contradiction. Earlier we said that we do not think study of UFO reports is likely to be a fruitful direction of scientific advance; now we have just said that persons with good ideas for specific studies in this field should be supported. This is no contradiction. Although we conclude after nearly two years of intensive study, that we do not see any fruitful lines of advance from the study of UFO reports, we believe that any scientist with adequate training and credentials who does come up with a clearly defined, specific proposal for study should be supported.

What we are saying here was said in a more general context nearly a century ago by William Kingdon Clifford, a great English mathematical physicist. In his "Aims and Instruments of Scientific Thought" he expressed himself this way:

> Remember, then, that [scientific thought] is the guide of action; that the truth which it arrives at is not that which we can ideally contemplate without error, but that which we may act upon without fear; and you cannot fail to see that scientific thought is not an accompaniment or condition of human progress, but human progress itself.

Just as individual scientists may make errors of judgment about fruitful directions for scientific effort, so also any individual administrator or committee which is charged with deciding on financial support for research proposals may also make an error of judgment. This possibility is minimized by the existence of parallel channels, for consideration by more than one group, of proposals for research projects. In the period since 1945, the federal government has evolved flexible and effective machinery for giving careful consideration to proposals from properly qualified scientists. What to some may seem like duplicated machinery actually acts as a safeguard against errors being made by some single official body. Even so, some errors could be made but the hazard is reduced nearly to zero.

Therefore we think that all of the agencies of the federal government, and the private foundations as well, ought to be willing to consider UFO research proposals along with the others submitted to them on an open-minded, unprejudiced basis. While we do not think at present that anything worthwhile is likely to come of such research each individual case ought to be carefully considered on its own merits.

This formulation carries with it the corollary that we do not think that at this time the federal government ought to set up a major new agency, as some have suggested, for the scientific study of UFOs. This conclusion may not be true for all time. If, by the progress of research based on new ideas in this field, it then appears worthwhile to create such an agency, the decision to do so may be taken at that time.

We find that there are important areas of atmospheric optics, including radio wave propagation, and of atmospheric electricity in which present knowledge is quite incomplete. These topics came to our attention in connection with the interpretation of some UFO reports, but they are also of fundamental scientific interest, and they are relevant to practical problems related to the improvement of safety of military and civilian flying.

Research efforts are being carried out in these areas by the Department of Defense, the Environmental Science Services Administration, the National Aeronautics and Space Admin-

istration, and by universities and nonprofit research organizations such as the National Center for Atmospheric Research, whose work is sponsored by the National Science Foundation. We commend these efforts. By no means should our lack of enthusiasm for study of UFO reports as such be misconstrued as a recommendation that these important related fields of scientific work not be adequately supported in the future. In an era of major development of air travel, of space exploration, and of military aerospace activities, everything possible should be done to improve our basic understanding of all atmospheric phenomena, and to improve the training of astronauts and aircraft pilots in the recognition and understanding of such phenomena.

As the reader of this report will readily judge, we have focussed attention almost entirely on the physical sciences. This was in part a matter of determining priorities and in part because we found rather less than some persons may have expected in the way of psychiatric problems related to belief in the reality of UFOs as craft from remote galactic or intergalactic civilizations. We believe that the rigorous study of the beliefs—unsupported by valid evidence—held by individuals and even by some groups might prove of scientific value to the social and behavioral sciences. There is no implication here that individual or group psychopathology is a principal area of study. Reports of UFOs offer interesting challenges to the student of cognitive processes as they are affected by individual and social variables. By this connection, we conclude that a content-analysis of press and television coverage of UFO reports might yield data of value both to the social scientist and the communications specialist. The lack of such a study in the present report is due to a judgment on our part that other areas of investigation were of much higher priority. We do not suggest, however, that the UFO phenomenon is, by its nature, more amenable to study in these disciplines than in the physical sciences. On the contrary, we conclude that the same specificity in proposed research in these areas is as desirable as it is in the physical sciences.

The question remains as to what, if anything, the federal government should do about the UFO reports it receives from the general public. We are inclined to think that nothing should be done with them in the expectation that they are going to contribute to the advance of science.

This question is inseparable from the question of the national defense interest of these reports. The history of the past 21 years has repeatedly led Air Force officers to the conclusion that none of the things seen, or thought to have been seen, which pass by the name of UFO reports, constituted any hazard or threat to national security.

We felt that it was out of our province to attempt an independent evaluation of this conclusion. We adopted the attitude

that, without attempting to assume the defense responsibility which is that of the Air Force, if we came across any evidence whatever that seemed to us to indicate a defense hazard we would call it to the attention of the Air Force at once. We did not find any such evidence. We know of no reason to question the finding of the Air Force that the whole class of UFO reports so far considered does not pose a defense problem.

At the same time, however, the basis for reaching an opinion of this kind is that such reports have been given attention, one by one, as they are received. Had no attention whatever been given to any of them, we would not be in a position to feel confident of this conclusion. Therefore it seems that only so much attention to the subject should be given as the Department of Defense deems to be necessary strictly from a defense point of view. The level of effort should not be raised because of arguments that the subject has scientific importance, so far as present indications go.

It is our impression that the defense function could be performed within the framework established for intelligence and surveillance operations without the continuance of a special unit such as Project Blue Book, but this is a question for defense specialists rather than research scientists.

It has been contended that the subject has been shrouded in official secrecy. We conclude otherwise. We have no evidence of secrecy concerning UFO reports. What has been miscalled secrecy has been no more than an intelligent policy of delay in releasing data so that the public does not become confused by premature publication of incomplete studies of reports.

The subject of UFOs has been widely misrepresented to the public by a small number of individuals who have given sensationalized presentations in writings and public lectures. So far as we can judge, not many people have been misled by such irresponsible behavior, but whatever effect there has been has been bad.

A related problem to which we wish to direct public attention is the miseducation in our schools which arises from the fact that many children are being allowed, if not actively encouraged, to devote their science study time to the reading of UFO books and magazine articles of the type referred to in the preceding paragraph. We feel that children are educationally harmed by absorbing unsound and erroneous material as if it were scientifically well founded. Such study is harmful not merely because of the erroneous nature of the material itself, but also because such study retards the development of a critical faculty with regard to scientific evidence, which to some degree ought to be part of the education of every American.

Therefore we strongly recommend that teachers refrain from giving students credit for school work based on their reading of the presently available UFO books and magazine articles. Teachers who find their students strongly motivated in this

direction should attempt to channel their interests in the direction of serious study of astronomy and meteorology, and in the direction of critical analysis of arguments for fantastic propositions that are being supported by appeals to fallacious reasoning or false data.

We hope that the results of our study will prove useful to scientists and those responsible for the formation of public policy generally in dealing with this problem which has now been with us for 21 years.

Section II

SUMMARY OF THE STUDY

Edward U. Condon

1. Origin of the Colorado Project

The decision to establish this project for the Scientific Study of Unidentified Flying Objects stems from recommendations in a report dated March 1966 of an Ad Hoc Committee of the Air Force Scientific Advisory Board set up under the chairmanship of Dr. Brian O'Brien to review the work of Project Blue Book. Details of the history of work on UFOs are set forth in Section V, Chapter 2. (See also Appendix A.)

The recommendation was:

> It is the opinion of the Committee that the present Air Force program dealing with UFO sightings has been well organized, although the resources assigned to it (only one officer, a sergeant, and a secretary) have been quite limited. In 19 years and more than 10,000 sightings recorded and classified, there appears to be no verified and fully satisfactory evidence of any case that is clearly outside the framework of presently known science and technology. Nevertheless, there is always the possibility that analysis of new sightings may provide some additions to scientific knowledge of value to the Air Force. Moreover, some of the case records at which the Committee looked that were listed as 'identified' were sightings where the evidence collected was too meager or too indefinite to permit positive listing in the identified category. Because of this the Committee recommends that the present program be strengthened to provide opportunity for scientific investigation of selected sightings in more detail than has been possible to date.
>
> To accomplish this it is recommended that:
>
> A. Contracts be negotiated with a few selected universities to provide scientific teams to investigate promptly and in depth certain selected sightings of UFO's. Each team should include at least one psychologist, preferably one interested in clinical psychology, and at least one physical scientist, preferably an astronomer or geophysicist familiar with atmospheric physics. The universities should be chosen to provide good geographical distribution, and should be within convenient distance of a base of the Air Force Systems Command (AFSC).
>
> B. At each AFSC base an officer skilled in investigation (but not necessarily with scientific training) should be desig-

[redacted]

(AIR FORCE OFFICE)

554/1/30 PT3(30)

INVESTIGATION OF UNUSUAL AERIAL SIGHTINGS (UAS)

DCAS (Through DGOPS-AF)

1. My Directorate is charged with the responsibility for UAS investigation and reporting. It has been a contentious issue for many years with opinion varying from a questioning of the need for monitoring such sightings, to the organizational area most appropriately placed to deal with them. I understand that the RAAF has endeavoured to rid itself of the burden in the past, but has met with resistance as to which other authority would be prepared to assume the task. A recent Ministerial enquiry has prompted me to once more take up the issue. This particular enquiry, from a Mr B. Wright - a regular enquirer - has involved one of my SQNLDRs in investigations for several days, and has involved other Services and the Dept of Transport.

2. I am of the opinion that in the present economic climate and RAAF manpower/workload limitations, the efforts expended, results obtained and administrative burden involved in providing a 'service' for the general public is difficult to justify. Wide publicity was given to the USAF 'Project Blue Book' study of UAS from 1953 to 1965 and to the subsequent suspension of investigations after the study, known as the Condon Report, concluded that no conclusive evidence of extraterrestial activity had been gained. The Condon Report conclusions and recommendations are attached as Enclosure 1.

3. Generally our dealings with UAS involve:

a. Well meaning civilians who genuinely report UAS;

b. UAS/UFO organizations, both in Australia and overseas, who seek a considerable amount of detailed information (often not readily available);

c. school children seeking material for projects;

d. 'semi-cranks' who are constant letter writers on the subject, often through ministerial channels; and

e. 'cranks' who are readily identifiable, and are treated as such.

4. A review of Australian reported sightings has revealed no further substantiation of UAS and has only served to validate the USAF 'Condon Report' conclusions. On average, each investigation requires three hours work; not only by Formation Intelligence Officers, but by other specialist branch personnel, eg, Meteorology, Navigation and Air Traffic Control. All these branches are significantly undermanned and UAS investigation, for no visible result, is an unwelcome burden.

[redacted]

6. The only advantage I see in retaining UAS investigation responsibilities are:

a. it allows a security oversight of unusual events which, on the odd occasion, may have some military implication;

b. it provides 'cover' if we wish to investigate some incident, not necessarily related, in more detail; and

c. it provides some minor PR advantages (questionable) to the RAAF.

7. I seek your views on whether the RAAF should continue to carry the responsibility for the investigation of UAS. It would be my recommendation that the RAAF cease routine UAS investigation and recording and adopt a policy of pursuing only those incidents which have a direct Defence interest. All reports deemed not to be Defence related should be diverted to responsible civilian organizations which maintain a continuing interest in the subject. For the RAAF to maintain even a reduced form of reporting and recording would require maintenance of the existing system, as each report would still require a degree of investigation and recording at Formation level along with a measure of recording at DEFAIR.

8. Submitted for your consideration.

(G.A. PERSKE)
GPCAPT
DAFIS

26 May 81

Enclosure: 1. The Condon Report Conclusions and Recommendations

ENCLOSURE 2 TO
AFSS4/1/30(30)21
DATED

Department of Defence
(Air Office)
xxxxxxxxxxxxxx

19 AUG '74

554/1/30 Pt 3(21)

Headquarters Operational Command
Headquarters Support Command

UNUSUAL AERIAL SIGHTINGS
INVESTIGATION AND RELATED ASPECTS

Reference: A. DEPAIR 554/1/30(1) dated 9th June 1972 — Attached.

1. Policy relating to investigation of unusual aerial sightings is at Reference A. Paragraphs 1-5 remain valid, paragraphs 6 and 7 are replaced by the following:

'6. Local investigating officers may reply to reports, either orally or in writing, providing they are completely satisfied that their investigation has determined the most probable cause of the sighting. When reports are dealt with locally, a copy of the report and reply is to be forwarded to the Directorate of Air Force Intelligence and parent Command Headquarters for record purposes. If any doubt exists regarding the cause of the sighting, or if the observer is not satisfied with the investigating officer's explanation, the report is to be forwarded to the Directorate of Air Force Intelligence for further investigation and reply.

7. Commands and Formations are authorized to release to the public copies of Annex B (issued with this letter) and summaries of unusual aerial sightings when it is considered appropriate. This will not be so in all cases; explanation of a particular local incident may satisfy the majority of persons making reports.'

2. The annexes enclosed with this letter replace Annexes A and B of Reference A. Annex C to Reference A is superseded by more current summaries.

3. Requests for speakers at symposiums, conferences, club meetings etc are to be forwarded to the Director of Air Force Intelligence for approval. In the event that official representation is sanctioned the text at Annex C to this letter is suggested as a guideline. The Directorate of Air Force Intelligence will periodically issue new summaries and revised suggested texts for lectures.

/4. Investigating

4. Investigating officers occasionally apply the security classification 'Restricted' to unusual aerial sighting reports. All correspondence relating to unusual aerial sightings is to be unclassified unless the content warrants higher classification under the provisions of AAI810 (March 1974 issue) Chapter 6.

(R. H. JANSON)
Group Captain
for Chief of the Air Staff

Annexes: A. Report of Unusual Aerial Sighting pro-forma

B. Information pro-forma

C. Text of Lecture on the Investigation of Unusual Aerial Sightings in Australia

ANNEX A TO
554/1/30 Pt 3(21)
CF 16th AUGUST 1974

REPORT OF UNUSUAL AERIAL SIGHTING

Part 1 - Report by Observer

1. Name of observer _____ Age ____

Address _____

_____ State ____ Post Code ____

Occupation _____

Telephone No. (home) _____ (business) _____

2. a. Exact location of observer _____

_____

b. Observer's familiarity with the location _____

3. Start of observation: Date _____ Time _____ am/pm

End of observation : Date _____ Time _____ am/pm

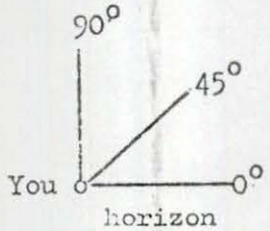
4. Accuracy of date _____ Times _____

5. General weather conditions of time of observation, referring to cloud, wind, visibility etc. _____

_____

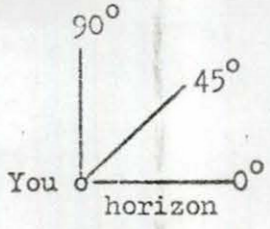
6. a. In what direction was the sighting first observed? _____

b. At what angle to the horizon?



7. a. In what direction was the sighting last observed? _____

b. At what angle to the horizon?



8. Estimate of distance and/or altitude from observer _____

_____

9. How were the answers to questions 6, 7 and 8 assessed, and were aids or equipment used during the sighting? _____

_____

/10. Describe

ANNEX A

10. Describe the object(s)/light(s) as follows:

a. number _____

b. colour _____

c. size _____

d. shape _____

e. brightness (relative to full moon/star) _____

f. movement/direction of travel _____

_____

g. sound _____

h. speed _____

i. method of propulsion _____

j. manner of disappearance _____

11. a. Narrative description of the sighting and any unusual features or additional comments _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

/b. Diagram or sketch

ANNEX A

b. Diagram or sketch of sighting (if possible)

12. Have you any photographs of the sighting, or is there any physical evidence of fragments, scorching or ground indentations? _____

_____

_____

13. How many other witnesses were there to the sighting?
(Please provide names and addresses if possible)

_____

_____

_____

14. Have you previously made any reports to official authorities or UFO organizations regarding unusual aerial sightings? If so, give brief details of dates and circumstances. _____

_____

_____

Date _____ Signature _____

Part 2 - Unit Report ANNEX A

1. a. Details of military aircraft activity in the area at the time of the sighting.

Type	Heading	Height	Speed	Departed From	ATD	Destination	ATA

Source of information _____

b. Details of civil aircraft activity, including light private aircraft and international flights, in the area at the time of the sighting.

Type	Heading	Height	Speed	Departed From	ATD	Destination	ATA

Source of Information _____

2. Positions of any planets or major stars relevant to the sighting.

Celestial Body	Magnitude	Bearing	Elevation	Time

Source of information _____

3. a. Sunrise _____ Sunset _____ (where

b. Moonrise _____ Moonset _____ applicable)

/4. Details

ANNEX A

4. Details of any predicted satellites in the area at the time of the sighting.

Satellite	Azimuth	Elevation	Heading	Time

Source of information _____

5. Details of any meteorological, research or radar balloons known to have been in the area at the time of the sighting (refer to point of release, size, colour, rate of climb and whether it was known to have burst).

_____

_____

Source of information _____

6. Details of any unusual radar traces or images, which may relate to the sighting, as recorded by military or civil networks _____

_____

_____

Source of information _____

7. Provide the following information relating to the weather and atmospheric conditions at the time of the sighting:

Temperature (dry bulb) _____ °C (dew point) _____ °C Relative Humidity _____ %

Cloud cover _____ type _____

Temperature inversion of _____ °C at _____ ft measured at _____ hrs from _____

Wind direction _____ at _____ ft

_____ at _____ ft

_____ at _____ ft

_____ at _____ ft

Pollution level _____ (if available)

Details of terrain and natural and/or man-made features in the area. Attache map with significant points marked, if possible)_____

_____

_____

_____

ANNEX A

Part 3 - Investigating Officer's Evaluation

1. a. Date of interview _____

   b. Place of interview _____

2. Names and addresses of persons interviewed (include phone numbers where applicable).

   1. _____ 2. _____

   _____ _____

   _____ _____

   _____ _____

3. Narrative evaluation of personalities of witnesses (include any relationship with UFO organizations and their interest in subject matter).

4. Investigating officer's evaluation of possible cause(s).

_____(Unit) _____(Name)

_____(Date) _____(Rank)

ANNEX B TO
554/1/30 Pt 3(21)
of 19th AUGUST 1974

The investigation of reports of unusual aerial sightings in Australia is carried out by the Royal Australian Air Force. Preliminary investigation of the reports is conducted at the nearest Royal Australian Air Force base. The reports are then forwarded to the Department of Defence (Air Office) where an investigating team completes the investigation.

Between January 1960 and December 1973 815 sightings were reported to the Royal Australian Air Force. 90 per cent of the sightings were attributed to causes which included aircraft, satellites, meteors, space debris re-entry, meteorological balloons, stars and planets. Seven per cent of reports were either received too late or did not provide sufficient information to permit proper analysis and evaluation. Three per cent of reports were attributed to unknown causes.

The United Kingdom Air Ministry has stated that on an average, 90 per cent of the sightings it investigates are explainable by causes ranging from meteorological balloons and meteors to aircraft lights. The other 10 per cent probably remain unexplained because of lack of reliable information.

The University of Colorado, under contract to the USAF, spent two years processing and investigating all American reports. The findings were published in 1968, by Bantam Books, as the 'Condon Report'. The general conclusion was that 'nothing has come from the study of UFOs in the past 21 years that has added to scientific knowledge' and that 'further extensive study of UFOs probably cannot be justified in the expectation that science will be advanced thereby'. A panel of eminent scientists, chosen by the US National Academy of Sciences, has examined and endorsed the Condon Report.

The USAF 'Project Blue Book' investigation of unidentified aerial objects between 1953 and 1965 analysed 7,641 UFO reports. The conclusions were:

a. 80 per cent of sightings were natural phenomena, hoaxes, birds or man-made objects;

b. 17 per cent of sightings provided insufficient data to permit thorough analysis and evaluation; and

c. three per cent were unidentified.

United States and Soviet space exploration has found no evidence to support the theory of life on planets in our solar system. The Mariner series of space exploration to Mars appears to have proved it a 'dead' planet. The only other source of extra-terrestrial life, therefore, would have to be in another solar system. The nearest visible star to Earth is Alpha Centauri which is about 25 million million miles away. Even if life forms existed there and were capable of space travel at speeds currently known to man ie about 25,000 mph they would take about 115,000 years to reach Earth. Consequently, the probability of extra-terrestrial life forms visiting Earth is extremely remote.

Enclosed are five summaries of unusual aerial sightings for the period January 1960 to December 1973.

ANNEX C TO
554/1/30 Pt 3(21)
OF 7 AUGUST 19

TEXT FOR LECTURES ON THE INVESTIGATION OF UNUSUAL AERIAL SIGHTINGS IN AUSTRALIA

IN AUSTRALIA, THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE INVESTIGATION OF UNUSUAL AERIAL SIGHTING REPORTS. THIS RESPONSIBILITY WAS VESTED IN THE AIR FORCE IN THE EARLY 1950S WHEN THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT, IN COMMON WITH THE UNITED KINGDOM AND UNITED STATES GOVERNMENTS, WAS CONCERNED THAT 'UFOS' MIGHT HAVE POSED A THREAT TO NATIONAL SECURITY. FOLLOWING SEVERAL YEARS INVESTIGATION OF SIGHTING REPORTS IN AUSTRALIA, THE HONORABLE F.M. OSBORNE, THEN MINISTER FOR AIR, MADE A STATEMENT TO THE AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENT IN CANBERRA ON 20TH OCTOBER 1960 SUMMARIZING THE POSITION. HE CONCLUDED HIS STATEMENT BY SAYING 'NOTHING THAT HAS ARISEN FROM THAT THREE OR FOUR PER CENT OF UNEXPLAINED CASES GIVES ANY FIRM SUPPORT FOR THE BELIEF THAT INTERLOPERS FROM OTHER PLACES IN THIS WORLD OR OUTSIDE IT HAVE BEEN VISITING US'.

IN THE UNITED STATES, THE UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO, UNDER CONTRACT TO THE USAF, SPENT TWO YEARS PROCESSING AND INVESTIGATING ALL AMERICAN REPORTS. THE FINDINGS WERE PUBLISHED IN 1968 BY BANTAM BOOKS AS THE 'CONDON REPORT'. THE GENERAL CONCLUSION WAS THAT 'NOTHING HAS COME FROM THE STUDY OF UFOS IN THE PAST 21 YEARS THAT HAS ADDED TO SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE' AND THAT 'FURTHER EXTENSIVE STUDY OF UFOS PROBABLY CANNOT BE JUSTIFIED IN THE EXPECTATION THAT SCIENCE WILL BE ADVANCED THEREBY'.

WHILE THESE GENERAL CONCLUSIONS STILL HOLD TRUE TODAY, THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE CONTINUES TO INVESTIGATE REPORTS OF UNUSUAL AERIAL SIGHTINGS AS A SERVICE TO THE PUBLIC. IN ALMOST ALL REPORTED CASES PEOPLE HAVE SEEN SOMETHING AND ARE CONCERNED AS TO THE CAUSE. IN SOME CASES PEOPLE ARE GENUINELY ALARMED AT THE POSSIBILITY THAT THEIR EXPERIENCE MAY BE EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL IN ORIGIN. WE HOPE THAT THROUGH OUR INVESTIGATIONS ANY FEARS THAT PEOPLE MAY HAVE ABOUT 'UFOS' CAN BE ALLAYED. ALTHOUGH THE MAJORITY OF REPORTS CAN BE RESOLVED SATISFACTORILY WE DO BELIEVE THAT THERE WILL ALWAYS BE A SMALL PERCENTAGE THAT WILL REMAIN UNRESOLVED PROBABLY BECAUSE OF INSUFFICIENT INFORMATION BEING SUPPLIED, LATE RECEIPT OF THE REPORT OR CURRENT SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE BEING INSUFFICIENT TO PROVIDE A DEFINITE EXPLANATION.

/BEFORE

ANNEX C

BEFORE GOING INTO RAAF INVESTIGATION PROCEDURES, IT IS PERHAPS RELEVANT TO CLARIFY THE TERMS 'UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT' OR 'UFO' AND 'UNUSUAL AERIAL SIGHTING'. UNFORTUNATELY THE TERM 'UFO', BECAUSE OF ITS WIDESPREAD AND INDISCRIMINATE USE IS GENERALLY REGARDED AS JUST ANOTHER WORD FOR 'FLYING SAUCER'. THIS IS A RATHER IRONIC SITUATION SINCE THE TERM WAS ORIGINALLY INTRODUCED TO COMBAT SUCH AN EVENTUALITY, AND SO OVERCOME THE TENDENCY TO HAPHAZARDLY PROMOTE ALL UNUSUAL SIGHTINGS TO THE SPECTACULAR CATEGORY OF 'FLYING SAUCER'.

THE TERM 'UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT' IS SOMEWHAT OF A MISNOMER FOR THREE REASONS. FIRSTLY, MANY SIGHTINGS ARE NOT OF MATERIAL OBJECTS. FREAK WEATHER CONDITIONS, ELECTRICAL STORMS AND UNUSUAL LIGHT CONDITIONS CAN GIVE RISE TO MISLEADING IMPRESSIONS, ESPECIALLY TO THE UNTRAINED EYE. SECONDLY, EXCEPT IN SIGHTINGS OF AIRCRAFT, THE PROCESS OF FLYING IS RARELY INVOLVED. MANY SIGHTINGS ARE OF STARS AND PLANETS, OR OF SPACE DEBRIS, OR METEORS, NOT UNDER CONTROL AND THEREFORE NOT FLYING, ENTERING THE EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE. FINALLY, THE WORD 'UNIDENTIFIED' CAN BE CHALLENGED ON THE GROUNDS THAT THE CLASSIFICATION IS A PURELY TENTATIVE ONE, SINCE INFORMATION NOT AVAILABLE TO THE OBSERVER GENERALLY PROVIDES AN ADEQUATE IDENTIFICATION OF THE SIGHTING. OUR EXPERIENCE IS THAT ABOUT 90 PER CENT OF ALL WELL-REPORTED SIGHTINGS CAN BE IDENTIFIED SATISFACTORILY.

CONSEQUENTLY, THE TERM 'UNUSUAL AERIAL SIGHTING' IS USED AS IT IS A MORE ACCURATE DEFINITION OF THE OCCURRENCE.

MOVING ON NOW TO REPORTS OF UNUSUAL AERIAL SIGHTINGS IN AUSTRALIA. REPORTS ARE MADE INITIALLY TO THE NEAREST AIR FORCE BASE. AT THE BASE THE INTELLIGENCE OFFICER OR OTHER SUITABLY QUALIFIED OFFICER CONDUCTS THE PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION. HE CONTACTS THE OBSERVER PERSONALLY OR IN WRITING TO OBTAIN A COMPLETED 'REPORT OF UNUSUAL AERIAL SIGHTING' PRO-FORMA. THIS PRO-FORMA IS DESIGNED TO EXTRACT ALL THE INFORMATION RELEVANT TO THE SIGHTING AND THE PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION IS CONDUCTED BASED ON THIS INFORMATION. THE INVESTIGATING OFFICER'S REPORT, WHICH CONTAINS DETAILS OF CIVIL AND MILITARY

/AIRCRAFT

AIRCRAFT MOVEMENTS, STAR AND PLANET POSITIONS, KNOWN SATELLITE PASSES, METEOROLOGICAL BALLOON RELEASES AND PREVAILING WEATHER CONDITIONS, AND HIS ASSESSMENT OF THE PROBABLE CAUSE IS THEN FORWARDED TO THE DIRECTORATE OF AIR FORCE INTELLIGENCE AT THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE (AIR OFFICE) IN CANBERRA WHERE THE INVESTIGATION IS COMPLETED AND A REPLY SENT TO THE OBSERVER. WHERE NECESSARY ADVICE AND INFORMATION IS SOUGHT FROM SPECIALIST AGENCIES SUCH AS WRE, CSIRO, DEFENCE STANDARDS LABORATORIES, OBSERVATORIES AND UNIVERSITIES.

BETWEEN JANUARY 1960 AND DECEMBER 1973 815 REPORTS WERE RECEIVED. 90 PER CENT OF THE REPORTS WERE ATTRIBUTED TO CAUSES INCLUDING AIRCRAFT, SATELLITES, SPACE DEBRIS, BALLOONS, METEORS, STARS AND PLANETS. SEVEN PER CENT DID NOT PROVIDE SUFFICIENT INFORMATION TO PERMIT PROPER ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION AND THREE PER CENT WERE ATTRIBUTED TO UNKNOWN CAUSES. WE ENCOUNTER VERY FEW DELIBERATE HOAXES.

INVESTIGATIONS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND UNITED STATES HAVE PRODUCED SIMILAR FINDINGS TO OUR OWN. THE UNITED KINGDOM AIR MINISTRY HAS STATED THAT ON AN AVERAGE 90 PER CENT OF THE SIGHTINGS IT INVESTIGATES ARE EXPLAINABLE BY CAUSES RANGING FROM METEOROLOGICAL BALLOONS AND METEORS TO AIRCRAFT LIGHTS. THE OTHER 10 PER CENT PROBABLY REMAIN UNEXPLAINED BECAUSE OF A LACK OF RELIABLE INFORMATION.

THE USAF 'PROJECT BLUE BOOK' INVESTIGATION OF UNIDENTIFIED AERIAL OBJECTS BETWEEN 1953 AND 1965 ANALYZED 7641 REPORTS. THE CONCLUSION WAS THAT:

a. 80 PER CENT OF SIGHTINGS WERE NATURAL PHENOMENA, HOAXES, BIRDS OR MAN-MADE OBJECTS;

b. 17 PER CENT PROVIDED INSUFFICIENT DATA TO PERMIT THOROUGH ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION; AND

c. THREE PER CENT WERE UNIDENTIFIED.

/WITH THE

ANNEX C

WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE PERIOD 1970/71, THERE HAS BEEN A STEADY INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF UNUSUAL AERIAL SIGHTINGS REPORTED IN AUSTRALIA, TO THE POINT WHERE ALMOST ONE QUARTER OF ALL SIGHTINGS BETWEEN 1960 AND 1973 WERE REPORTED LAST YEAR. THERE IS NO DEFINITE EXPLANATION FOR THIS INCREASE EXCEPT THAT:

a. THE SUBJECT OF 'UFOS' HAS BEEN GIVEN A LOT OF PUBLICITY IN ALL FORMS OF THE MEDIA;

b. TV AND CINEMA VERSIONS OF THE BOOK 'CHARIOTS OF THE GODS' HAVE GENERATED PUBLIC INTEREST IN THE SUBJECT; AND

c. THERE IS AN EVER INCREASING NUMBER OF SATELLITES IN EARTH ORBIT AND SPACE EXPLORATION IS EXTENDING FURTHER INTO THE OUTER REACHES OF OUR SOLAR SYSTEM.

LET US NOW LOOK AT SOME OF THE MAIN CAUSES OF UNUSUAL AERIAL SIGHTINGS AND WHY PEOPLE REPORT THEM AS SUCH.

FIRSTLY SPACE DEBRIS. FIGURES PUBLISHED IN JULY THIS YEAR SHOW THAT SINCE 1957 7353 MAN-MADE OBJECTS HAVE BEEN LAUNCHED INTO SPACE. OF THESE 3204 WERE STILL IN SPACE ON 30 JUNE. THESE OBJECTS PERIODICALLY DECAY AND BURN-UP DURING RE-ENTRY INTO THE EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE. ONE WELL REPORTED CASE INVOLVED 12 SEPARATE SIGHTINGS, FROM PLACES AS WIDESPREAD AS DERBY AND KALGOORLIE IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA, OF A LARGE FIERY OBJECT WITH A GLOWING TAIL. WE WERE ABLE TO CONFIRM THAT THE OBJECT WAS IN FACT A SPACE VEHICLE DESIGNATED 1973-024B WHICH WAS THE BOOSTER ROCKET ASSOCIATED WITH LAUNCHING OF A RUSSIAN SATELLITE COSMOS 555 (DESIGNATED 1973 - 024A). THIS OBJECT MEASURED APPROXIMATELY 40 METRES IN LENGTH AND WOULD HAVE GENERATED TREMENDOUS HEAT AND DISINTEGRATED DURING RE-ENTRY. THE NUMBER OF REPORTS RECEIVED PROBABLY REPRESENTS ONLY A FRACTION OF THE ACTUAL NUMBER OF WITNESSES TO THIS SIGHTING BUT IS SUFFICIENT TO INDICATE THAT QUITE A NUMBER OF PEOPLE WERE ALARMED AT AN INCIDENT STRANGE TO THEM YET READILY EXPLAINABLE WHEN ALL THE INFORMATION HAD BEEN EVALUATED. THIS PARTICULAR SIGHTING IS A PRIME EXAMPLE OF SPECIALIST AGENCIES PROVIDING A SOLUTION. WRE

/WERE CONTACTED

WERE CONTACTED INITIALLY BUT WERE UNABLE TO CONFIRM SPACE DEBRIS RE-ENTRY AT THE TIME OF THE SIGHTING. THEY IMMEDIATELY TELEGRAMMED THE GODDARD SPACE FLIGHT CENTRE IN MARYLAND, USA WHO PROVIDED THE ANSWER IN LESS THAN 24 HOURS.

MOVING ON NOW TO AIRCRAFT OR MORE PARTICULARLY AIRCRAFT LIGHTING. IN ADDITION TO NORMAL EXTERNAL LIGHTING AIRCRAFT COMPANIES ARE NOW ILLUMINATING COMPANY MARKINGS FOR ADVERTISING PURPOSES, FITTING STROBE ANTI-COLLISION LIGHTS AND LANDING LIGHTS ARE BEING TURNED ON UP TO 100 MILES AWAY FROM THE AIRPORT. THE UNKNOWING GROUND OBSERVER WHEN FACED WITH THIS CONFUSING ARRAY OF LIGHTS HARDLY SURPRISINGLY REPORTS LONG CIGAR OR SAUCER-SHAPED OBJECTS WITH WEIRD FLASHING LIGHTS.

STARS AND PLANETS ARE ANOTHER CAUSE OF A GREAT MANY SIGHTING REPORTS. IN MANY OF THESE CASES PEOPLE ARE QUITE GENUINE IN THEIR BELIEF THAT THEY WOULD NOT MISTAKE SOMETHING AS WELL KNOWN AS VENUS OR EVEN A LESSER KNOWN STAR FOR WHAT THEY HAVE SEEN. THEY ARE PROBABLY NOT AWARE AT THE TIME, HOWEVER, OF THE STARTLING EFFECTS POLLUTION, TEMPERATURE INVERSIONS AND A PHENOMENON KNOWN AS ATMOSPHERIC SCINTILLATION CAN HAVE ON THESE LIGHT SOURCES. ANY ONE OF THESE CAN PRODUCE COLOUR CHANGES FROM RED AND YELLOW THROUGH TO BLUE AND GREEN AND CREATE THE IMPRESSION OF MOVEMENT. ATMOSPHERIC SCINTILLATION IN PARTICULAR, A PHENOMENON CAUSED BY VARYING ATMOSPHERIC DENSITY LAYERS, CAN PRODUCE RAPID FLUCTUATIONS IN BRIGHTNESS, POSITION AND COLOUR OF LIGHT SOURCES SUCH AS VENUS. EARLIER THIS YEAR YOU MAY RECALL THE MEDIA GAVE A LOT OF COVERAGE TO REPORTS OF TWO EXTREMELY BRIGHT LIGHTS CLOSE TOGETHER IN THE SKY. THE LIGHTS APPEARED TO RECEDE RAPIDLY AND SUDDENLY INCREASE IN BRIGHTNESS AND APPARENTLY PERFORMED STRANGE MANOEUVRES CREATING A VERY UNUSUAL AND PROBABLY QUITE ALARMING EFFECT. THESE LIGHTS WERE IN FACT NO MORE THAN THE PLANETS VENUS AND JUPITER SEEN THROUGH EITHER POLLUTION OR A TEMPERATURE INVERSION OR AFFECTED BY ATMOSPHERIC SCINTILLATION.

OF COURSE NOT ALL REPORTS RECEIVED ARE OF AN AERIAL NATURE. DURING THE PAST FEW YEARS A NUMBER OF REPORTS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED FROM QUEENSLAND,

/SOUTHAUSTRALIA

SOUTH AUSTRALIA AND VICTORIA OF STRANGE CIRCULAR MARKINGS IN THE GROUND. UNFORTUNATELY LITTLE PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN DETERMINING THE CAUSE OF THESE MARKINGS. THE REPORTS FROM QUEENSLAND AND SOUTH AUSTRALIA PARTICULARLY WERE WELL COVERED IN THE PRESS WHICH GAVE RISE TO SUGGESTIONS OF 'SAUCER NESTS'. WITH THIS TYPE OF PRESS COVERAGE OBJECTIVE INVESTIGATION WAS NOT POSSIBLE. THE REPORT FROM VICTORIA WAS RECEIVED LATE AND HEAVY RAINS HAD REMOVED ANY TRACE OF THESE MARKINGS. SEVERAL POSSIBILITIES HAVE BEEN CONSIDERED AS CAUSES AND THESE INCLUDE WILLY-WILLIES, FUNGUS, HELICOPTERS, AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY AND ANIMAL NESTS ALTHOUGH THERE IS NO CONCLUSIVE EVIDENCE THAT ANY ONE OF THESE WAS THE CAUSE. AT THE SAME TIME INVESTIGATIONS DID NOT DISCLOSE ANY EVIDENCE OF EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL RESIDUES OR RADIOACTIVITY.

FINALLY THE QUESTION TO BE ASKED IS 'WHAT IS THE PROBABILITY THAT UNUSUAL AERIAL SIGHTINGS ARE EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL IN ORIGIN?' WE WOULD BE UNWISE TO DISCOUNT COMPLETELY THE POSSIBILITY THAT LIFE FORMS EXIST ELSEWHERE. UNITED STATES AND SOVIET SPACE EXPLORATION, HOWEVER, HAS FOUND NO EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THE THEORY OF LIFE ON PLANETS IN OUR SOLAR SYSTEM. THE MARINER SERIES OF SPACE EXPLORATIONS APPEARS TO HAVE PROVED THAT MARS IS A 'DEAD' PLANET. THE ONLY OTHER SOURCE OF EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL LIFE, THEREFORE, WOULD HAVE TO BE IN ANOTHER SOLAR SYSTEM. THE CLOSEST VISIBLE STAR TO EARTH IS ALPHA CENTAURI WHICH IS ABOUT 25 MILLION MILLION MILES AWAY. EVEN IF LIFE FORMS EXISTED ON THIS STAR AND WERE CAPABLE OF SPACE TRAVEL AT SPEEDS CURRENTLY KNOWN TO MAN I.E. ABOUT 25,000 MPH THEY WOULD TAKE ABOUT 115,000 YEARS TO REACH EARTH. THAT WOULD SEEM TO BE A LONG JOURNEY TO UNDERTAKE JUST TO REMAIN IN ONE VICINITY FOR ONLY A FEW SECONDS, OR PERHAPS MINUTES. CONSEQUENTLY, THE PROBABILITY OF EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL LIFE FORMS VISITING EARTH IS EXTREMELY REMOTE.

554/1/30 (1)

9 JUN 72

Headquarters Operational Command
Headquarters Support Command

CHANGES TO INVESTIGATION OF UFO POLICY

1. Enclosed herewith is the proposed policy for the investigation of reports of unidentified flying objects.

2. The main purpose of the intended changes is to eliminate unnecessary duplication of effort and to streamline the process of investigation. With Commands' concurrence it is proposed that Department of Air deal direct with bases and thus eliminate unnecessary work by officers of both commands.

3. It would be appreciated if Commands consider the proposed policy and return their comments to Department of Air.

(J.C. SCOTLAND)
Wing Commander
for Chief of the Air Staff

Enclosure: Investigation of Unidentified Flying Objects

INVESTIGATION OF UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

1. The Royal Australian Air Force is responsible for the investigation of reports of unidentified flying objects (UFOs) in Australia and the Trust Territories. The main purpose of the investigation of any UFO is to establish whether or not the subject of the report poses a threat to the security of Australia. The identification of the cause of the UFO report and its classification is mainly for the benefit of members of the public whose interest may have been aroused by the report.

2. It is considered that the authority best suited to the investigation of a UFO report is the nearest RAAF base, where local weather conditions, natural phenomena and aircraft movements are well known. Therefore, anyone who sees, or thinks he sees an aerial object which he cannot identify, should contact the nearest RAAF base and if this is impractical his nearest civil airport or police station.

3. The investigation of a report of a UFO sighting is to be based on a questionnaire which is shown in Annex A and is designed to record all necessary details of the observation and provide the information on which an investigation can be based.

4. On receipt of a report of a UFO sighting, Officers Commanding are to appoint a responsible officer to initiate inquiries. Normally this officer should interview the observer and complete the proforma. In cases where the remoteness of the area of observation would make the procedure impractical or the Officer Commanding is staisfied from the initial inquiry that nothing would be gained by such a procedure, he should arrange for the proforma to be sent to the person reporting the sighting for completion.

5. When the completed proforma is received at a RAAF base, Officers Commanding are to ensure that an adequate examination of the report is carried out and Part 2 of the UFO proforma is completed with as much detail as possible. The UFO proforma and investigation findings, if any, are to be despatched without delay direct to Department of Air, with an information copy distributed to the appropriate command.

6. Requests from members of the public for information on UFOs received by commands or bases may be answered directly. Requests of this nature are to be dealt with by distributing the proforma (Annex B) and the summary of UFO sightings (Annex C), to the enquirer. The superscript and subscript of the proforma (Annex B) with an introductory paragraph is to be completed by the base or command.

7. Only that information contained in Annexes B and C is to be released to the public. Enquirers who are not satisfied with the information received are to be instructed to direct further enquiries to the Secretary, Department of Air. Requests for speakers at Symposiums, Conferences, etc on UFOs are to be refused and the person or organization wanting a speaker be given copies of Annexes B and C.

ANNEX A

The existing proforma is still to be used.

ENCLOSURE 4 TO
AF 554/1/30 (30)

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE (AIR FORCE OFFICE)

UNUSUAL AERIAL SIGHTINGS

SUMMARY NO 9

JANUARY 1977 - DECEMBER 1977

Date	Time (GMT)	Location	Duration of Observation	Description	Possible Cause
02 Jan 77	2100	Scarborough WA	1-1½ mins	Bright erratically moving light, disappeared in morning light.	Celestial Body (possibly Venus) seen from motorcar. Apparent movement due to autokinesis.
23 Jan 77	1140	Safety Beach Melbourne VIC	5 mins	Alternating orange/white light at 1000 ft between Sorrento and Portsea. Moved vertically down and disappeared.	Unknown. (Seen also 3 weeks earlier by same person at same locations)
30 Jan 77	1900	Neerabup WA	3 mins	Blue/white lights (like a flash cube) moving fast across sky.	Qantas Boeing on descent to Perth with low power setting.
14 Mar 77	0800	Melbourne - Geelong Road VIC	1 min	Four bright orange lights over Melbourne	Four RAAF F111 aircraft in formation igniting jettisoned fuel during Moomba Flypast demonstration.
24 Mar 77	1526	15 mls south of Dubbo NSW	30 secs	Large fast moving cigar shaped object with brilliant white light and showers of sparks in front and flame from behind and associated humming noise.	Unknown
25 Apr 77	1914	Saunders Beach Townsville QLD	12 mins	Bright light across water low on horizon.	Venus
15 May 77	1720	Two Rocks WA	30 secs	Large Light orange object with white light in front.	Qantas Boeing on descent to Perth.
9 Jun 77	1138	Youngtown TAS	30 secs	White object with yellow underneath changed to yellow with green underneath.	DC9 aircraft carrying out instrument approach at Launceston airport.

Date	Time (GMT)	Location	Duration of Observation	Description	Possible Cause
26 Jun 77	1710	Kingsthorpe QLD	35 mins	White light shining vertically downward changing altitude and shape and hovering.	Unknown
3 Jul 77	0930	Lambton NSW	2 mins	Bright pulsating red light in sky.	Satellite (second sighting by same person at same place - seen about two months previously)
12 Jul 77	1425	Newcastle NSW	5 secs	Three fast moving star like objects in formation - one went vertically down.	Inadequate information received for detailed investigation.
11 Aug 77	1010	Rockhampton QLD	2 mins	Bright yellow/orange light low on horizon	Unknown - both reports by same person.
14 Aug 77	1715	Rockhampton QLD	5 mins	As above - with other colours as well as red, green, blue, purple and white	
18 Sep 77	1410	15 mls east Three Springs WA	50 min	Bright star like with red and green flashes	Cessna 421 enroute to Jandacot
16 Oct 77	0610	Neekatharra WA	3 to 5 ins	Large silver spherical object - smaller bright reddish object departed from it at great speed: Both disappeared upwards	Unknown
2 Nov 77	1345	Near Seppelts Vineyards Barossa SA	45 secs	Two orange lights separate then merging and red lights in trees then disappeared	Reversing and tail/brake lights of a vehicle

Date	Time (GMT)	Location	Duration of Observation	Description	Possible Cause
4 Nov 77	1002	Cremorne NSW	45 secs	Bright red slightly oval light.	Reflection of setting sun on pronounced cirrus cload layer.
5 Nov 77	0430	Neutral Bay NSW	Not provided	Approx eight bright round dots very high moving south ⟶ north	Unknown
28 Nov 77	0340	Sydney NSW	10 mins	Silver object	Insufficient information for detailed investigation
28 Nov 77	0900	Blaxland NSW	15 mins	Very bright light moving across sky	RAN tracker aircraft approaching Richmond
30 Nov 77	1600	Castlereagh NSW	15 mins	Bright light and loud noise	Jet aircraft descending into Sydney from west
3 Dec 77	1145	Girrawheen WA	30 secs	White light very high and moving then disappeared	Satellite
3 Dec 77	1030	Wollongong NSW		Light in sky - moving	Satellite. (Both reports by same person.
4 Dec 77	1011	Wollongong NSW		Light in sky - moving	
17 Dec 77	1130	Sydney NSW	8 - 10 secs	High disc shape with rusty colour	Light reflection off low fast moving stratus clouds.

ORIGINAL

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE (AIR FORCE OFFICE)

UNUSUAL AERIAL SIGHTINGS

[illegible] BOX [illegible] 8

JANUARY 1976 - [illegible] 1976

DATE	TIME (GMT)	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	POSSIBLE CAUSE
25 Jan 76	1650	Burleigh Heads, QLD	Very bright golden coloured light	Not known
27 Jan 76	1355	Mayfield, NSW	Bright orange-yellow light moving with a bobbing lurching motion	Jupiter viewed through a temperature inversion
14 Feb 76	1755	Brisbane, QLD	Bright light in sky, fluctuating in intensity at irregular intervals	Venus
19 Feb 76	1015	Brisbane, QLD	Silvery-white object	Meteorological balloon with reflector
10 Mar 76	1245	Broadmeadow, NSW	Bright oval light	Hoax
15 Mar 76	1240	Jondaryon, QLD	Glowing object with a ball of fire moving away from it	Information received too late for detailed investigation. Probably ball lightning
22 Mar 76	1005	Blaxland, NSW	Series of lights travelling at high speed across the sky	Satellites, including Skylab
28 Mar 76	1230	Granton, TAS	Bright star coloured orange and red moving across the sky	ANSETT Airlines Boeing 727 departing Hobart for Melbourne
5 Apr 76	0945	Brisbane, QLD	Blue light moving at great speed across the sky	Meteor
10 Apr 76	0945	Amberley, QLD		
7 Apr 76	1200	Goodna, QLD	Stationary light flashing green, white and red. Later moved slowly across the sky	Star Spica observed through atmospheric pollution or other unusual atmospheric conditions
16 Apr 76	0850	Girraween, NSW	Bright light similar to an aircraft landing light	Army Kiowa helicopter

/24 Apr 76

DATE	TIME (GMT)	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	POSSIBLE CAUSE
24 Apr 76	1320	Duncraig, WA	Eight lights grouped in two parallel rows of four moving faster than a jet aircraft. Viewed through binoculars	Space debris, with image duplication caused by lense distortion
25 Apr 76	1645	Kidman Park, SA	Bright yellow object moving slowly. Viewed for about three minutes before disappearing behind trees	Not known
25 Apr 76	1236	Carnarvon, WA	Two 'pinkish' red lights and one white light flashing intermittently	Insufficient information
30 Apr 76	1030	Dalkeith, WA	Bright red light moving across the sky, decreased in size and faded	Space debris
24 May 76	1045	Blacksmiths, NSW	Bright light with long tail. Light from tail continuously increased and decreased in intensity	Re-entry and subsequent decay of Cosmos 820 rocket body
25 May 76	1120	Green Point, NSW	Bright green light flashing quickly across the sky	Space debris
25 May 76	1130	Toukley, NSW	White to pale blue light with a tail about five feet long viewed at arms length, travelling East to West	Space debris
28 May 76	1322	Bolwarra, NSW	Orange-blue light with a small tail travelling from South West to North East	Space debris

/31 May 76

DATE	TIME (GMT)	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	POSSIBLE CAUSE
31 May 76	1305	Warners Bay, NSW	Bright light travelling North East getting smaller and fainter	Re-entry of United States satellite known as 1975/99D
27 Jun 76	Evening	Merewether Hts, NSW	Bright light moving slowly and changing colour	Star Arcturus viewed through a strong temperature inversion
29 Jun 76	Evening	Singleton, NSW	Bright light in sky, red in colour and changing to white	Star Canopus
3 Jul 76	2145	Bleebana, NSW	Silver metalic object, no noise about same height as a light aircraft	Venus
10 Aug 76	0900	Lakes Entrance, VIC	Slow moving flashing lights, coloured red, green and white	RAAF HS748 aircraft
24 Aug 76	1705	Tarragindi, QLD	Two bright red lights in the sky accompanied by a sound like a skidding tyre	RAAF aircraft involved in a night exercise
3 Sep 76	0810	Gosford, NSW	Very bright light moving slowly across the sky	A number of reports were received from the Gosford area on 3 and 10 September. All the reports were considered to be Venus distorted by refraction and atmospheric scintillation
10 Sep 76	0910	The Entrance, NSW	Very bright white object changing colour to red and green	
23 Sep 76	2358	Oakey, QLD	Silver coloured oval shaped light moving at great speed	Not known
27 Sep 76	0900	Glenroy, VIC	Bright light in the sky, hovering and then swinging around at great speed	Young boy flying a kite with a torch attached!
6 Oct 76	0950	Maclean, NSW	Glowing object changing colour and moving slowly	Venus

/14 Oct 76

DATE	TIME (GMT)	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	POSSIBLE CAUSE
14 Oct 76	1420	Berkeley Vale, NSW	Bright red circular object moving slowly	Not known
28 Oct 76	1015	Werribee, VIC	Light grey object moving very fast across the sky	Probable decay and re-entry of Cosmos 818
29 Oct 76	1230	East Malvern, VIC	Flashing red and green lights	Civil aircraft in Moorabbin area
2 Nov 76	1145	The Entrance, NSW	Fiery red object visible just above the horizon	Uncertain. Possibly Sirius, or effects of an electrical storm in the area
3 Nov 76	1020	Waratah, NSW	Bright light with a small tail low on the horizon, moving quickly in a North-Easterly direction	Satellite - SKYLAB
16 Nov 76	1150	Brisbane, QLD	Slow moving radar contacts	Insufficient information. Probably ship contacts caused by anomalous propagation
16 Dec 76	0255	Kalgoorlie, WA	White object shaped like a rugby ball, pulsating and moving very quickly	Undetermined, awaiting further information
16 Dec 76	0700	Kalgoorlie, WA	Large object drifting slowly	Research balloon

ORIGINAL

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE (AIR OFFICE)

UNUSUAL AERIAL SIGHTINGS

SUMMARY NO 7

JANUARY 1975 - DECEMBER 1975

DATE	TIME (EST)	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	POSSIBLE CAUSE
8JAN75	1009	Canberra, ACT	Bright light moving very fast NW to NE	Satellite, Pegasus 2
10JAN75	1115	Tamworth, NSW	Slow moving white light	Helicopter
10JAN75	0935	Bar Beach, NSW	Bright moving light, steady intensity	Satellite
13JAN75	1700	Brisbane, QLD	Large ball of flame, leaving singe mark on grass and gravel	Analysis of residue carried out by University of Queensland. Cause not known
14JAN75	1000	Berewether, NSW	Moving star, disappeared very quickly	Space debris
20JAN75	1138	Dandenong, VIC	Ten objects moving very rapidly across the sky	Space debris, probably parts of OAO-3 rocket casing
21JAN75	1030	Werribee, VIC	Bright star moving in a straight line, with sudden divergence	Satellite distorted by temperature inversion
24JAN75	1100	Willeton, WA	Bright yellow light following car	Not known
30JAN75	0935	Clayton, VIC	Four bright objects in formation moving very rapidly	Meteorite disintegrating in Earth's atmosphere

/1FEB75

DATE	TIME (GMT)	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	POSSIBLE CAUSE
1FEB75	0930	Kellyville, NSW	Slow moving blue/yellow light, changing to red and then white. Marks found on ground in local area	Cause of aerial phenomena not known, possible aircraft. Marks on ground not associated with the sighting, made by farm machinery
3FEB75	1030	Warners Bay, NSW	Long flash of light in the sky	Space debris
13FEB75	1710	Doveton, VIC	Fairly bright spherical light, appeared stationary	Reflection off a balloon launched by CSIRO Department of Atmospheric Physics
14FEB75	1530	Mt Wellington, TAS	Brilliant flash of blue light from behind Mt Wellington	Aurora Australis
18FEB75	1020	Maryville, NSW	Brilliant white light moving in a 'swooping' motion	Sirius distorted by severe temperature inversion
18FEB75	1200	Mertlake, NSW	Blue light, faded and then flared bright blue	Star Aldebaran, with temperature inversion causing fading and flaring
5MAR75	1400	Ingham, QLD	Very bright light in the sky, changing colour white to red	Saturn

/6MAR75

DATE	TIME (GMT)	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	POSSIBLE CAUSE
6MAR75	1200	Blackett, NSW	Rapidly moving red and white flashing light	Hercules aircraft from RAAF Base Richmond
6MAR75	1134	60NM East of Mt Gambier,	Green flare	Space debris. Re-entry of a satellite launched in 1968, containing a high copper content
21MAR75	1345	Engadine, NSW	Large round shape, colour of setting sun, partially obscured by cloud	Moon
27MAR75	0840	Wollstonecraft, NSW	Steadily moving white light	Aircraft departing Sydney airport for Melbourne
27MAR75	0925	Mcbartville, NSW	Gold/red light moving very quickly	DC-10 aircraft departing Sydney airport
1APR75	0900	North Ryde, NSW	Very large bright star	Venus
1APR75	0945	Baulkham Hills, NSW	Cigar shape, red at the tail, with a blue/white band of 'windows' midway between top and bottom	Aircraft on approach to Sydney airport
4APR75	0920	Yorkeys Knob, QLD	Yellow object, one quarter size of full moon, moving from side to side	Saturn
4APR75	2300	Wickham, NSW	Silver object about the size of a cricket ball	Venus

/4APR75

DATE	TIME (GMT)	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	POSSIBLE CAUSE
4APR75	0445	Cosford, NSW	Brilliant blue/green light similar to a flare	Insufficient information. Possibly connected with 'amateur' rocketry meeting
5APR75	0646	Wallsend, NSW	Small flashing light travelling south to north	Hoax
7APR75	2330	Mosman, NSW	Silver shooting star with a bright silver fragmented trail	Space debris re-entering Earth's atmosphere
3MAY75	1530	Ashton, SA	Blue/green shape with a white beam of light extending to the ground	Unknown, possible helicopter
12MAY75	0600	Howrah, TAS	Grey/black parachute like object moving at the base of a rainbow	Meteorological phenomena
19JUN75	1300	Roma, QLD	Red and white light moving at random	Report received too late for satisfactory investigation
24JUN75	0105	Ingham, QLD	Bright oval-shaped object moving very quickly	Mirage aircraft
6JUL75	1005	Hillgrove, NSW	Rectangular dark shape with flashing white light. Noise similar to a jet but softer	Light aircraft
10JUL75	1025	Earlwood, NSW	Grey tube with silver cross in front	PAN-AM 707 aircraft with vapour trail

/12AUG75

DATE	TIME (GMT)	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	POSSIBLE CAUSE
12AUG75	1330	Yallourn, VIC	Very bright star, changing colour from red and yellow to diamond blue	Star affected by atmospheric scintillation
19AUG75	1010	Broadmeadow, NSW	White object moving at great speed, then landing	Hoax
30AUG75	1233	115NM East of Mackay,	Three white lights in formation	Not known
30CT75	1820	Umina, NSW	Yellow twinkling light moving faster than an aircraft, in view for 30 seconds	Satellite or launching rocket tumbling and reflecting sunlight
12DEC75	1200	Urunga, NSW	Two orange/gold lights appearing to merge and then move apart	Mars distorted by temperature inversion

ORIGINAL

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE (AIR OFFICE)

UNUSUAL AERIAL SIGHTINGS

SUMMARY NO 6

JANUARY 1974 - DECEMBER 1974

DATE	TIME (GMT)	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	POSSIBLE CAUSE
4 Jan 74	0850	Brisbane, QLD	Bright light tracking across sky	Satellite designated CAO-5 Rocket
4 Jan 74	1050	Townsville, QLD	Spurious signals on weather radar	Anomalous propogation due to Atmospheric conditions
5 Jan 74	0150	Townsville, QLD	Two pulsating lights in line astern moving very fast in northerly direction	Decay of Satellite 100E launched in 1971
8 Jan 74	1100	Albert Park, VIC	Red light moving west to north, appeared every 6 minutes for 1 hour	QANTAS 707 aircraft carrying out circuits at Avalon
12 Jan 74	1100	Kew, VIC	Slow moving shooting star	Space debris re-entry
13 Jan 74	1445	Balga, WA	Brilliant round light in sky moving east to west	Space debris re-entry
13 Jan 74	1050	Punchbowl, NSW	Yellow-orange light in sky	Canopus
14 Jan 74	1120	Mt Gambier, SA	Light, bright orange changing to soft gold	No satisfactory answer
15 Jan 74	1210	Ascot Vale, VIC	Bright flashing light	Aircraft from Moorabbin Central Flying School
16 Jan 74	1225	Moorabbin, VIC	Bright flashing bluish light	Aircraft from Moorabbin Central Flying School
17 Jan 75	1215	Floreat Park, WA	Very bright moving light (6 objects)	A/C landing lights
19 Jan 74	1200	Clayton North, VIC	Bright flash	Space debris
25 Jan 75	1740	Bayswater, WA	Bright light tracking across sky	707 Aircraft

/27 Jan 75

DATE	TIME (GMT)	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	POSSIBLE CAUSE
18 Aug 74	0015	Woy Woy NSW	Bright Star	Vega
16 Sep 74	1100	Sutton Forest NSW	Cigar shape dull amber in colour	Space debris or meteor
20 Sep 74	1530	Alice Springs NT	Fiery object trailing flames	Insufficient data
25 Sep 74	1100	Milne Bay PNG	Brilliant light vague outline	Insufficient data
15 Oct 74	1014	Katherine NT	4 star-size reddish lights with tails	Satellite or space debris
23 Oct 74	1130	Darwin NT	Bright blue-ish light	Aircraft lights
5 Nov 74	1415	Gosford NSW	Silver grey light	Venus
5 Nov 74	1130	Fassipern NSW	Bright white light	Canopus
9 Nov 74	1930	Brisbane QLD	Silvery white object	PANAM 747 Nandi-Sydney
- Nov 74	0930	Wentworthville NSW	Bright white object	Falling star or space debris
2 Dec 74	1125	Mt Victoria NSW	Red-blue-white light flashing	Scheduled airline traffic
19 Dec 74	2130	Merewether NSW	Bright light - star-like	Venus

DATE	TIME (GMT)	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	POSSIBLE CAUSE
27 Jan 74	1210	Essendon VIC	Oblong shape, no noise, blue-grey colour	Meteorites - Space Debris
28 Jan 74	1200	Hobart TAS	White light moving across sky	Satellite
11 Feb 74	1845	Warwick WA	Object similar to street light	Venus
16 Feb 74	1745	Ormiston QLD	White to orange light	Venus
24 Feb 74	1140	Glenhuntly VIC	Circular dome glowing red	Meteorite
23 Feb 74	0600	Iffley Station QLD	Red lights	No satisfactory answer
23 Feb 75	1800	Townsville QLD	White light, round in shape	Star Rigel Kentaurus
22 Feb 74	1815	Cassaurina NT	Bright light	Jupiter
26/27 Feb 74	1815	Darwin NT	Bright pulsating light	Venus
8 Mar 74	1730	Echuca VIC	White light green on top, red left and right	Venus
9 Mar 74	1700	Albury NSW	White bright glowing light	Venus
9 Mar 74	1715	Dandenong VIC	Single white light, brighter than normal star	Venus
9 Mar 74	2320	Meekatharra WA	White light	Satellite
16 Mar 74	2245	Blacktown NSW	White light moving in straight line	Flare
21 Mar 74	1500	Bedford Park WA	Bright light larger than Venus	South African Airlines Boeing 707 approaching Perth

/25 Mar 74

DATE	TIME (GMT)	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	POSSIBLE CAUSE
11 Jun 74	1000	Popendetta PNG	Red glow on horizon	Possible volcanic activity. Further info required
15 Jun 74	1400	Alice Springs NT	Two bright lights	Insufficient data
22 Jun 74	1020	Bathurst NSW	Initially small white dot, changed to elliptical shape, about 60 ft in length, changing colours	Ball lightning
27 Jun 74	0045	Mogriguy NSW	Small light	Star Fomalhaut
3 Jul 74	0830	Boikik Plantation	Shape not known glowing red	Either satellite or Space Debris
3 Jul 74	0940	Scottsdale TAS	Bright white light	DC9 aircraft
9 Jul 74	0720	East Kurajong NSW	Two white lights	Piper PA-34 aircraft
15 Jul 74	0020	Exmouth WA	Bright light	Searchlight from prawn boat
22 Jul 74	0830	Narrandera NSW	Flashing light	Light aircraft - Navajo
13 Jul 74	0920	Woodberry NSW	Bright light	Altair
29 Jul 74	0005	Wellington NSW	Pulsating light	Jupiter
6 Aug 74	0806	Charlestown NSW	Single light similar to bright car headlamps at ½ mile distance	Arcturus
8 Aug 74	2045	Bungendore NSW	Bright pink light	Aircraft

/18 Aug 74

DATE	TIME (GMT)	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	POSSIBLE CAUSE
25 Mar 74	0030	Korumburra VIC	Stationery Silver ball	Venus
31 Mar 74	0850	Blacks Creek QLD	Blue light	Aircraft Cessna 340
1 Apr 74	1045	Erina NSW	Whitish blue light	Conflicting reports, no satisfactory answer
4 Apr 74	1930	Geraldton WA	Star like object	Venus
14 Apr 74	1115	Boyd River Crossing NSW	Red and green navigation lights each side with orange/yellow central light, red light flashing	Light aircraft
15 Apr 74	1700	Parkes NSW	Two bright lights, seemed to accompany each other	Jupiter and Venus
17 Apr 74	1130	Garran ACT	No shape, apparent light source only	JASA DC-6
23 Apr 74	1700	Momote PNG	Brilliant white light	Venus
29 Apr 74	1105	Manga PNG	Red/orange light	Mars
30 Apr 74	1700	Kokoda Station PNG	Two lights one very bright, one dull	Jupiter/Venus
5 May 74	0930	Kokoda PNG	Bright rainbow coloured light moving east to west	Jupiter
7 May 74	0835	Mt Druitt NSW	Large red oval glowing light	Ball lightning
9 May 74	0930	Pt Moresby PNG	Very bright white light	Space debris or meteor
15 May 74	1130	Kokoda PNG	1 Single red beam of light	Possible satellite

/11 Jun 74

ENCLOSURE 1 TO
AF 554/1/30(30
DATED May 81

INVESTIGATION OF UNUSUAL AERIAL SIGHTINGS (UAS) IN THE RAAF

1. Previous research into this subject revealed that RAAF files cannot be checked prior to 11 November 1953 due to the loss of the original file. As the first UFO report was received in the USA in July 1947 there would be up to six years of related correspondence unavailable.

2. The first recorded statement by an Australian Government minister was by the Minister for External Affairs (Mr R. G. CASEY) on 28 January 1954, in which he suggested a connection between UFO sightings and periods of meteorite activity. (~~A copy of this statement is at~~ Annex A.)

3. In April 1954 the DCAS approved the official policy that more evidence was required to be collected before an accurate analysis could be made. (Annex B details ~~this~~ press release of this policy.)

4. In November 1957, in reply to questions from 'World

Wide Magazine' the RAAF acknowledged a 'wait and see' policy. (Annex C)

5. In October 1960, the Minister for Air (Mr F. M. Osborne) made a statement in the House that there was no evidence to verify that 'interlopers --- have been visiting us' (Annex D). This is the last recorded statement by a Government Minister on the attitude of the Australian Government.

6. The first record of RAAF participation, 11 November 1953, was a letter to Commands concerning UFOs. As this letter suggested report form improvements there was undoubtedly a previous directive to Commands on their responsibilities; whether this directive was written or verbal is not known. According to a minute dated February 1966 (Annex E), there was no written responsibilities for HQOC; after much discussion, a directive was issued to both Commands in March 1966 (Annex F). Since 1966,

amendments to RAAF policy have been confined to minor system and report form amendments.

7. The release of information was not given ministerial authorization until 1966. In April 1966 the first 'Summary of Unidentified Aerial Sightings Reported to Department of Air' - for the period from January 1960 - was compiled. Periodic summaries have been issued to this date. These summaries are ~~available on request~~ at Enclosure 4.

ANNEXES
A. Press release by the Minister for External Affairs. 28 Jan 54
B. DCAS press release on RAAF UFO policy. April 1954
C. RAAF reply to World Wide Magazine. 21 November 1957
D. Letter AF 554/1/30(82) 6 March 1963
E. DAFI Minute 416 2/25/1(11) dated February 1966
F. DAFI Letter 2/25/1(15) dated 25 March 1966. UFO Investigation Policy.

554/1/30(6)

ANNEX 'A'
page 1

ANNEX A TO ENCLOSURE 1 TO AF 554/1/30 (30) DATED

6

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

Group Captain Charlton,
DIRECTOR OF AIR INTELLIGENCE.

With the Compliments

of the

Private Secretary to the Minister for External Affairs

The attached letter was sent to the press in Sydney, Brisbane, Adelaide and Melbourne -

C Hansen

COMMONWEALTH OFFICES.
TREASURY GARDENS.
MELBOURNE. C.2

23/6/1954.

(A 554/30(6A)

ANNEX 'A'
page 2

Treasury Gardens,
MELBOURNE. C.2.

28th January 1954

Dear Sir,

From time to time people report having seen unexplained objects in the sky which have come to be called "flying saucers". There have been many explanations of them - the sun shining on high flying aircraft - meteorological balloons - imagination, etc. There is another possibility that may account for some of them, which has not been suggested, so far as I know. On known dates in each year, the earth passes through meteor streams. These are the remains of meteors that have disintegrated in outer space, but which continue their original paths round the sun in the form of streams of solid particles and meteoric dust. The fact that the earth moves round the sun in a fixed path and that these debris of meteors also move round the sun in fixed paths, means that the paths of the earth and of some of these meteoric streams intersect each other on a series of dates which are the same each year. The earth sometimes takes a number of days to pass through the more important of these meteoric streams. The dates of maximum meteoric activity are - 3rd January, 21st April, 4th May, 8th June, 30th June, 28th July, 10-13th August, 10th October, 20-23rd October, 3-10th November, 14th November, 16th November, 11-13th December.

I have lists of the dates over the last several years on which people have reported having seen "flying saucers" in Australia, and have compared them with the dates on which the earth passes through the principal meteoric streams. There appears to be a noticeable relationship between these two sets of dates. By this I mean that there tends to be a grouping of flying saucer sightings round about the meteor-stream dates that it is hard to believe is by chance. And again, there is a relative absence of "flying saucer" reports during the principal gaps between meteor-stream dates. For instance, the minimum meteoric activity of the year is between January and April. These are also the months in which fewest "flying saucers" have been reported in Australia. I do not suggest that this evidence is by any means complete, or that it is, at best, more than a partial explanation of "flying saucer" phenomena. All that I suggest is that there is some evidence that people seem to report otherwise unexplained objects in the sky round about the dates on which the earth passes through the principal meteor-streams, and there seems to be a lull in the reporting of flying saucers in between these dates.

I do not suggest any more than that what I have said may be an explanation of at least a proportion of the "flying saucer" reports.

I am,
Yours very truly,

(R. G. CASEY)

The Editor,
"The Sydney Morning Herald".

ANNEX B TO
ENCLOSURE 1 TO
AF 55H/1/30(30)
DATED

DRAFT

Press Release

INVESTIGATION OF FLYING SAUCERS

STATEMENT OF R.A.A.F. POLICY

Approved By DCAS and issued in Nov 1957

1. The R.A.A.F. accepts reports on flying saucers and attempts an allocation of reliability. Those that fall in the reliable class are then subjected to further investigation as and when the opportunity occurs. As a result of this further investigation, a smaller number of reports are followed up and investigations are made with the Meteorological Services, the Government Astronomer and the Civil Aviation authorities in an attempt to fit the original occurrences in with any normal flying activity or meteorological phenomena.

2. As a result of investigations in the past, there is no doubt that reliable observers have reported sightings which today are inexplicable within the resources available to the R.A.A.F. Reports of this type are continuously filed in an attempt to develop sufficient depth of evidence for accurate analysis to be made. It may however, be several years before the required depth of evidence is available.

DAFI.

DK

Dcas
24/4/57

ANNEX C TO
ENCLOSURE 1 TO
AF 554/1/30(30)
DATED

REPLY TO QUESTIONNAIRE ON UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS - WORLD WIDE MAGAZINE

2 Nov 57

1. Q. What is the official attitude and policy of your Government in connection with so-called flying saucers?

A. At the time of the spate of flying saucers reports in 1952/54, the Australian Government adopted a 'wait and see' attitude. Reports on flying saucers from various parts of the world have been studied and local investigations have taken place. The Government has adopted the attitude that there is still insufficient evidence available to enable an accurate analysis to be made.

2. Q. The United States of America have a special commission which investigates reliable reports of unidentified flying objects. Has your Government a similar project in operation?

A. There have been insufficient reports of unidentified flying objects in Australia to warrant the formation of a special commission to investigate them. The Royal Australian Air Force accepts reports and attempts an allocation of reliability. Reports that fall in the reliable class are subjected to further ~~information~~ investigation as and when opportunity occurs. As a result of this further investigation a small number of reports are followed up and investigations are made with the Meteorological Service, the Government Astronomer and the Civil Aviation authorities in an attempt to fit the original occurrences in with any

ANNEX D TO
ENCLOSURE 1 TO
AF554/1/30(30)
DATED

554/1/30 (87)

6 MAR 1963

Dear Sir,

I refer to your letter dated 23rd January, 1963, regarding unidentified flying objects.

From time to time reports of unidentified flying objects are received and investigated by the Royal Australian Air Force, but details of individual investigations have not been made public.

On October 20th, 1960, the Minister for Air, the Honourable F.M. Osborne, made a statement in the Australian National Parliament at Canberra, summarizing the position, and his comments may be pertinent to your request.

In the course of his remarks Mr. Osborne said, "The Department of Air does obtain information about all well-reported cases of unidentified flying objects. Although reports of this sort have been investigated very carefully for some years, nearly all of them are explainable on a perfectly normal basis. Sometimes they are found to be weather balloons, high-flying aircraft, or even stars. On one occasion, it was established that a reported spaceship was the moon. Of all these reports, only three or four per cent cannot be explained on the basis of some natural phenomenon, and nothing that has arisen from that three or four per cent of unexplained cases gives any firm support for the belief that interlopers from other places in this world or outside it have been visiting us".

Yours faithfully,

(A. B. McFarlane)
SECRETARY

Mr. John Laval,
7 Idlewild Lane,
Matawan,
NEW JERSEY, USA.

ANNEX E TO
ENCLOSURE 1 TO
AF 55H/1/30 (30)
DATED

DEPARTMENT OF AIR

MINUTE PAPER

(This side only to be written on)

Subject: Unidentified Flying Objects

C.4337/60—PL

D/DAFI (Opd)

1. Ref Folio 10

2. I have reviewed the current "Ad Hoc" system in the practice of processing U.F.O. reports and with minor criticisms it appears to be working satisfactorily, entailing the minimum of work by this Directorate.

3. However, in view of SO Intell (Opcom) objections of not having his responsibilities in writing and DAFI direction that he is to receive them it is obvious that we will have to do something. As a starting point your recommended statement contained at Folio 5A should be accepted for distribution as required.

4. The next point we should consider is the updating of the report proformae. I have drafted a new questionairre which I feel will give a more complete picture of the incident and it is submitted for your consideration.

5. Furthermore, as well as advising Hqopcom on our recommended course of action we will also be required to include D.C.A. on distribution of the new directive to keep them in the picture.

Feb 66

Sqn Ldr
AI-2

File AH62/25/1 (4) DEAD FILE

ANNEX F TO
ENCLOSURE 1 TO
AF 455/1/30 (30)
DATED

Directorate of Air Force Intelligence

2/25/1(15)

Headquarters Support Command RAAF Victoria Barracks MELBOURNE SC1 VIC
Headquarters Operational Command RAAF PENRITH 1W NSW

INVESTIGATION OF UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

1. The Royal Australian Air Force is responsible for the investigation of reports of unidentified flying objects (UFOs) in Australia and the Trust Territories. The purpose of this letter is to lay down the procedure for the handling and investigation of such reports.

2. The main purpose of the investigation of any UFO is to establish whether or not the subject of the report poses a threat to the security of Australia. The identification of the cause of the UFO report and its classifications as aircraft, balloon, missile, astronomical body or phenomena etc, is of minor importance and mainly for the benefit of members of the public whose interest may have been aroused by the report.

3. The handling and investigation of reports of UFOs is to be the responsibility of the AOC of the Command at whose base the UFO is reported. The investigation is to be based on a questionnaire which is shown at the annex and which is designed to record all necessary details of the observation and provide the information on which an investigation can be based.

4. The present arrangement for bringing to the attention of the RAAF a report of a UFO are widely known. Under the present scheme, anyone who sees, or thinks he sees an aerial object which he cannot identify contacts the nearest RAAF base, or civil airport and if this is impractical, his nearest police station. These arrangements are working satisfactorily and there is no intention to change them.

5. In a country as large as Australia, it is considered that the authority best suited to the investigation of a UFO is the nearest RAAF base, where local weather conditions, natural phenomena and aircraft movements are well known. This is the principle on which the procedure is to be based.

6. Air Officers Commanding are to ensure that as soon as possible after the report of a UFO is received the Base Commander sends a signal to Command Headquarters and Department of Air giving brief details of the observation and appoints a responsible officer, preferably of the General Duties Branch, to initiate inquiries. Normally this officer should interview the observer and complete the proforma. In cases where the remoteness of the area of observation would make this procedure impractical, or the Base Commander is satisfied from the initial inquiry that nothing would be gained by such a procedure, he should arrange for the proforma to be completed by or in the presence of a police officer or other responsible person.

ANNEX "F"
Page 2.

7. When the completed proforma is received at the RAAF base, Officers Commanding are to ensure that an adequate examination of the report is carried out, bearing in mind the principles outlined in para 2 above. A brief report on the findings of the investigation along with a copy of the proforma should be despatched without undue delay to Command Headquarters. After consideration by the Air Officer Commanding, the UFO proforma and investigation findings are to be forwarded to Department of Air for filing and record purposes.

8. No attempts should be made to answer public enquiries at unit or command level. Requests by members of the public for information on UFOs in Australia and for the RAAF assessment of their origin etc should be referred to the Department of Air where they will be dealt with by the Directorate of Public Relations.

(I.S. PODGER)
Group Captain
For Chief of the Air Staff.

(Air Force Office)

Telephone: Canberra 65 4233

AF554/1/30 Pt 3 (29)

27 September 1977

Headquarters RAAF Townsville (Attn: AIR4)

For Information:

Headquarters Operational Command (Attn: SOINTEL)

REQUEST FOR CO-OPERATION WITH
UFO RESEARCH ORGANIZATION

Reference: A. HQTVL 5/40/Air Pt 3 (27) of 20 September 1977

1. With regard to Reference A, Mr Griesberg of ACOS had a meeting with Mr H.R. Rayner, Director of Public Relations, and DAFI-ILO on 8 March 1976. Mr Griesberg appeared to be a fairly common sense sort of character who did not believe in little green men in flying saucers, and his organization seemed to be making a genuine effort to investigate 'UFOs' with the aim of providing a rational explanation.

2. Having spent some time impressing on Mr Griesberg that the RAAF did not confiscate photographs or classify investigations Top Secret, it would have been pointless to then turn around and refuse to co-operate at all with ACOS. Therefore, as part of this public relations exercise, it was agreed that, work load and time permitting, if ACOS did forward any reports to the nearest RAAF Base then they would be informed of the results of the RAAF's investigation. It was emphasised that the RAAF would not enter into any discussion with regard to the results of an investigation.

3. Whilst this policy may create a little more work at both Air Force Office and Formations, it is felt that in the long run it could make life a lot easier.

4. In your reply to Miss Goriss we suggest that you enclose the report forms she has requested, and reiterate the relevant parts of paragraph 2 of this letter concerning work load and non-discussion of findings.

(A.J. WHITE)
Squadron Leader
for Chief of the Air Staff

28

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE

TELEPHONE: 81-2111

Headquarters
RAAF Base
TOWNSVILLE QLD 4810

20 September 1977

IN REPLY QUOTE HQTVL 5/40/Air Pt3(27)

Department of Defence (Air Force Office) (ATTN: DAFI-IR)

For Information:

Headquarters Operational Command (ATTN: SOINTEL)

REQUEST FOR RAAF CO-OPERATION WITH UFO RESEARCH ORGANIZATION

1. Enclosed is a letter requesting this Headquarters to liaise directly with a UFO research organization based near Cairns North Queensland.

2. In view of the co-operation requested in para 4 of Miss Goriss' letter your advice is requested. Your attention is also drawn to the statement at para 5 of that letter which asserts that the RAAF will co-operate with UFO organizations.

(P.J. HODGE)
Flight Lieutenant
for Officer Commanding

Enclosure : 1. Letter and attachment from UFO Research (FNQ)

UFO RESEARCH FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND,
13 Carolyn Close,
Yorkeys Knob. 4871.
Phone: 55 7204
14/9/77

B/F. OC on file.

The Intelligence Officer,
RAAF Base ,
GARBUTT.
TOWNSVILLE. 4814.

AIR 4
Please check HQOC on the assertion at para 5.
Doc
19 Sept 77

Dear Sir,

This letter is to inform you of the formation of UFO RESEARCH - FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND (UFOR-FNQ) in Cairns.

We are a civilian organisation investigating and researching unusual aerial sightings (UFOs) and are a member organisation of the AUSTRALIAN CO-ORDINATION SECTION (ACOS) of the CENTRE FOR UFO STUDIES (USA). Attached please find a circular informing you of the function of ACOS and its member organisations.

We mainly function as a body to which members of the public can report sightings of UFOs to, and then set out to investigate them and find a natural explanation if one is possible. As you are well aware, approximately 85 - 90% of all sightings can be identified as being such common items as planes, weather balloons, planets, meteors, birds etc.

The reason for this letter is to ask for your co-operation in investigating such reports, by us supplying you with details of any reports we receive and you advising us of any outcome of your investigations, as we will advise you should we find an explanation to any report forwarded to you.

One of the Co-Ordinators of ACOS, Harry Griesberg, had a meeting with Mr. H. R. Rayner, Director of Public Relations RAAF at the Russell Offices in Canberra early last year, and it was agreed that the RAAF would co-operate with UFO organisations affiliated with ACOS in this way.

Would you therefore, kindly forward a supply of RAAF report forms which witnesses to Unusual Aerial sightings could fill out and which we would then forward on to you for your investigations.

Looking forward to hearing from you,
and hoping for a good working relationship,

Yours sincerely,

H. I. Goriss

(Miss H. I. Goriss,)
Assistant Liaison Officer,
UFO Research Far North Queensland,

CENTRE FOR UFO STUDIES

Australian Co-Ordination Section

H. GRIESBERG
D. SEARGENT
Co-Ordinators

P.O. Box 546 Gosford N.S.W. 2250
Australia

THE AUSTRALIAN CO-ORDINATION SECTION (A.C.O.S.)

ACOS was established in November 1974, at the request of Professor Dr. J. Allen Hynek, who is the Director of the Center for U.F.O. Studies in Illinois U.S.A.

Some of our main functions include to act as a 'Clearing Point', to which all Australiam UFO reports are sent by the major UFO organisations throughout Australia, as well as several independent investigators, to represent the Australian organisations whenever necessary, to organise national conferences, and to disseminate information to all the organisations.

Several hundred reports of unusual aerial sightings are received by each of the organisations annually, which are thoroughly investigated from all scientific aspects. Approximately 85 - 90% of the reports received, can be explained in natural terms by the investigators of these organisations as being such common items as satellites, meteors, stars, planets, aeroplanes, weather balloons etc. It is the remaining 10 - 15% which are unidentifiable, and are therefore referred to as UFO reports. It is these reports which are then forwarded to ACOS. One copy of these is forwarded to the Center for UFO Studies in the United States, and one copy is retained by ACOS to form a central Australian library of UFO reports, as well as being coded into an Australian Computer File for research and study purposes. This UFO library is open to all the participating organisations and individuals.

A Bulletin is published by ACOS every three months, and besides being sent to our member organisations who pass the information contained therein on to their public members, this Bulletin is now available for public subscription for $3 (Australia) and $4 (overseas) annually. The Bulletin contains news from the Center, news from around Australia, latest developments in the field, articles of interest to the investigator/researcher, and a summary of Australian UFO reports etc.

The Center for UFO Studies, as mentioned previously, is directed by eminent astronomer, Dr. Hynek, who for 20 years has been the astronomical advisor on UFO matters to the United States Air Force. Over these years, Dr. Hynek has become one of the leading experts in ufology in the world today. Together with other eminent scientists, Engineers, Faculty members, Technicians and several hundred investigators throughout the United States, reports are studied in detail from all over the world. All the reports received by the Center are coded into UFOCAT, a modern electronic computer operated by Dr. David Saunders.
The Center also has the full co-operation of Police Departments, F.B.I., Airline Pilots Associations, as well as institutions such as Universities, and the Smithsonian Institution.

Australia therefore, is playing its part in contributing information to this phenomenon which has been puzzling mankind over the centuries, so that one day, science can possibly find the solution.

It is estimated that approximately 20% of all actual UFO sightings are actually reported to the organisations in Australia. One of the main reasons being that the majority of the Australian public do not know to whom to report their experiences.

We therefore, ask you, the reader of this article, to assist us by contacting your nearest UFO organisation (a list of which is attached to this article) and notifying them of any sighting made by someone you know or heard of, no matter whether it was a recent sighting or years old.

The Center for UFO Studies' definition of a UFO is as follows:

> "A UFO is the reported perception of an object or light, seen in the sky or upon the land, the appearance, trajectory, and general dynamic and luminescent behaviour of which do not suggest a logical, conventional explanation and which is not only mystifying to the original percipients, but remains unidentified after close scrutiny of all available evidence by persons who are technically capable of making a common sense identification, if one is possible."

So far, Australia has seen three conferences, the first, UFOCON ONE was held in Terrigal N.S.W., UFOCON TWO in Mount Gambier South Australia, and UFOCON THREE in Surfer's Paradise Queensland, at which representatives of all organisations and our scientific consultants have met over three days to discuss standard procedures in investigation and research, exchange ideas and information, and set plans for future projects and co-operation.

For further information, please feel free to contact A.C.O.S. or any of the organisations listed herein at any time. Furthermore, should you be aware of any sighting, please notify your nearest UFO organisation, and be assured that names and addresses of witnesses will be treated strictly confidential if so desired.

H. Griesberg & D. Seargent
Co-Ordinators
A.C.O.S.

Published by A.C.O.S., November 1977.

Participating Organisations in A.C.O.S.

U.F.O. Research (S.A.) Inc.	2A Castle Ave, Prospect South Australia 5082.
U.F.O. Research (W.A.)	84 Acton Ave, Rivervale West Australia 6103.
U.F.O. Research (N.S.W.)	P.O. Box 6, Lane Cove New South Wales 2066.
U.F.O. Research (QLD)	P.O. Box 111 North Quay Queensland 4000.
U.F.O. Research (Far-Nth QLD)	13 CAROLYN CLOSE, YORKEYS KNOB ~~21 John St, Nomb Cairns~~ Queensland 4870.
Victorian U.F.O. Research Society	P.O. Box 43 Moorabbin Victoria 3189.
Tasmanian U.F.O. Investigation Centre	G.P.O. Box 1310N, Hobart Tasmania 7001.
Unidentified Phenomena Investigations Bureau	P.O. Box 261 Bunbury West Aust. 6203.

Individuals and Liaison Organisations.

Mr. K. Blackman	9 Dent Cres, Lighthouse Beach Port Macquarie N.S.W. 2444.
Mr. W. Tarplee & D.Owen	20 Kingstone St. Evatt A.C.T. 2617.
Mr. T. Bishop	P.O. Box 332 Orange New South Wales 2800.
Mr. G. Little & W. Stapleton	32 Tobruk Cres, Williamstown Victoria 3016.
Special Phenomena & Celestial Exploration Research Society (SPACERS)	P.O. Box 296 Elizabeth South Australia 5112.

Scientific Consultants.

Dr. G. Stevens	-	Sydney	-	Soil etc., analysis.
Dr. R. Molnar	-	Sydney	-	Anatomy.
Dr. D. Herbison-Evans	-	Sydney	-	Computer analysis.
Mr. W. Chalker	-	Sydney	-	Chemical analysis.
Mr. F. Gillespie	-	Adelaide	-	Photographic analysis.
Mrs.F. Smyth	-	Sydney	-	Psychology.
Mr. A. Cole	-	Sydney	-	ACOS computer.
Dr. P. Dolin	-	Adelaide	-	Psychology.
Mr. V. Rendall	-	Adelaide	-	Chemical Engineering.
Dr. R. Clay	-	Adelaide	-	Physics.
Mr. B. J. Perry	-	Adelaide	-	Hypno-Therapy.

Published by A.C.O.S.
June 1977
P.O. Box 546
Gosford N.S.W. 2250
Australia.

Royal Australian Air Force
A273 – MEMORANDUM
May 72 Stock No 7530-66-052-8064

FROM	FILE	DATE	REFERENCES
DEFAIR CANBERRA	554/1/30 Pt3(27)	24FEB76	HQAMB 5/113/Air Pt 2 (17) of 16 Feb 76

TO HQAMB ATTENTION AIR 4A

SUBJECT UNUSUAL AERIAL SIGHTINGS

1. Reports containing sufficient information to warrant inclusion in the annual summary of unusual aerial sightings are to be forwarded to DEFAIR.

2. Details of a report that is not fully documented will be acceptable in memorandum form.

SIGNATURE	NAME	RANK	APPOINTMENT	PHONE NO
	A.J. WHITE	SQNLDR	DAFI-ILO	65-2427

Royal Australian Air Force
A273 – MEMORANDUM
May 72 Stock No 7530-66-052-8064

FROM	FILE	DATE	REFERENCES
HQAMB	5/113/AIR Pt1(17)	16FEB76	

TO DEFAIR ATTENTION DAFI-ILO

SUBJECT UNUSUAL AERIAL SIGHTINGS

1. An unusual aerial sighting reported on 1st February 1976 has been satisfactorily resolved by this HQ as the planet Venus.

2. Brief details of the sighting are:

a. approx 0355 a.m,

b. slightly south of east, and

c. bright light in sky fluctuating in intensity at irregular intervals.

3. The people reporting the sighting were satisfied with an explanation over the telephone.

4. Would you please advise if these sightings, which are not fully documented, are to be reported to DEFAIR for statistical purposes.

SIGNATURE	NAME	RANK	APPOINTMENT	PHONE NO
M. Gretton	M GRETTON	FLT LT	A.I.R.H.A	2025

(AIR OFFICE)

554/1/30 Pt 3(26)

Headquarters Support Command

UNUSUAL AERIAL SIGHTINGS

Reference: A. HQSC 5/6/AIR(60) of 16 October 1974

1. Approval is granted to issue Annex A of Reference A as a 'Support Command Air Staff Instruction'.

2. HQOC is now authorizing lectures on unusual aerial sightings in its own right. HQSC is authorized to do the same and the necessary amendment should be made to Paragraph 11 of the proposed ASI.

(K. R. JANSON)
Group Captain
for Chief of the Air Staff

(AIR OFFICE)

554/1/30 Pt 3(25)

Headquarters Operational Command

LECTURES ON USUAL AERIAL SIGHTINGS

References: A. HQOC 6Q/AIR Pt 1(12) of 9 October 1974

B. HQOC OØ11/SOORG of 18Ø34ØZ Nov 74

Approval is granted for Wing Commander T. B. Paget to address the Naval Historical Society of Australia on unusual aerial sightings. In future Command may authorize lectures on unusual aerial sightings in its own right.

(K. R. JANSON)
Group Captain
for Chief of the Air Staff

24

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE

DEFENCE INFORMATION CONTROL CENTRE
AF
529 | 1 | 1
Folio DAFI

TELEPHONE: 690550

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS:
"AIRCOMMAND, MELBOURNE"

HEADQUARTERS SUPPORT COMMAND
RAAF
VICTORIA BARRACKS
MELBOURNE SC1 VIC 3004

IN REPLY QUOTE 5/6/Air(60)

16 OCT 1974

LOGGED

Department of Defence (Air Office) (DAFI)

DAFI

For Information:
Headquarters Operational Command (CIO)

UNUSUAL AERIAL SIGHTINGS

Reference: A. Department of Air 554/1/30 Pt3(21) of 19th August 1974

1. Approval is sought to issue the contents of Reference A and all previous unusual aerial sighting (UAS) policy as revised 'Support Command Air Staff Instruction No 3/3'. At present UAS policy is spread over a number of policy letters which must be collated and evaluated by the user. The proposed Air Staff Instruction contains relevant information that has not previously been incorporated in UAS policy, but which will help promote a clearer understanding of a subject which has suffered from pseudo-scientific reporting and speculation in the past.

2. The proposed Air Staff Instruction appears at Annex A.

(E.D. PLENTY)
Wing Commander
For Air Officer Commanding

J.S.

ANNEX: A. Proposed SCASI 3/3

ANNEX A TO
HQSC 5/6/Air(60)
DATED 16 OCT 1974

SUPPORT COMMAND
AIR STAFF INSTRUCTION No 3/3

UNUSUAL AERIAL SIGHTINGS

INFORMATION

1. The RAAF is responsible for investigating reports of unusual aerial sightings (UAS) in Australia and the Trust Territories. The terms 'unidentified flying object' or UFO are emotive and inaccurate; they should be avoided by RAAF personnel because:

a. most sightings are easily and rapidly identifiable as natural or man-made phenomena seen or heard under unusual conditions;

b. the terms have been loosely applied to lights, sounds and sightings that have not been flying; and

c. the media considers the terms 'newsworthy'. While life in some other galaxy is possible, there is, as yet, no concrete evidence of Earth having been visited by a life form from another galaxy.

2. Most UAS reports from members of the public are based on natural or man-made phenomena seen or heard under unusual (to them) circumstances. Most reports are made by responsible people who:

a. believe that their sighting may be concerned with the air defence of Australia; or

b. are seeking an intelligent assessment of an experience which they have not previously encountered.

3. An appreciation of the latest scientific knowledge concerning this subject will be beneficial to all RAAF members and of educational value to the public whose knowledge of the subject is usually based on speculative media reports.

/EXECUTION

EXECUTION

4. The authority best suited to investigate UAS reports is the nearest RAAF base where local weather conditions, natural phenomena and aircraft movements are well known or can be speedily checked.

5. Investigation of a UAS report is to be based on Parts 1, 2 and 3 of the questionnaire at Annex A.

6. On receipt of an initial UAS report, the officer commanding is to appoint a responsible investigating officer. This officer may interview the person making the report and complete Part 1 of the questionnaire. Where the officer commanding is satisfied that nothing would be gained by a personal interview, the investigating officer should forward Part 1 of the questionnaire to the person making the report, for completion. A stamped-addressed envelope should be enclosed to facilitate return.

7. If the initial UAS report contains enough information, the investigating officer should collate relevant Part 2 data while awaiting the return of Part 1. On receipt of Part 1, the officer commanding is to ensure that:

a. an adequate examination of the report is carried out;

b. Part 2 is completed with as much information as possible; and

c. the Part 3 evaluation is a responsible assessment of the evidence.

8. If the officer commanding is satisfied that the investigation has determined the most probable cause of the sighting, the person who made the report may be advised either orally or in writing of the most probable cause. When reports are dealt with locally, a copy of the report and reply is to be forwarded to the Directorate of Air Force Intelligence and command headquarters for record purposes. If any doubt exists regarding the cause of the sighting, or if the person who made the report is not satisfied with the investigating officer's assessment of the most probable cause, the report is to be forwarded to the Directorate of Air Force Intelligence for further investigation and reply.

9. Investigating Officers may liaise with command intelligence section or DDAFI-IR2 if the officer commanding so desires. Information on some visible satellite passes is held at command intelligence section.

10. Formations are authorized to release to the public copies of Annex B and summaries of unusual aerial sightings when considered appropriate. This will not be so in all cases; explanation of a particular local incident may satisfy the majority of persons making reports. Summaries of UAS reports are held by the Command Public Relations Section.

/11. Requests for

11. Requests for speakers at symposiums, conferences, club meetings etc are to be forwarded to the Director of Air Force Intelligence for approval. In the event that official representation is sanctioned, the text at Annex C is to be used as a guide. The Directorate of Air Force Intelligence will periodically issue current summaries and revised suggested texts for lectures.

12. All correspondence relating to unusual aerial sightings is to be UNCLASSIFIED unless the content warrants higher classification under the provisions of AAP810.

ANNEX A

REPORT OF UNUSUAL AERIAL SIGHTING

Part 1 - Report by Observer

1. Name of observer _____ Age _____

   Address _____

   _____ State _____ Post Code _____

   Occupation _____

   Telephone No. (home) _____ (business) _____

2. a. Exact location of observer _____

   _____

   b. Observer's familiarity with the location _____

3. Start of observation: Date _____ Time _____ am/pm

   End of observation : Date _____ Time _____ am/pm

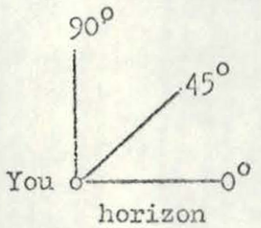
4. Accuracy of date _____ Times _____

5. General weather conditions of time of observation, referring to cloud, wind, visibility etc. _____

   _____

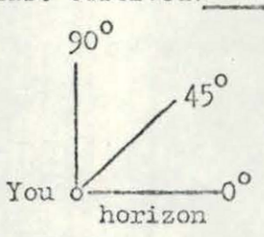
6. a. In what direction was the sighting first observed? _____

   b. At what angle to the horizon?



7. a. In what direction was the sighting last observed? _____

   b. At what angle to the horizon?



8. Estimate of distance and/or altitude from observer _____

   _____

9. How were the answers to questions 6, 7 and 8 assessed, and were aids or equipment used during the sighting? _____

   _____

/10. Describe

ANNEX A

10. Describe the object(s)/light(s) as follows:

a. number _____

b. colour _____

c. size _____

d. shape _____

e. brightness (relative to full moon/star) _____

f. movement/direction of travel _____

_____

g. sound _____

h. speed _____

i. method of propulsion _____

j. manner of disappearance _____

11. a. Narrative description of the sighting and any unusual features or additional comments _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

/b. Diagram or sketch

ANNEX A

b. Diagram or sketch of sighting (if possible)

12. Have you any photographs of the sighting, or is there any physical evidence of fragments, scorching or ground indentations? _____

_____

_____

13. How many other witnesses were there to the sighting?
(Please provide names and addresses if possible)

_____

_____

_____

14. Have you previously made any reports to official authorities or UFO organizations regarding unusual aerial sightings? If so, give brief details of dates and circumstances. _____

_____

_____

Date _____ Signature _____

Part 2 - Unit Report

ANNEX A

1. a. Details of military aircraft activity in the area at the time of the sighting.

Type	Heading	Height	Speed	Departed From	ATD	Destination	ATA

Source of information _____

b. Details of civil aircraft activity, including light private aircraft and international flights, in the area at the time of the sighting.

Type	Heading	Height	Speed	Departed From	ATD	Destination	ATA

Source of Information _____

2. Positions of any planets or major stars relevant to the sighting.

Celestial Body	Magnitude	Bearing	Elevation	Time

Source of information _____

3. a. Sunrise _____ Sunset _____ (where

b. Moonrise _____ Moonset _____ applicable)

/4. Details

4. Details of any predicted satellites in the area at the time of the sighting.

Satellite	Azimuth	Elevation	Heading	Time

Source of information _____

5. Details of any meteorological, research or radar balloons known to have been in the area at the time of the sighting (refer to point of release, size, colour, rate of climb and whether it was known to have burst).

_____

_____

Source of information _____

6. Details of any unusual radar traces or images, which may relate to the sighting, as recorded by military or civil networks _____

_____

_____

Source of information _____

7. Provide the following information relating to the weather and atmospheric conditions at the time of the sighting:

Temperature (dry bulb) _____°C (dew point) _____°C Relative humidity _____%

Cloud cover _____ type _____

Temperature inversion of _____°C at _____ft measured at _____ hrs from _____

Wind direction _____ at _____ ft

_____ at _____ ft

_____ at _____ ft

_____ at _____ ft

Pollution level _____ (if available)

Details of terrain and natural and/or man-made features in the area. Attache map with significant points marked, if possible)_____

_____

_____

_____

ANNEX A

Part 3 - Investigating Officer's Evaluation

1. a. Date of interview _____

   b. Place of interview _____

2. Names and addresses of persons interviewed (include phone numbers where applicable).

   1. _____ 2. _____

   _____ _____

   _____ _____

   _____ _____

3. Narrative evaluation of personalities of witnesses (include any relationship with UFO organizations and their interest in subject matter).

4. Investigating officer's evaluation of possible cause(s).

_____(Unit) _____(Name)

_____(Date) _____(Rank)

ANNEX B

The investigation of reports of unusual aerial sightings in Australia is carried out by the Royal Australian Air Force. Preliminary investigation of the reports is conducted at the nearest Royal Australian Air Force base. The reports are then forwarded to the Department of Defence (Air Office) where an investigating team completes the investigation.

Between January 1960 and December 1973 815 sightings were reported to the Royal Australian Air Force. 90 per cent of the sightings were attributed to causes which included aircraft, satellites, meteors, space debris re-entry, meteorological balloons, stars and planets. Seven per cent of reports were either received too late or did not provide sufficient information to permit proper analysis and evaluation. Three per cent of reports were attributed to unknown causes.

The United Kingdom Air Ministry has stated that on an average, 90 per cent of the sightings it investigates are explainable by causes ranging from meteorological balloons and meteors to aircraft lights. The other 10 per cent probably remain unexplained because of lack of reliable information.

The University of Colorado, under contract to the USAF, spent two years processing and investigating all American reports. The findings were published in 1968, by Bantam Books, as the 'Condon Report'. The general conclusion was that 'nothing has come from the study of UFOs in the past 21 years that has added to scientific knowledge' and that 'further extensive study of UFOs probably cannot be justified in the expectation that science will be advanced thereby'. A panel of eminent scientists, chosen by the US National Academy of Sciences, has examined and endorsed the Condon Report.

The USAF 'Project Blue Book' investigation of unidentified aerial objects between 1953 and 1965 analysed 7,641 UFO reports. The conclusions were:

a. 80 per cent of sightings were natural phenomena, hoaxes, birds or man-made objects;

b. 17 per cent of sightings provided insufficient data to permit thorough analysis and evaluation; and

c. three per cent were unidentified.

United States and Soviet space exploration has found no evidence to support the theory of life on planets in our solar system. The Mariner series of space exploration to Mars appears to have proved it a 'dead' planet. The only other source of extra-terrestrial life, therefore, would have to be in another solar system. The nearest visible star to Earth is Alpha Centauri which is about 25 million million miles away. Even if life forms existed there and were capable of space travel at speeds currently known to man ie about 25,000 mph they would take about 115,000 years to reach Earth. Consequently, the probability of extra-terrestrial life forms visiting Earth is extremely remote.

Enclosed are five summaries of unusual aerial sightings for the period January 1960 to December 1973.

ANNEX C

TEXT FOR LECTURES ON THE INVESTIGATION OF UNUSUAL AERIAL SIGHTINGS IN AUSTRALIA

IN AUSTRALIA, THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE INVESTIGATION OF UNUSUAL AERIAL SIGHTING REPORTS. THIS RESPONSIBILITY WAS VESTED IN THE AIR FORCE IN THE EARLY 1950S WHEN THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT, IN COMMON WITH THE UNITED KINGDOM AND UNITED STATES GOVERNMENTS, WAS CONCERNED THAT 'UFOS' MIGHT HAVE POSED A THREAT TO NATIONAL SECURITY. FOLLOWING SEVERAL YEARS INVESTIGATION OF SIGHTING REPORTS IN AUSTRALIA, THE HONORABLE F.M. OSBORN THEN MINISTER FOR AIR, MADE A STATEMENT TO THE AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENT IN CANBERRA ON 20TH OCTOBER 1960 SUMMARIZING THE POSITION. HE CONCLUDED HIS STATEMENT BY SAYING 'NOTHING THAT HAS ARISEN FROM THAT THREE OR FOUR PER CENT OF UNEXPLAINED CASES GIVES ANY FIRM SUPPORT FOR THE BELIEF THAT INTERLOPERS FROM OTHER PLACES IN THIS WORLD OR OUTSIDE IT HAVE BEEN VISITING US'.

IN THE UNITED STATES, THE UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO, UNDER CONTRACT TO THE USAF, SPENT TWO YEARS PROCESSING AND INVESTIGATING ALL AMERICAN REPORTS. THE FINDINGS WERE PUBLISHED IN 1968 BY BANTAM BOOKS AS THE 'CONDON REPORT'. THE GENERAL CONCLUSION WAS THAT 'NOTHING HAS COME FROM THE STUDY OF UFOS IN THE PAST 21 YEARS THAT HAS ADDED TO SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE' AND THAT 'FURTHER EXTENSIVE STUDY OF UFOS PROBABLY CANNOT BE JUSTIFIED IN THE EXPECTATION THAT SCIENCE WILL BE ADVANCED THEREBY'.

WHILE THESE GENERAL CONCLUSIONS STILL HOLD TRUE TODAY, THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE CONTINUES TO INVESTIGATE REPORTS OF UNUSUAL AERIAL SIGHTINGS AS A SERVICE TO THE PUBLIC. IN ALMOST ALL REPORTED CASES PEOPLE HAVE SEEN SOMETHING AND ARE CONCERNED AS TO THE CAUSE. IN SOME CASES PEOPLE ARE GENUINELY ALARMED AT THE POSSIBILITY THAT THEIR EXPERIENCE MAY BE EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL IN ORIGIN. WE HOPE THAT THROUGH OUR INVESTIGATIONS ANY FEARS THAT PEOPLE MAY HAVE ABOUT 'UFOS' CAN BE ALLAYED. ALTHOUGH THE MAJORITY OF REPORTS CAN BE RESOLVED SATISFACTORILY WE DO BELIEVE THAT THERE WILL ALWAYS BE A SMALL PERCENTAGE THAT WILL REMAIN UNRESOLVED PROBABLY BECAUSE OF INSUFFICIENT INFORMATION BEING SUPPLIED, LATE RECEIPT OF THE REPORT OR CURRENT SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE BEING INSUFFICIENT TO PROVIDE A DEFINITE EXPLANATION.

/BEFORE

BEFORE GOING INTO RAAF INVESTIGATION PROCEDURES, IT IS PERHAPS RELEVANT TO CLARIFY THE TERMS 'UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT' OR 'UFO' AND 'UNUSUAL AERIAL SIGHTING'. UNFORTUNATELY THE TERM 'UFO', BECAUSE OF ITS WIDESPREAD AND INDISCRIMINATE USE IS GENERALLY REGARDED AS JUST ANOTHER WORD FOR 'FLYING SAUCER'. THIS IS A RATHER IRONIC SITUATION SINCE THE TERM WAS ORIGINALLY INTRODUCED TO COMBAT SUCH AN EVENTUALITY, AND SO OVERCOME THE TENDENCY TO HAPHAZARDLY PROMOTE ALL UNUSUAL SIGHTINGS TO THE SPECTACULAR CATEGORY OF 'FLYING SAUCER'.

THE TERM 'UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT' IS SOMEWHAT OF A MISNOMER FOR THREE REASONS. FIRSTLY, MANY SIGHTINGS ARE NOT OF MATERIAL OBJECTS. FREAK WEATHER CONDITIONS, ELECTRICAL STORMS AND UNUSUAL LIGHT CONDITIONS CAN GIVE RISE TO MISLEADING IMPRESSIONS, ESPECIALLY TO THE UNTRAINED EYE. SECONDLY, EXCEPT IN SIGHTINGS OF AIRCRAFT, THE PROCESS OF FLYING IS RARELY INVOLVED. MANY SIGHTINGS ARE OF STARS AND PLANETS, OR OF SPACE DEBRIS, OR METEORS, NOT UNDER CONTROL AND THEREFORE NOT FLYING, ENTERING THE EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE. FINALLY, THE WORD 'UNIDENTIFIED' CAN BE CHALLENGED ON THE GROUNDS THAT THE CLASSIFICATION IS A PURELY TENTATIVE ONE, SINCE INFORMATION NOT AVAILABLE TO THE OBSERVER GENERALLY PROVIDES AN ADEQUATE IDENTIFICATION OF THE SIGHTING. OUR EXPERIENCE IS THAT ABOUT 90 PER CENT OF ALL WELL-REPORTED SIGHTINGS CAN BE IDENTIFIED SATISFACTORILY.

CONSEQUENTLY, THE TERM 'UNUSUAL AERIAL SIGHTING' IS USED AS IT IS A MORE ACCURATE DEFINITION OF THE OCCURRENCE.

MOVING ON NOW TO REPORTS OF UNUSUAL AERIAL SIGHTINGS IN AUSTRALIA. REPORTS ARE MADE INITIALLY TO THE NEAREST AIR FORCE BASE. AT THE BASE THE INTELLIGENCE OFFICER OR OTHER SUITABLY QUALIFIED OFFICER CONDUCTS THE PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION. HE CONTACTS THE OBSERVER PERSONALLY OR IN WRITING TO OBTAIN A COMPLETED 'REPORT OF UNUSUAL AERIAL SIGHTING' PRO-FORMA. THIS PRO-FORMA IS DESIGNED TO EXTRACT ALL THE INFORMATION RELEVANT TO THE SIGHTING AND THE PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION IS CONDUCTED BASED ON THIS INFORMATION. THE INVESTIGATING OFFICER'S REPORT, WHICH CONTAINS DETAILS OF CIVIL AND MILITARY

/AIRCRAFT

AIRCRAFT MOVEMENTS, STAR AND PLANET POSITIONS, KNOWN SATELLITE PASSES, METEOROLOGICAL BALLOON RELEASES AND PREVAILING WEATHER CONDITIONS, AND HIS ASSESSMENT OF THE PROBABLE CAUSE IS THEN FORWARDED TO THE DIRECTORATE OF AIR FORCE INTELLIGENCE AT THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE (AIR OFFICE) IN CANBERRA WHERE THE INVESTIGATION IS COMPLETED AND A REPLY SENT TO THE OBSERVER. WHERE NECESSARY ADVICE AND INFORMATION IS SOUGHT FROM SPECIALIST AGENCIES SUCH AS WRE, CSIRO, DEFENCE STANDARDS LABORATORIES, OBSERVATORIES AND UNIVERSITIES.

BETWEEN JANUARY 1960 AND DECEMBER 1973 815 REPORTS WERE RECEIVED. 90 PER CENT OF THE REPORTS WERE ATTRIBUTED TO CAUSES INCLUDING AIRCRAFT, SATELLITES, SPACE DEBRIS, BALLOONS, METEORS, STARS AND PLANETS. SEVEN PER CENT DID NOT PROVIDE SUFFICIENT INFORMATION TO PERMIT PROPER ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION AND THREE PER CENT WERE ATTRIBUTED TO UNKNOWN CAUSES. WE ENCOUNTER VERY FEW DELIBERATE HOAXES.

INVESTIGATIONS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND UNITED STATES HAVE PRODUCED SIMILAR FINDINGS TO OUR OWN. THE UNITED KINGDOM AIR MINISTRY HAS STATED THAT ON AN AVERAGE 90 PER CENT OF THE SIGHTINGS IT INVESTIGATES ARE EXPLAINABLE BY CAUSES RANGING FROM METEORCLOGICAL BALLOONS AND METEORS TO AIRCRAFT LIGHTS. THE OTHER 10 PER CENT PROBABLY REMAIN UNEXPLAINED BECAUSE OF A LACK OF RELIABLE INFORMATION.

THE USAF 'PROJECT BLUE BOOK' INVESTIGATION OF UNIDENTIFIED AERIAL OBJECTS BETWEEN 1953 AND 1965 ANALYZED 7641 REPORTS. THE CONCLUSION WAS THAT:

a. 80 PER CENT OF SIGHTINGS WERE NATURAL PHENOMENA, HOAXES, BIRDS OR MAN-MADE OBJECTS;

b. 17 PER CENT PROVIDED INSUFFICIENT DATA TO PERMIT THOROUGH ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION; AND

c. THREE PER CENT WERE UNIDENTIFIED.

/WITH THE

WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE PERIOD 1970/71, THERE HAS BEEN A STEADY INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF UNUSUAL AERIAL SIGHTINGS REPORTED IN AUSTRALIA, TO THE POINT WHERE ALMOST ONE QUARTER OF ALL SIGHTINGS BETWEEN 1960 AND 1973 WERE REPORTED LAST YEAR. THERE IS NO DEFINITE EXPLANATION FOR THIS INCREASE EXCEPT THAT:

a. THE SUBJECT OF 'UFOS' HAS BEEN GIVEN A LOT OF PUBLICITY IN ALL FORMS OF THE MEDIA;

b. TV AND CINEMA VERSIONS OF THE BOOK 'CHARIOTS OF THE GODS' HAVE GENERATED PUBLIC INTEREST IN THE SUBJECT; AND

c. THERE IS AN EVER INCREASING NUMBER OF SATELLITES IN EARTH ORBIT AND SPACE EXPLORATION IS EXTENDING FURTHER INTO THE OUTER REACHES OF OUR SOLAR SYSTEM.

LET US NOW LOOK AT SOME OF THE MAIN CAUSES OF UNUSUAL AERIAL SIGHTINGS AND WHY PEOPLE REPORT THEM AS SUCH.

FIRSTLY SPACE DEBRIS. FIGURES PUBLISHED IN JULY THIS YEAR SHOW THAT SINCE 1957 7353 MAN-MADE OBJECTS HAVE BEEN LAUNCHED INTO SPACE. OF THESE 3204 WERE STILL IN SPACE ON 30 JUNE. THESE OBJECTS PERIODICALLY DECAY AND BURN-UP DURING RE-ENTRY INTO THE EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE. ONE WELL REPORTED CASE INVOLVED 12 SEPARATE SIGHTINGS, FROM PLACES AS WIDESPREAD AS DERBY AND KALGOORLIE IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA, OF A LARGE FIERY OBJECT WITH A GLOWING TAIL. WE WERE ABLE TO CONFIRM THAT THE OBJECT WAS IN FACT A SPACE VEHICLE DESIGNATED 1973-024B WHICH WAS THE BOOSTER ROCKET ASSOCIATED WITH LAUNCHING OF A RUSSIAN SATELLITE COSMOS 555 (DESIGNATED 1973 - 024A). THIS OBJECT MEASURED APPROXIMATELY 40 METRES IN LENGTH AND WOULD HAVE GENERATED TREMENDOUS HEAT AND DISINTEGRATED DURING RE-ENTRY. THE NUMBER OF REPORTS RECEIVED PROBABLY REPRESENTS ONLY A FRACTION OF THE ACTUAL NUMBER OF WITNESSES TO THIS SIGHTING BUT IS SUFFICIENT TO INDICATE THAT QUITE A NUMBER OF PEOPLE WERE ALARMED AT AN INCIDENT STRANGE TO THEM YET READILY EXPLAINABLE WHEN ALL THE INFORMATION HAD BEEN EVALUATED. THIS PARTICULAR SIGHTING IS A PRIME EXAMPLE OF SPECIALIST AGENCIES PROVIDING A SOLUTION. WHERE

/WERE CONTACTED

WERE CONTACTED INITIALLY BUT WERE UNABLE TO CONFIRM SPACE DEBRIS RE-ENTRY AT THE TIME OF THE SIGHTING. THEY IMMEDIATELY TELEGRAMMED THE GODDARD SPACE FLIGHT CENTRE IN MARYLAND, USA WHO PROVIDED THE ANSWER IN LESS THAN 24 HOURS.

MOVING ON NOW TO AIRCRAFT OR MORE PARTICULARLY AIRCRAFT LIGHTING. IN ADDITION TO NORMAL EXTERNAL LIGHTING AIRCRAFT COMPANIES ARE NOW ILLUMINATING COMPANY MARKINGS FOR ADVERTISING PURPOSES, ~~FLASHING~~ STROBE ANTI-COLLISION LIGHTS AND LANDING LIGHTS ARE BEING TURNED ON UP TO 100 MILES AWAY FROM THE AIRPORT. THE UNKNOWING GROUND OBSERVER WHEN FACED WITH THIS CONFUSING ARRAY OF LIGHTS ~~RARELY SUCCINCTLY~~ MAY REPORT LONG CIGAR OR SAUCER-SHAPED OBJECTS WITH WEIRD FLASHING LIGHTS.

STARS AND PLANETS ARE ANOTHER CAUSE OF A GREAT MANY SIGHTING REPORTS. IN MANY OF THESE CASES PEOPLE ARE QUITE GENUINE IN THEIR BELIEF THAT THEY WOULD NOT MISTAKE SOMETHING AS WELL KNOWN AS VENUS OR EVEN A LESSER KNOWN STAR FOR WHAT THEY HAVE SEEN. THEY ARE PROBABLY NOT AWARE AT THE TIME, HOWEVER, OF THE STARTLING EFFECTS POLLUTION, TEMPERATURE INVERSIONS AND A PHENOMENON KNOWN AS ATMOSPHERIC SCINTILLATION CAN HAVE ON THESE LIGHT SOURCES. ANY ONE OF THESE CAN PRODUCE COLOUR CHANGES FROM RED AND YELLOW THROUGH TO BLUE AND GREEN AND CREATE THE IMPRESSION OF MOVEMENT. ATMOSPHERIC SCINTILLATION IN PARTICULAR, A PHENOMENON CAUSED BY VARYING ATMOSPHERIC DENSITY LAYERS, CAN PRODUCE RAPID FLUCTUATIONS IN BRIGHTNESS, POSITION AND COLOUR OF LIGHT SOURCES SUCH AS VENUS. EARLIER THIS YEAR YOU MAY RECALL THE MEDIA GAVE A LOT OF COVERAGE TO REPORTS OF TWO EXTREMELY BRIGHT LIGHTS CLOSE TOGETHER IN THE SKY. THE LIGHTS APPEARED TO RECEDE RAPIDLY AND SUDDENLY INCREASE IN BRIGHTNESS AND APPARENTLY PERFORMED STRANGE MANOEUVRES CREATING A VERY UNUSUAL AND PROBABLY QUITE ALARMING EFFECT. THESE LIGHTS WERE IN FACT NO MORE THAN THE PLANETS VENUS AND JUPITER SEEN THROUGH EITHER POLLUTION OR A TEMPERATURE INVERSION OR AFFECTED BY ATMOSPHERIC SCINTILLATION.

OF COURSE NOT ALL REPORTS RECEIVED ARE OF AN AERIAL NATURE. DURING THE PAST FEW YEARS A NUMBER OF REPORTS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED FROM QUEENSLAND,

/SOUTHAUSTRALIA

SOUTH AUSTRALIA AND VICTORIA OF STRANGE CIRCULAR MARKINGS IN THE GROUND. UNFORTUNATELY LITTLE PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN DETERMINING THE CAUSE OF THESE MARKINGS. THE REPORTS FROM QUEENSLAND AND SOUTH AUSTRALIA PARTICULARLY WERE WELL COVERED IN THE PRESS WHICH GAVE RISE TO SUGGESTIONS OF 'SAUCER NESTS'. WITH THIS TYPE OF PRESS COVERAGE OBJECTIVE INVESTIGATION WAS NOT POSSIBLE. THE REPORT FROM VICTORIA WAS RECEIVED LATE AND HEAVY RAINS HAD REMOVED ANY TRACE OF THESE MARKINGS. SEVERAL POSSIBILITIES HAVE BEEN CONSIDERED AS CAUSES AND THESE INCLUDE WILLY-WILLIES, FUNGUS, HELICOPTERS, AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY AND ANIMAL NESTS ALTHOUGH THERE IS NO CONCLUSIVE EVIDENCE THAT ANY ONE OF THESE WAS THE CAUSE. AT THE SAME TIME INVESTIGATIONS DID NOT DISCLOSE ANY EVIDENCE OF EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL RESIDUES OR RADIOACTIVITY.

FINALLY THE QUESTION TO BE ASKED IS 'WHAT IS THE PROBABILITY THAT UNUSUAL AERIAL SIGHTINGS ARE EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL IN ORIGIN?' WE WOULD BE UNWISE TO DISCOUNT COMPLETELY THE POSSIBILITY THAT LIFE FORMS EXIST ELSEWHERE. UNITED STATES AND SOVIET SPACE EXPLORATION, HOWEVER, HAS FOUND NO EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THE THEORY OF LIFE ON PLANETS IN OUR SOLAR SYSTEM. THE MARINER SERIES OF SPACE EXPLORATIONS APPEARS TO HAVE PROVED THAT MARS IS A 'DEAD' PLANET. THE ONLY OTHER SOURCE OF EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL LIFE, THEREFORE, WOULD HAVE TO BE IN ANOTHER SOLAR SYSTEM. THE CLOSEST VISIBLE STAR TO EARTH IS ALPHA CENTAURI WHICH IS ABOUT 25 MILLION MILLION MILES AWAY. EVEN IF LIFE FORMS EXISTED ON THIS STAR AND WERE CAPABLE OF SPACE TRAVEL AT SPEEDS CURRENTLY KNOWN TO MAN I.E. ABOUT 25,000 MPH THEY WOULD TAKE ABOUT 115,000 YEARS TO REACH EARTH. THAT WOULD SEEM TO BE A LONG JOURNEY TO UNDERTAKE JUST TO REMAIN IN ONE VICINITY FOR ONLY A FEW SECONDS, OR PERHAPS MINUTES. CONSEQUENTLY, THE PROBABILITY OF EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL LIFE FORMS VISITING EARTH IS EXTREMELY REMOTE.

RECEIVED
18 OCT 74 09 28
DEPT. OF DEFENCE
CENTRAL REGISTRY

123

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE

TELEPHONE: PENRITH 311311
STD AREA CODE 047
TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS:
"AIRCOMMAND, SYDNEY"

IN REPLY QUOTE 60/Air Pt1(12)

LOGGED

INFORMATION CONTROL OFFICER
554/1/30
DAFI (IR) 7-12-73
Folio

HEADQUARTERS OPERATIONAL COMMAND
RAAF
PENRITH NSW 2750

9th October 1974

Department of Defence (Air Office)

DAFI

For Information:

Headquarters Support Command

LECTURES ON UNUSUAL AERIAL SIGHTINGS

Reference: A. Your 554/1/30 Pt3(21) of 19th August 1974

1. In accordance with the direction in paragraph 3 of the reference, the Director of Air Force Intelligence is asked to approve an address by Wing Commander T.B. Paget, SOINTEL to the Naval Historical Society of Australia, Garden Island, NSW on a day to be decided between April and October 1975.

2. This headquarters receives a number of requests for lectures on the subject of unusual aerial sightings. Now that the reference has established a firm policy on release of such information and your office has also provided a suggested lecture text which will be periodically updated, it is suggested that a formal request to DAFI for authority to give each lecture should no longer be necessary. In the interests of reducing the administrative workload which is already a heavy burden it is requested that the direction in paragraph 3 of the reference be withdrawn and this headquarters be permitted to authorize lectures in its own right.

D.F. Gilson

(D.F. GILSON)
Group Captain
for Air Officer Commanding

22

(AIR OFFICE)

554/1/30 Pt 3 (22)

Headquarters
Papua New Guinea Defence Force
Murray Barracks Free Bag
BOROKO PNG

For Information :

Headquarters Operational Command

UNUSUAL AERIAL SIGHTINGS

Reference: A. Your 109-D1-11 (102) of 25 June 1974

1. The responsibility for the investigation of unusual aerial sightings in Papua New Guinea will remain with the Department of Defence (Air Office) unless advice to the contrary is received from the Government of Papua New Guinea.

2. In future, all results of investigations into Papua New Guinea sightings will be notified to your Headquarters for onforwarding to the observer.

3. Headquarters Operational Command is to remain an information addressee on all correspondence relating to unusual aerial sightings.

for (K. R. JANSON)
Group Captain
for Chief of the Air Staff

Department of Defence
(Air Office)
~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~

554/1/30 Pt 3(21)

19 AUG '74

Headquarters Operational Command
Headquarters Support Command

UNUSUAL AERIAL SIGHTINGS
INVESTIGATION AND RELATED ASPECTS

Reference: A. DEPAIR 554/1/30(1) dated 9th June 1972

1. Policy relating to investigation of unusual aerial sightings is at Reference A. Paragraphs 1-5 remain valid, paragraphs 6 and 7 are replaced by the following:

'6. Local investigating officers may reply to reports, either orally or in writing, providing they are completely satisfied that their investigation has determined the most probable cause of the sighting. When reports are dealt with locally, a copy of the report and reply is to be forwarded to the Directorate of Air Force Intelligence and parent Command Headquarters for record purposes. If any doubt exists regarding the cause of the sighting, or if the observer is not satisfied with the investigating officer's explanation, the report is to be forwarded to the Directorate of Air Force Intelligence for further investigation and reply.

7. Commands and Formations are authorized to release to the public copies of Annex B (issued with this letter) and summaries of unusual aerial sightings when it is considered appropriate. This will not be so in all cases; explanation of a particular local incident may satisfy the majority of persons making reports.'

2. The annexes enclosed with this letter replace Annexes A and B of Reference A. Annex C to Reference A is superseded by more current summaries.

3. Requests for speakers at symposiums, conferences, club meetings etc are to be forwarded to the Director of Air Force Intelligence for approval. In the event that official representation is sanctioned the text at Annex C to this letter is suggested as a guideline. The Directorate of Air Force Intelligence will periodically issue new summaries and revised suggested texts for lectures.

/4. Investigating

4. Investigating officers occasionally apply the security classification 'Restricted' to unusual aerial sighting reports. All correspondence relating to unusual aerial sightings is to be unclassified unless the content warrants higher classification under the provisions of AAP810 (March 1974 issue) Chapter 6.

(K. R. JANSON)
Group Captain
for Chief of the Air Staff

Annexes: A. Report of Unusual Aerial Sighting pro-forma

B. Information pro-forma

C. Text of Lecture on the Investigation of Unusual Aerial Sightings in Australia

ANNEX A TO
554/1/30 Pt 3(21)
OF 16th AUGUST 1974

REPORT OF UNUSUAL AERIAL SIGHTING

Part 1 - Report by Observer

1. Name of observer _____ Age _____

   Address _____

   _____ State _____ Post Code _____

   Occupation _____

   Telephone No. (home) _____ (business) _____

2. a. Exact location of observer _____

   _____

   b. Observer's familiarity with the location _____

3. Start of observation: Date _____ Time _____ am/pm

   End of observation : Date _____ Time _____ am/pm

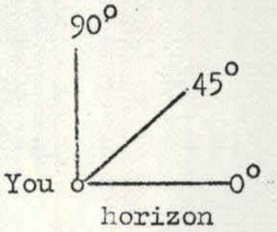
4. Accuracy of date _____ Times _____

5. General weather conditions of time of observation, referring to cloud, wind, visibility etc. _____

   _____

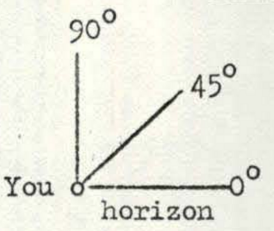
6. a. In what direction was the sighting first observed? _____

   b. At what angle to the horizon?



7. a. In what direction was the sighting last observed? _____

   b. At what angle to the horizon?



8. Estimate of distance and/or altitude from observer _____

   _____

9. How were the answers to questions 6, 7 and 8 assessed, and were aids or equipment used during the sighting? _____

   _____

/10. Describe

10. Describe the object(s)/light(s) as follows:

a. number _____

b. colour _____

c. size _____

d. shape _____

e. brightness (relative to full moon/star) _____

f. movement/direction of travel _____

_____

g. sound _____

h. speed _____

i. method of propulsion _____

j. manner of disappearance _____

11. a. Narrative description of the sighting and any unusual features or additional comments _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

/b. Diagram or sketch

ANNEX A

b. Diagram or sketch of sighting (if possible)

12. Have you any photographs of the sighting, or is there any physical evidence of fragments, scorching or ground indentations? _____

_____

_____

13. How many other witnesses were there to the sighting?
(Please provide names and addresses if possible)

_____

_____

_____

14. Have you previously made any reports to official authorities or UFO organizations regarding unusual aerial sightings? If so, give brief details of dates and circumstances. _____

_____

_____

Date _____ Signature _____

Part 2 - Unit Report ANNEX A

1. a. Details of military aircraft activity in the area at the time of the sighting.

Type	Heading	Height	Speed	Departed From	ATD	Destination	ATA

Source of information _____

b. Details of civil aircraft activity, including light private aircraft and international flights, in the area at the time of the sighting.

Type	Heading	Height	Speed	Departed From	ATD	Destination	ATA

Source of Information _____

2. Positions of any planets or major stars relevant to the sighting.

Celestial Body	Magnitude	Bearing	Elevation	Time

Source of information _____

3. a. Sunrise _____ Sunset _____ (where

b. Moonrise _____ Moonset _____ applicable)

/4. Details

4. Details of any predicted satellites in the area at the time of the sighting.

Satellite	Azimuth	Elevation	Heading	Time

Source of information _____

5. Details of any meteorological, research or radar balloons known to have been in the area at the time of the sighting (refer to point of release, size, colour, rate of climb and whether it was known to have burst).

_____

_____

Source of information _____

6. Details of any unusual radar traces or images, which may relate to the sighting, as recorded by military or civil networks _____

_____

_____

Source of information _____

7. Provide the following information relating to the weather and atmospheric conditions at the time of the sighting:

Temperature (dry bulb) ____°C (dew point) ____°C Relative humidity ____%

Cloud cover _____ type _____

Temperature inversion of _____°C at _____ft measured at _____ hrs

from _____

Wind direction _____ at _____ ft

_____ at _____ ft

_____ at _____ ft

_____ at _____ ft

Pollution level _____ (if available)

Details of terrain and natural and/or man-made features in the area. Attache map with significant points marked, if possible)_____

_____

_____

_____

ANNEX A

Part 3 - Investigating Officer's Evaluation

1. a. Date of interview _____

   b. Place of interview _____

2. Names and addresses of persons interviewed (include phone numbers where applicable).

   1. _____ 2. _____

   _____ _____

   _____ _____

   _____ _____

3. Narrative evaluation of personalities of witnesses (include any relationship with UFO organizations and their interest in subject matter).

4. Investigating officer's evaluation of possible cause(s).

_____(Unit) _____(Name)

_____(Date) _____(Rank)

ANNEX B TO
554/1/30 Pt 3(21)
of 19th AUGUST 1974

The investigation of reports of unusual aerial sightings in Australia is carried out by the Royal Australian Air Force. Preliminary investigation of the reports is conducted at the nearest Royal Australian Air Force base. The reports are then forwarded to the Department of Defence (Air Office) where an investigating team completes the investigation.

Between January 1960 and December 1973 815 sightings were reported to the Royal Australian Air Force. 90 per cent of the sightings were attributed to causes which included aircraft, satellites, meteors, space debris re-entry, meteorological balloons, stars and planets. Seven per cent of reports were either received too late or did not provide sufficient information to permit proper analysis and evaluation. Three per cent of reports were attributed to unknown causes.

The United Kingdom Air Ministry has stated that on an average, 90 per cent of the sightings it investigates are explainable by causes ranging from meteorological balloons and meteors to aircraft lights. The other 10 per cent probably remain unexplained because of lack of reliable information.

The University of Colorado, under contract to the USAF, spent two years processing and investigating all American reports. The findings were published in 1968, by Bantam Books, as the 'Condon Report'. The general conclusion was that 'nothing has come from the study of UFOs in the past 21 years that has added to scientific knowledge' and that 'further extensive study of UFOs probably cannot be justified in the expectation that science will be advanced thereby'. A panel of eminent scientists, chosen by the US National Academy of Sciences, has examined and endorsed the Condon Report.

The USAF 'Project Blue Book' investigation of unidentified aerial objects between 1953 and 1965 analysed 7,641 UFO reports. The conclusions were:

a. 80 per cent of sightings were natural phenomena, hoaxes, birds or man-made objects;

b. 17 per cent of sightings provided insufficient data to permit thorough analysis and evaluation; and

c. three per cent were unidentified.

United States and Soviet space exploration has found no evidence to support the theory of life on planets in our solar system. The Mariner series of space exploration to Mars appears to have proved it a 'dead' planet. The only other source of extra-terrestrial life, therefore, would have to be in another solar system. The nearest visible star to Earth is Alpha Centauri which is about 25 million million miles away. Even if life forms existed there and were capable of space travel at speeds currently known to man ie about 25,000 mph they would take about 115,000 years to reach Earth. Consequently, the probability of extra-terrestrial life forms visiting Earth is extremely remote.

Enclosed are five summaries of unusual aerial sightings for the period January 1960 to December 1973.

ANNEX C TO
554/1/30 Pt 3(21)
OF 1st AUGUST 1974

TEXT FOR LECTURES ON THE INVESTIGATION OF UNUSUAL AERIAL SIGHTINGS IN AUSTRALIA

IN AUSTRALIA, THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE INVESTIGATION OF UNUSUAL AERIAL SIGHTING REPORTS. THIS RESPONSIBILITY WAS VESTED IN THE AIR FORCE IN THE EARLY 1950S WHEN THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT, IN COMMON WITH THE UNITED KINGDOM AND UNITED STATES GOVERNMENTS, WAS CONCERNED THAT 'UFOS' MIGHT HAVE POSED A THREAT TO NATIONAL SECURITY. FOLLOWING SEVERAL YEARS INVESTIGATION OF SIGHTING REPORTS IN AUSTRALIA, THE HONORABLE F.M. OSBORNE, THEN MINISTER FOR AIR, MADE A STATEMENT TO THE AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENT IN CANBERRA ON 20TH OCTOBER 1960 SUMMARIZING THE POSITION. HE CONCLUDED HIS STATEMENT BY SAYING 'NOTHING THAT HAS ARISEN FROM THAT THREE OR FOUR PER CENT OF UNEXPLAINED CASES GIVES ANY FIRM SUPPORT FOR THE BELIEF THAT INTERLOPERS FROM OTHER PLACES IN THIS WORLD OR OUTSIDE IT HAVE BEEN VISITING US'.

IN THE UNITED STATES, THE UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO, UNDER CONTRACT TO THE USAF, SPENT TWO YEARS PROCESSING AND INVESTIGATING ALL AMERICAN REPORTS. THE FINDINGS WERE PUBLISHED IN 1968 BY BANTAM BOOKS AS THE 'CONDON REPORT'. THE GENERAL CONCLUSION WAS THAT 'NOTHING HAS COME FROM THE STUDY OF UFOS IN THE PAST 21 YEARS THAT HAS ADDED TO SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE' AND THAT 'FURTHER EXTENSIVE STUDY OF UFOS PROBABLY CANNOT BE JUSTIFIED IN THE EXPECTATION THAT SCIENCE WILL BE ADVANCED THEREBY'.

WHILE THESE GENERAL CONCLUSIONS STILL HOLD TRUE TODAY, THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE CONTINUES TO INVESTIGATE REPORTS OF UNUSUAL AERIAL SIGHTINGS AS A SERVICE TO THE PUBLIC. IN ALMOST ALL REPORTED CASES PEOPLE HAVE SEEN SOMETHING AND ARE CONCERNED AS TO THE CAUSE. IN SOME CASES PEOPLE ARE GENUINELY ALARMED AT THE POSSIBILITY THAT THEIR EXPERIENCE MAY BE EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL IN ORIGIN. WE HOPE THAT THROUGH OUR INVESTIGATIONS ANY FEARS THAT PEOPLE MAY HAVE ABOUT 'UFOS' CAN BE ALLAYED. ALTHOUGH THE MAJORITY OF REPORTS CAN BE RESOLVED SATISFACTORILY WE DO BELIEVE THAT THERE WILL ALWAYS BE A SMALL PERCENTAGE THAT WILL REMAIN UNRESOLVED PROBABLY BECAUSE OF INSUFFICIENT INFORMATION BEING SUPPLIED, LATE RECEIPT OF THE REPORT OR CURRENT SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE BEING INSUFFICIENT TO PROVIDE A DEFINITE EXPLANATION.

/BEFORE

BEFORE GOING INTO RAAF INVESTIGATION PROCEDURES, IT IS PERHAPS RELEVANT TO CLARIFY THE TERMS 'UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT' OR 'UFO' AND 'UNUSUAL AERIAL SIGHTING'. UNFORTUNATELY THE TERM 'UFO', BECAUSE OF ITS WIDESPREAD AND INDISCRIMINATE USE IS GENERALLY REGARDED AS JUST ANOTHER WORD FOR 'FLYING SAUCER'. THIS IS A RATHER IRONIC SITUATION SINCE THE TERM WAS ORIGINALLY INTRODUCED TO COMBAT SUCH AN EVENTUALITY, AND SO OVERCOME THE TENDENCY TO HAPHAZARDLY PROMOTE ALL UNUSUAL SIGHTINGS TO THE SPECTACULAR CATEGORY OF 'FLYING SAUCER'.

THE TERM 'UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT' IS SOMEWHAT OF A MISNOMER FOR THREE REASONS. FIRSTLY, MANY SIGHTINGS ARE NOT OF MATERIAL OBJECTS. FREAK WEATHER CONDITIONS, ELECTRICAL STORMS AND UNUSUAL LIGHT CONDITIONS CAN GIVE RISE TO MISLEADING IMPRESSIONS, ESPECIALLY TO THE UNTRAINED EYE. SECONDLY, EXCEPT IN SIGHTINGS OF AIRCRAFT, THE PROCESS OF FLYING IS RARELY INVOLVED. MANY SIGHTINGS ARE OF STARS AND PLANETS, OR OF SPACE DEBRIS, OR METEORS, NOT UNDER CONTROL AND THEREFORE NOT FLYING, ENTERING THE EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE. FINALLY, THE WORD 'UNIDENTIFIED' CAN BE CHALLENGED ON THE GROUNDS THAT THE CLASSIFICATION IS A PURELY TENTATIVE ONE, SINCE INFORMATION NOT AVAILABLE TO THE OBSERVER GENERALLY PROVIDES AN ADEQUATE IDENTIFICATION OF THE SIGHTING. OUR EXPERIENCE IS THAT ABOUT 90 PER CENT OF ALL WELL-REPORTED SIGHTINGS CAN BE IDENTIFIED SATISFACTORILY.

CONSEQUENTLY, THE TERM 'UNUSUAL AERIAL SIGHTING' IS USED AS IT IS A MORE ACCURATE DEFINITION OF THE OCCURRENCE.

MOVING ON NOW TO REPORTS OF UNUSUAL AERIAL SIGHTINGS IN AUSTRALIA. REPORTS ARE MADE INITIALLY TO THE NEAREST AIR FORCE BASE. AT THE BASE THE INTELLIGENCE OFFICER OR OTHER SUITABLY QUALIFIED OFFICER CONDUCTS THE PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION. HE CONTACTS THE OBSERVER PERSONALLY OR IN WRITING TO OBTAIN A COMPLETED 'REPORT OF UNUSUAL AERIAL SIGHTING' PRO-FORMA. THIS PRO-FORMA IS DESIGNED TO EXTRACT ALL THE INFORMATION RELEVANT TO THE SIGHTING AND THE PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION IS CONDUCTED BASED ON THIS INFORMATION. THE INVESTIGATING OFFICER'S REPORT, WHICH CONTAINS DETAILS OF CIVIL AND MILITARY

/AIRCRAFT

ANNEX C

AIRCRAFT MOVEMENTS, STAR AND PLANET POSITIONS, KNOWN SATELLITE PASSES, METEOROLOGICAL BALLOON RELEASES AND PREVAILING WEATHER CONDITIONS, AND HIS ASSESSMENT OF THE PROBABLE CAUSE IS THEN FORWARDED TO THE DIRECTORATE OF AIR FORCE INTELLIGENCE AT THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE (AIR OFFICE) IN CANBERRA WHERE THE INVESTIGATION IS COMPLETED AND A REPLY SENT TO THE OBSERVER. WHERE NECESSARY ADVICE AND INFORMATION IS SOUGHT FROM SPECIALIST AGENCIES SUCH AS WRE, CSIRO, DEFENCE STANDARDS LABORATORIES, OBSERVATORIES AND UNIVERSITIES.

BETWEEN JANUARY 1960 AND DECEMBER 1973 815 REPORTS WERE RECEIVED. 90 PER CENT OF THE REPORTS WERE ATTRIBUTED TO CAUSES INCLUDING AIRCRAFT, SATELLITES, SPACE DEBRIS, BALLOONS, METEORS, STARS AND PLANETS. SEVEN PER CENT DID NOT PROVIDE SUFFICIENT INFORMATION TO PERMIT PROPER ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION AND THREE PER CENT WERE ATTRIBUTED TO UNKNOWN CAUSES. WE ENCOUNTER VERY FEW DELIBERATE HOAXES.

INVESTIGATIONS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND UNITED STATES HAVE PRODUCED SIMILAR FINDINGS TO OUR OWN. THE UNITED KINGDOM AIR MINISTRY HAS STATED THAT ON AN AVERAGE 90 PER CENT OF THE SIGHTINGS IT INVESTIGATES ARE EXPLAINABLE BY CAUSES RANGING FROM METEOROLOGICAL BALLOONS AND METEORS TO AIRCRAFT LIGHTS. THE OTHER 10 PER CENT PROBABLY REMAIN UNEXPLAINED BECAUSE OF A LACK OF RELIABLE INFORMATION.

THE USAF 'PROJECT BLUE BOOK' INVESTIGATION OF UNIDENTIFIED AERIAL OBJECTS BETWEEN 1953 AND 1965 ANALYZED 7641 REPORTS. THE CONCLUSION WAS THAT:

a. 80 PER CENT OF SIGHTINGS WERE NATURAL PHENOMENA, HOAXES, BIRDS OR MAN-MADE OBJECTS;

b. 17 PER CENT PROVIDED INSUFFICIENT DATA TO PERMIT THOROUGH ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION; AND

c. THREE PER CENT WERE UNIDENTIFIED.

/WITH THE

WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE PERIOD 1970/71, THERE HAS BEEN A STEADY INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF UNUSUAL AERIAL SIGHTINGS REPORTED IN AUSTRALIA, TO THE POINT WHERE ALMOST ONE QUARTER OF ALL SIGHTINGS BETWEEN 1960 AND 1973 WERE REPORTED LAST YEAR. THERE IS NO DEFINITE EXPLANATION FOR THIS INCREASE EXCEPT THAT:

a. THE SUBJECT OF 'UFOS' HAS BEEN GIVEN A LOT OF PUBLICITY IN ALL FORMS OF THE MEDIA;

b. TV AND CINEMA VERSIONS OF THE BOOK 'CHARIOTS OF THE GODS' HAVE GENERATED PUBLIC INTEREST IN THE SUBJECT; AND

c. THERE IS AN EVER INCREASING NUMBER OF SATELLITES IN EARTH ORBIT AND SPACE EXPLORATION IS EXTENDING FURTHER INTO THE OUTER REACHES OF OUR SOLAR SYSTEM.

LET US NOW LOOK AT SOME OF THE MAIN CAUSES OF UNUSUAL AERIAL SIGHTINGS AND WHY PEOPLE REPORT THEM AS SUCH.

FIRSTLY SPACE DEBRIS. FIGURES PUBLISHED IN JULY THIS YEAR SHOW THAT SINCE 1957 7353 MAN-MADE OBJECTS HAVE BEEN LAUNCHED INTO SPACE. OF THESE 3204 WERE STILL IN SPACE ON 30 JUNE. THESE OBJECTS PERIODICALLY DECAY AND BURN-UP DURING RE-ENTRY INTO THE EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE. ONE WELL REPORTED CASE INVOLVED 12 SEPARATE SIGHTINGS, FROM PLACES AS WIDESPREAD AS DERBY AND KALGOORLIE IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA, OF A LARGE FIERY OBJECT WITH A GLOWING TAIL. WE WERE ABLE TO CONFIRM THAT THE OBJECT WAS IN FACT A SPACE VEHICLE DESIGNATED 1973-024B WHICH WAS THE BOOSTER ROCKET ASSOCIATED WITH LAUNCHING OF A RUSSIAN SATELLITE COSMOS 555 (DESIGNATED 1973 - 024A). THIS OBJECT MEASURED APPROXIMATELY 40 METRES IN LENGTH AND WOULD HAVE GENERATED TREMENDOUS HEAT AND DISINTEGRATED DURING RE-ENTRY. THE NUMBER OF REPORTS RECEIVED PROBABLY REPRESENTS ONLY A FRACTION OF THE ACTUAL NUMBER OF WITNESSES TO THIS SIGHTING BUT IS SUFFICIENT TO INDICATE THAT QUITE A NUMBER OF PEOPLE WERE ALARMED AT AN INCIDENT STRANGE TO THEM YET READILY EXPLAINABLE WHEN ALL THE INFORMATION HAD BEEN EVALUATED. THIS PARTICULAR SIGHTING IS A PRIME EXAMPLE OF SPECIALIST AGENCIES PROVIDING A SOLUTION. WRE

/WERE CONTACTED

WERE CONTACTED INITIALLY BUT WERE UNABLE TO CONFIRM SPACE DEBRIS RE-ENTRY AT THE TIME OF THE SIGHTING. THEY IMMEDIATELY TELEGRAMMED THE GODDARD SPACE FLIGHT CENTRE IN MARYLAND, USA WHO PROVIDED THE ANSWER IN LESS THAN 24 HOURS.

MOVING ON NOW TO AIRCRAFT OR MORE PARTICULARLY AIRCRAFT LIGHTING. IN ADDITION TO NORMAL EXTERNAL LIGHTING AIRCRAFT COMPANIES ARE NOW ILLUMINATING COMPANY MARKINGS FOR ADVERTISING PURPOSES, FITTING STROBE ANTI-COLLISION LIGHTS AND LANDING LIGHTS ARE BEING TURNED ON UP TO 100 MILES AWAY FROM THE AIRPORT. THE UNKNOWING GROUND OBSERVER WHEN FACED WITH THIS CONFUSING ARRAY OF LIGHTS HARDLY SURPRISINGLY REPORTS LONG CIGAR OR SAUCER-SHAPED OBJECTS WITH EERIE FLASHING LIGHTS.

STARS AND PLANETS ARE ANOTHER CAUSE OF A GREAT MANY SIGHTING REPORTS. IN MANY OF THESE CASES PEOPLE ARE QUITE GENUINE IN THEIR BELIEF THAT THEY WOULD NOT MISTAKE SOMETHING AS WELL KNOWN AS VENUS OR EVEN A LESSER KNOWN STAR FOR WHAT THEY HAVE SEEN. THEY ARE PROBABLY NOT AWARE AT THE TIME, HOWEVER, OF THE STARTLING EFFECTS POLLUTION, TEMPERATURE INVERSIONS AND A PHENOMENON KNOWN AS ATMOSPHERIC SCINTILLATION CAN HAVE ON THESE LIGHT SOURCES. ANY ONE OF THESE CAN PRODUCE COLOUR CHANGES FROM RED AND YELLOW THROUGH TO BLUE AND GREEN AND CREATE THE IMPRESSION OF MOVEMENT. ATMOSPHERIC SCINTILLATION IN PARTICULAR, A PHENOMENON CAUSED BY VARYING ATMOSPHERIC DENSITY LAYERS, CAN PRODUCE RAPID FLUCTUATIONS IN BRIGHTNESS, POSITION AND COLOUR OF LIGHT SOURCES SUCH AS VENUS. EARLIER THIS YEAR YOU MAY RECALL THE MEDIA GAVE A LOT OF COVERAGE TO REPORTS OF TWO EXTREMELY BRIGHT LIGHTS CLOSE TOGETHER IN THE SKY. THE LIGHTS APPEARED TO RECEDE RAPIDLY AND SUDDENLY INCREASE IN BRIGHTNESS AND APPARENTLY PERFORMED STRANGE MANOEUVRES CREATING A VERY UNUSUAL AND PROBABLY QUITE ALARMING EFFECT. THESE LIGHTS WERE IN FACT NO MORE THAN THE PLANETS VENUS AND JUPITER SEEN THROUGH EITHER POLLUTION OR A TEMPERATURE INVERSION OR AFFECTED BY ATMOSPHERIC SCINTILLATION.

OF COURSE NOT ALL REPORTS RECEIVED ARE OF AN AERIAL NATURE. DURING THE PAST FEW YEARS A NUMBER OF REPORTS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED FROM QUEENSLAND,

/SOUTHAUSTRALIA

SOUTH AUSTRALIA AND VICTORIA OF STRANGE CIRCULAR MARKINGS IN THE GROUND. UNFORTUNATELY LITTLE PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN DETERMINING THE CAUSE OF THESE MARKINGS. THE REPORTS FROM QUEENSLAND AND SOUTH AUSTRALIA PARTICULARLY WERE WELL COVERED IN THE PRESS WHICH GAVE RISE TO SUGGESTIONS OF 'SAUCER NESTS'. WITH THIS TYPE OF PRESS COVERAGE OBJECTIVE INVESTIGATION WAS NOT POSSIBLE. THE REPORT FROM VICTORIA WAS RECEIVED LATE AND HEAVY RAINS HAD REMOVED ANY TRACE OF THESE MARKINGS. SEVERAL POSSIBILITIES HAVE BEEN CONSIDERED AS CAUSES AND THESE INCLUDE WILLY-WILLIES, FUNGUS, HELICOPTERS, AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY AND ANIMAL NESTS ALTHOUGH THERE IS NO CONCLUSIVE EVIDENCE THAT ANY ONE OF THESE WAS THE CAUSE. AT THE SAME TIME INVESTIGATIONS DID NOT DISCLOSE ANY EVIDENCE OF EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL RESIDUES OR RADIOACTIVITY.

FINALLY THE QUESTION TO BE ASKED IS 'WHAT IS THE PROBABILITY THAT UNUSUAL AERIAL SIGHTINGS ARE EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL IN ORIGIN?' WE WOULD BE UNWISE TO DISCOUNT COMPLETELY THE POSSIBILITY THAT LIFE FORMS EXIST ELSEWHERE. UNITED STATES AND SOVIET SPACE EXPLORATION, HOWEVER, HAS FOUND NO EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THE THEORY OF LIFE ON PLANETS IN OUR SOLAR SYSTEM. THE MARINER SERIES OF SPACE EXPLORATIONS APPEARS TO HAVE PROVED THAT MARS IS A 'DEAD' PLANET. THE ONLY OTHER SOURCE OF EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL LIFE, THEREFORE, WOULD HAVE TO BE IN ANOTHER SOLAR SYSTEM. THE CLOSEST VISIBLE STAR TO EARTH IS ALPHA CENTAURI WHICH IS ABOUT 25 MILLION MILLION MILES AWAY. EVEN IF LIFE FORMS EXISTED ON THIS STAR AND WERE CAPABLE OF SPACE TRAVEL AT SPEEDS CURRENTLY KNOWN TO MAN I.E. ABOUT 25,000 MPH THEY WOULD TAKE ABOUT 115,000 YEARS TO REACH EARTH. THAT WOULD SEEM TO BE A LONG JOURNEY TO UNDERTAKE JUST TO REMAIN IN ONE VICINITY FOR ONLY A FEW SECONDS, OR PERHAPS MINUTES. CONSEQUENTLY, THE PROBABILITY OF EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL LIFE FORMS VISITING EARTH IS EXTREMELY REMOTE.

Royal Australian Air Force

A224 — MESSAGE FORM

Sep 7[redacted]ock No 7530-66-037-8301

NOTE: This form is made of NCR paper. Care must be taken when writing and filing.

20A

RESERVED FOR COMMCEN/SIGNALS USE MAY 30 1[illegible]

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION AND SPECIAL HANDLING INSTRUCTIONS

UNCLAS

Line 1

Line 2

Line 3

Line 4

Line 5

PRECEDENCE — ACTION	PRECEDENCE — INFO	DATE — TIME GROUP	MESSAGE INSTRUCTIONS
ROUTINE	ROUTINE	30/1452Z MAY 74	

ROUTING INDICATORS

FROM DEFAIR CANBERRA

WRITE ONLY ONE ADDRESS PER LINE. THE PROWORD 'INFO' IS TO BE INSERTED BEFORE THE FIRST INFORMATION ADDRESS

TO HQOC

ORIG No AI 309

GR

FOR SOUTELL. REF YOUR AI 866.
NEW PRO FORMA IS CURRENTLY BEING
COMPILED AND COMMENTS INCORPORATED.
DELAY IN REPLYING IS REGRETTED.

REFERS TO MESSAGE	PAGE No	DRAFTER'S NAME AND TITLE	PHONE No	REF FILE No	DATE
AI 866	1	M CRETON 12-2	[redacted]	[redacted]	30 MAY 74
CLASSIFIED YES ☐ NO ☑	No OF PAGES 1	RELEASER'S NAME AND TITLE W J McKEAN 12-1	SIGNATURE		

FOR OPS USE	R	DATE	TIME	SYSTEM	OPERATOR	D	DATE	TIME	SYSTEM	OPERATOR	SECURITY CLASSIFICATION
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DAF1

Telephone 56166

Quote in Reply

109-D1-11 (102)

DEFENCE
INFORMATION
CONTROL CENTRE
580 | 1 | 1
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DAF.1
20-3-74

Headquarters
Papua New Guinea Defence Force
Murray Barracks Free Bag
BOROKO PNG

Department of Defence (Air Office)
Russell Offices
CANBERRA ACT 2601

For Information:

Headquarters Operational Command RAAF PENRITH NSW 2750

UNUSUAL AERIAL SIGHTINGS

Reference: Air Office 580/1/1 (file)

1. Please find enclosed four Unusual Aerial Sighting reports from the KOKODA area of Papua New Guinea. They have been researched as far as possible from this Headquarters and are forwarded for your consideration and further investigation.

2. Your advice is requested on the following aspects of the reporting of Unusual Aerial Sightings:

2.1 Because of the nearness of independence for PNG, could your findings be reported to this Headquarters only and we will notify the observer under this Headquarters letter-head,

2.2 What is to be the Policy for reporting sightings after independence, and

2.3 Are information copies of reports still required by Operational Command.

J.J. McKenzie

(J.J. McKENZIE)
Wing Commander
for Commander

25 Jun 74

Enclosure:
1. Report by C. OVERLAND Assistant District Officer KOKODA
2. Report by Mrs Freda Koe NAEMBO
3. Report by Amunda KEYE
4. Report by Elsie OMBARI

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TO DEFAIR CANBERRA

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FOR DAFI PPD FURTHR OUR A1799 OF 18 MAY 74 REPLY WOULD BE APPRECIATED

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TO DEFAIR CANBERRA

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ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE

554/1/30 DAFI 26-5-72

TELEPHONE: 69 0550

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS:
"AIRCOMMAND, MELBOURNE"

HEADQUARTERS SUPPORT COMMAND
RAAF
VICTORIA BARRACKS
MELBOURNE VIC 3004

IN REPLY QUOTE 5/6/Air(55)

30 AUG 1973

DAFI

Department of Air (DAFI)

SUGGESTED CHANGE IN UFO POLICY

Reference: A. Department of Air 554/1/30(1) of 9th June 1972

1. Reference A indicates that unidentified flying objects are not a defence threat. It is therefore suggested that UFO investigations be discontinued.

2. Attached at Annex A is an article titled "Extra-Terrestial Intelligent Life" by Professor H.H. Bolotin, University of Melbourne. Professor Bolotin has advised HQSC Public Relations Officer that the RAAF may use his article or any part of the article as required. It is suggested that the following established scientific facts from Reference A and Professor Bolotin's article should be included in RAAF UFO policy and actively publicised:-

a. US and Soviet space exploration has found no evidence to support the theory of life on planets in our solar system. The only other source of extra-terrestial life, then, would have to be in another solar system;

b. the nearest star to our sun, Alpha Centauri, is about 25 million, million miles away. For light or radio signals to travel that distance (at 186,000 miles/sec) takes about four light years. Travel at that speed seems beyond the capabilities of any civilization;

c. a speed of 100,000 miles per hour is required to escape the gravitational pull of our sun and reach another sun. (Astronauts going to the moon travel at about 25,000 miles per hour). At 100,000 mph it would take about 30,000 years to travel from Alpha Centauri to earth. Travel at even the fantastic speed of 3 million mph would only reduce the trip to 1,000 years.

/3. The above


-3SEP 1973

3. The above facts are not meant to prove or disprove the existence of extra-terrestial life. They are submitted as reasonable grounds for:-

a. discontinuing time consuming, fruitless UFO investigations; and

b. countering the unlikely UFO reports that the mass media regard as "newsworthy". Invariably such media reports arouse intense public interest which results in many hours, in some cases days, of unproductive public relations activities and UFO investigations. For example, during July 1973 this Headquarters received more than forty UFO reports from members of the public. Most of these reports were assessed as meteor sightings and resulted from news media publicity to what were obviously meteors.

(H.D. MARSH)
Air Commodore
For Air Officer Commanding

ANNEX: A. Article by Professor H.H. Bolotin

17A

Extra-Terrestial Intelligent Life?

by Professor H.H. Bolotin, University of Melbourne

Man has always been held fascinated by the wonder of life. This unfadable interest has extended to virtually every facet of existence ranging from the origins of life on earth, to intriguing speculation as to the existence of life on other planets of our solar system and, especially in recent years, to questions as to whether life, primordial or intelligent may be present elsewhere anywhere in the entire universe.

There are those who espouse the notion that man has a long history of seeking other higher-intelligent beings. It has been argued that in prehistoric times, when man found himself still a rather rare species upon the earth, and when the ravages of nature and the uncertainties of life and death confounded him, his mind sought comfort in thoughts of a protective, all-powerful, higher intelligence overlooking his existence. These individuals claim that in these exercises were born the origins of our ideas of God (or gods) and ritualistic worship of an omnipotent entity. Whether these theories of man's original conception of a deity have any substance or not, it is clear that, in this regard, man has not basically changed in the intervening millenia. In modern times man is no longer so solitary. He has the company of more than 4 billion other human beings and now has a great deal of control (or effect) upon his environment, life-span, and daily life. Yet today he continues to speculate on the existence of life elsewhere and, in particular, of other comparable or higher intelligences to his own existing somewhere in the universe.

There is a corner of man's mind that never ceases to be stimulated and challenged by this quest. For some decades, imaginative scientific-fiction novels have been read with great interest and have fascinated a large segment of our population. Although assured in the highest scientific circles that life, even in the most elemental form, does not exist on the moon, the last decade has shown the universality of our interest in the exploration of that satellite of the earth. Preliminary evidences, all thus far proven erroneous, of even complex organic molecules on the moon, have held us mesmerized, as modern biochemical research has contended that these are the forerunners and building blocks of life.

Closer observation of Mars, by means of recent space probes, has rekindled our fundamental desire to know not only the specific physical characteristics of that planet but, moreso, whether life there exists in any form whatsoever. We are so drawn by this quest to know that millions of dollars and hundreds of scientific and technical men are now devoted to projects specifically aimed at the discovery of the existence of intelligent life elsewhere, and to satisfy our monolithic desire to communicate with any such extra-terrestial beings.

There is virtually no event that might take place on earth, no matter how cataclysmic, that would rival the announced discovered existence of intelligent life elsewhere in the universe. It is not hard to picture the consternation and wonderment that would follow such a discovery.

Some would immediately expect an invasion, or at least a visit, of our earth by these beings. This group would divide into two camps - one looking upon this expectation with quaking fear of conquering invaders, and the other welcoming such an event with anticipation that such visitors might bring with them solutions to most or all of our "insoluable" earthly problems and provide us with a road-map to a utopian paradise. As we shall see, "visitors", ~~by~~ foe or friend, from these extra-terrestial worlds should be the furthest thing from our minds.

Once we become free of such initial expectations and fears, the later, long-term, and more reasoned reactions would undoubtedly centre around larger philosophic and religious concepts. Man's conception of himself and the universe has already suffered enormous reorientation due to the invalidation of the geo-centric theory that held that the earth was not only the centre of our solar system, but of the entire universe. The principle of the evolution of our own species has caused us to reassess man's special role on earth. Philosophers and theologians, even today, are still occupied with the consequent and meaningful implications of these developments.

To many, these "discoveries" spelled the end to man's claim to a unique position within the universe and on earth, and to a weakening or rejection of the comforting concept of men as God's chosen beings. For many others, these new insights have actually strengthened their belief that man, among all the creatures of the earth, basking in the light of but one of billions of suns in the universe, has indeed been singled out as the centre of God's

love, attention, and concern.

Since theologians and philosophers are, today, still adjusting to those developments, it is difficult to gauge the form and extent of their reactions to the discovery of even one extra-terrestial "civilization." For if one other such inhabited world exists, there are undoubtedly a myriad of similar copies in the universe. How then would man's place in the ordered plan of existence be rationalized and interpreted?

For these and many other reasons, it is not surprising that there have been several sincere and thoughtful proposals advanced to establish the possible existence of extra-terrestial intelligent beings and to communicate our presence to them.

The most ambitious of these suggestions put forth - dubbed Project Ozma - seeks to transmit radio signals, coded in a fundamental and "universal" pattern into outer space; hopes for their receival and recognition by these extra-terrestial beings, and would await a return radio message (again coded in a similar format) that would signal to us on earth that our transmission was intercepted, interpreted, and understood by them to have originated from our own intelligent civilization. The rationale at the back of this proposal is that just as we on earth have developed the science of radio astronomy, so it may be assumed that one or more extra-terrestial "civilizations" have also developed this field to a similarly advanced stage. They, too, would undoubtedly be scanning the heavens by means of large dish-shaped (or other) radio antennae

(radiotelescopes) "listening" for radio-frequency signals emitted from distant galaxies. (These radio signals emitted by galaxies are characteristic of the energy generation processes going on in galaxies and supernovae, just as is the stellar light we observe with the naked eye or by means of optical telescopes.) This special coded pattern of signals is designed at the same time to be easily differentiated from the more random natural radio-frequency "pictures" emitted by galaxies, and to indicate by the repetitious and ordered array of our broadcasts that their origin would be unmistakably recognized as coming from an intelligent and technically advanced source.

A recent proposal of more limited aims has been advanced by Drs. Sagan and Drake (Cornell University, U.S.A.) who argued for the sending of an anodized aluminium plaque, suitably etched with a fundamentally coded message, into outer space. They proposed that the chance interception of this message-plaque by extra-terrestial intelligent inhabitants somewhere in the universe would be readily interpreted by them as unambiguous evidence of our existence. (The etched code is designed to indicate to the finders where in the cosmos the plaque originated, as well as some specific information as to the nature of the beings that sent it. It carries etched drawings of a man and a woman, the Pioneer 10 spacecraft, figures designed to represent fundamental units of length, a picture showing our solar system, and other key scientific inscriptions to indicate some of our knowledge of the universe.) These scientists state, in effect, that even if an exchange of communication between us and these other inhabitants of the universe, if they exist, is not probable or

yet feasible, it would be a sign of the maturity and advancement of man to at least attempt to communicate the fact of our existence to others, whether or not we might ever receive evidence that our "message" was received and understood. To this end, a plaque of their design, firmly attached to the unmanned Pioneer 10 space probe, was launched into space in March 1972.

As ambitious and stimulating as these proposals appear, and as momentous and mind-boggling as their success would be, it behooves us to critically examine these projects with the object of assessing the possibilities and probabilities that one or more of these endeavors will achieve its objective.

It is not the purpose of this article to attempt to prove or disprove the existence of extra-terrestial life. Such a cerebral exercise would, in reality, be nothing more than unsubstantiated speculative fancy. Rather, it is the intention to examine and explore the expectations that we might communicate our presence to such beings (if they exist) or that they might enlighten us with factual evidence of their existence.

It would be wise to first demonstrate that we can dispense with any expectation of inter-stellar space travel to or from other intelligent civilizations. We can readily assume that there is no "life" form (and certainly no "intelligent" life) on any other planets of our own solar system. We further make the reasonable assumption that life requires the "near" presence of a sun. Thus, to visit, or be visited by,

the occupants of the nearest possible "world" requires travel to or from the vicinity of the closest sun to our own about which planetary systems could exist and upon which life could be sustained. It turns out that the nearest star to our sun, Alpha Centauri is at a distance of approximately 25,000,000,000,000 miles away. For light (or radio signals) to travel that distance requires somewhat more than 4 years, or a round trip of approximately 9 years. We cannot conceive of travel at those speeds (186,000 miles/sec) - a speed that is beyond the capabilities of any civilization to achieve, no matter how developed and intelligent its inhabitants. Rather, it is more reasonable to choose 100,000 miles/hour as feasible - this is the speed required to escape the influence of our sun's gravitational pull and therefore that required to reach another sun. (Astronauts going to the moon travel only at roughly 25,000 miles/hour). At this speed it would require 30,000 years to travel to this nearest possible site of extra-terrestial life and this is already so long that travel to more distant, but still "close", solar systems is unimaginable. (This travel time depends on many factors such as the conditions under which a rocket was projected from the earth, the mass of the Alpha Centauri sun about which that planet revolves, and other criteria. However, 30,000 years is a good average minimum time for one-way travel. Travel at even the fantastic speed of 3 million miles per hour would only serve to reduce this trip to 1,000 years, and would not alter any meaningful conclusions).

Barring a space ship containing families that are content to expend their entire existence in interstellar flight producing successive generations

of space travellers in the same spacecraft, to assure some descendants survive this interminable journey, we must dismiss interstellar voyages as unrealistic for any "intelligent" creatures, including ourselves, to even attempt. Thus, any hopes or fears of inter-solar-system travel are devoid of foundation. It, therefore, hardly pays to stay up nights losing sleep over thoughts of visitors from other worlds.

Now that visits or voyages, as such, are barred from consideration, communication by radio or other very special means remains our only hope for the discovery of life elsewhere in the cosmos.

We can proceed to examine the two other proposals for communication between ourselves and other "intelligent cultures," and ask if there is any hope of these succeeding. In any attempt to assess the feasibility of even these means of achieving our goal, it must be clearly recognized that we have pitifully little precise data on the nature of individual stars, no assurance that a given star possesses a planetary system suitable for the existence of life, and no reliable means of determining the specific characteristics of these other "worlds." Nevertheless, despite these shortcomings in our present knowledge, we have sufficient information to form certain reliable and valid conclusions pertinent to our objective.

The first of these proposals, and admittedly the less ambitious, is the attempt to communicate our presence to others by the chance deposition of a Sagan-Drake type plaque on some planet hopefully occupied by intelligent beings. Pioneer 10, the vehicle to which this plaque is attached, is

the first earth-made device to have been projected beyond our own solar system. From several points of view, this is of major significance as Pioneer 10 will not only signal back some details of the characteristics of Jupiter (closest approach 87,000 miles), but is expected to provide data (as long as its devices are operative) on various other physical phenomena viewed at distances from earth that are greater than have been hitherto explored. It is, in addition, the first opportunity to send a Sagan-Drake like plaque into the cosmos.

Although stimulating in concept, we must investigate this project's chances of success before we indulge our fancies in thoughts of our ultimate "discovery" by other civilizations. Even if we assume that extra-terrestial life does exist, the only reasonable approach open is to require that such life is present on a planet circling about its own sun, i.e. about a star that is the centre of that solar system. For openers, let us even assume that this planet is part of a solar system as close to our own as is Alpha Centauri - a mere 25,000,000,000,000 miles from us - and that Pioneer 10 chances to find itself aimed more or less toward it. The plain facts, are, that since the space craft will be travelling at a speed of roughly 100,000 miles per hour (the speed needed to escape our solar system), barring a direct hit, unless that planet were more massive than our own sun, the spacecraft will be travelling too fast even to fall into orbit around that planet. It would, at best, therefore, come close to and "side-swipe" that planet and go off further, and faster, into space. Even if that sun were sufficiently massive, by far the most probable result would be that Pioneer 10 would become a satellite of that planet's

sun. If neither that planet nor its sun were more massive than our sun, it would skip off again into the cosmos, seek even more distant systems, and suffer the same fate. The only rational expectation is that we have sent a perpetual wanderer into space - with no hope of finding a final resting place, except for another more massive sun. In any case, by no stretch of the imagination would intelligent life, or any life for that matter, be expected to be found on a sun or on such a massive planet.

The only chance of "landing" on a life-bearing planet would be if the relative motion of that planet with respect to the spacecraft were such that it scores a direct hit on that body. Although the probability of such an occurence is infinitesimally small, we can explore the consequences of even this improbable event. If there was a direct hit on such a planet, what would be the likelihood that Pioneer 10 and its plaque would be found safe and sound on the surface of that planet by its occupants. For simplicity's sake - with all else assumed equal - let us suppose that an unmanned, undirected, and uncontrolled craft was on a collision course with our earth. What would be its chances of being found unharmed on the surface of our earth?

There are several severe problems to be overcome. The craft would have to strike the surface of our atmosphere at a very critical angle in order to start its descent to earth - otherwise it would "bounce off" never to return. That is a formidable task for an unguided vehicle, since we appreciate how carefully the manned, and earth-guided, powered craft of the Apollo series have had to be manouvered to just that critical angle

and speed of entry into our atmosphere. Even surviving that formidable obstacle, it requires a heat-shield critically oriented to prevent the craft's vaporization by friction with the atmosphere. Even if we strain our credulity, and allow the craft to survive these obstacles, it would have to lose virtually all its velocity in order to settle gently to earth. If our earth is typical, other planets carrying life may be largely covered with oceans. If it landed in the ocean the craft can be assumed lost. Given deserts or other uninhabited areas such as the polar regions, etc., its chances of being found would be further drastically reduced. From even an optimistic evaluation of its discovery on earth after its direct hit on our atmosphere, it would require that there be more than 50,000 such craft scoring a "direct hit" on that "earth" before <u>one</u> might be found unharmed by one of its occupants.

Suppose that one craft were, indeed, found and dutifully delivered to a group of that planet's scientists. Would that plaque be properly interpreted? Picture the situation on earth, if it were found here. A clear picture of this plaque was sent to 25 of my colleagues in the fields of physics and astronomy around the world. Of them,5 had already read a detailed explanation of its coded message and must therefore be disqualified. Of the other twenty, not one could interpret even the fundamental and basic unit of length encoded on this plaque, no less much else of real significance. Yet every one had been told that the plaque was to be considered "found" on a spacecraft that arrived from another solar system. This means that not one could decode the "message." One wonders how many other "experts" would also fail. If "properly"

interpreted by one such scientist, how many of his colleagues would dismiss his interpretation and go so far as to proclaim the plaque, its message, and the spacecraft one collosal hoax!

It is projected that Pioneer 10 will take approximately 100,000 years to even approach the first star to be "encountered." Even then it will still be one light-year (the distance it takes light to travel in a year) away from that star. Thus, it could be billions of years before this wanderer could even chance upon enough solar systems to warrant even the feeble possibility of nearing a suitable site of intelligent life.

Finally, there is also the unhappy possibility that if it does land safely on some planet, that world may be devoid of life.

Combining all these factors and probabilities, one must conclude that while this project was a nice idea, it is doomed to failure.

There is one last deflating possibility left open. As Pioneer 10 is an aimless wanderer, one must face the haunting possibility that if that craft scored a direct hit on an "intelligent" world - that world could be our own. The irony of this occurence would keep our descendants chuckling for years at fate's wanton joke.

This leaves us with but one last option in our attempt to "communicate" with these intelligent beings - Project Ozma or its equivalent. That is,

the sending of repetitive and fundamentally encoded signals into the cosmos, awaiting its receipt and interpretation, and waiting still longer for an acknowledging return message. (It is suggested that these signals be in the form of a Morse-code-type pattern in which fundamental mathematic numbers and patterns are presented, and that the frequency of our broadcasts be such that it would be evident to the receiver that we are scientifically sophisticated.)

In order to examine the chances of success of this project, let us assume that our transmitters have sufficient power to send signals that are strong enough to be picked up by one of the "listening" radio telescopes, and vice-versa. How should we direct our signal beam for maximum likelihood of reception on a planet of some distant solar system? The time for communication is brought down substantially with radio signals, as these "messages" travel at the speed of light (approximately 186,000 miles per second or 663 million miles per hour). Although communication time is now drastically reduced, it still would take about 9 years from the time of our transmission of a message to a planet of the nearest star to us (Alpha Centauri) until we could receive their return signal. Although almost a decade, this time span appears far more hopeful than the 30,000 years required for one-way spacecraft travel to that same planet.

Suppose we set up the most refined sending and listening devices conceivable and initially, at least, beam our signals and aim our receiving antennae toward Alpha Centauri in order to communicate with the

our own galaxy - some 30,000 light years distant. At worst, if we do succeed in communicating with any civilization near one of the suns or near the galactic centre, we must wait of the order of 60,000 years for our message to reach them and for us to receive their answer. We might be lucky and find that our signals are received only a quarter of the way to the galactic centre. This would require a mere 15,000 year time wait from sending to receiving. Possibly we might be even more fortunate and communicate with a very "close" neighbor only one-hundredth of the distance from us to the centre of the galaxy, thus reducing our anxious wait to 600 years. If even this is too long a period of time for us to go unanswered, what are our alternatives? No reasonable alternative has yet been proposed.

Why then, should we bother to both send and receive? If, after all, intelligent life does exist elsewhere, would they not be trying to communicate with us or any other civilization? If they are, or were, why not just "listen" for their signals before we start our own broadcasts. If we do pick up such signals, we might at least be content by know that extra-terrestial intelligent life does exist. Once so assured, then, and only then, need we begin our own return transmission to them to establish two-way communication. (Hopefully, not all intelligent extra-terrestial civilizations would employ this logic, as the broadcast bands would remain perpetually silent.)

To many this appears the most reasonable approach. After all, we are

closest possible extra-terrestial life form. If we do this on a continuous basis, we must wait a minimum of 9 years for our first success. Even so, we may be wasting our time, effort, and anticipation. We must consider the possibilities that life may not exist in the vicinity of Alpha Centauri; that if it does it may have not developed to a sufficiently intelligent and technologically advanced stage, or that if it did it may have since gone the way of other earthbound civilizations and already died out. How long do we continue our attempt to communicate with possible life around Alpha Centauri - 10 years, 100 years, or what? A reasonable trial period might be 20 years. Much longer would be foolish as the possibilities just outlined point out. If we draw a blank for two decades, a hundred or more years may still not offer any better chance of success.

If this were the case, it would be better to seek an alternative that enhances our chances of communication without putting all our eggs in Alpha Centauri's basket for a score of years. To explore other avenues of approach, we must realize that that region of the cosmos with the largest number (and highest density) of stars would certainly contain the most planets upon which life might exist. Beaming our signals to that region of the heavens would tremendously enhance the probability that our messages might be intercepted.

The region of greatest star density that is closest to our earth is the centre of our galaxy. Perhaps that area offers the greatest hope. Our sun is a comparatively lonely star situated far out from the centre of

already "scanning" the cosmos with our radiotelescopes for other purposes, and even the chance reception of transmissions from other intelligent cultures would be just so much gravy. We could then attain some part of our goal with no added expense or effort.

Unfortunately, even here, there are some formidable obstacles to consider; we need only mention the most salient to give us food for thought. To start with, the regions of space being scanned by our radiotelescopes are those in which energy generation mechanisms produce the synchroton radiation that gives rise to signals of interest to radio astronomers. This radio radiation comes from regions that are most strongly magnetized - such as supernovae (exploding, or exploded stars) and from pulsars (the nature of which is not yet clear). The Milky Way - our own galaxy - is a rather poor source of these radio signals. But it is in the Milky Way that we expect the maximum probability of sites of extra-terrestial life, and it is just this region of the cosmos that is of lesser interest to radio astronomers. Thus, as disappointing as it appears from our point of view, our giant radio telescopes are not aimed in the best possible direction to receive signals from our intelligent cousins.

Optimistically, however, we might still hope for a chance reception from other worlds. The prime criterion of this entire exercise is that if communication is to occur, it must involve highly intelligent beings outside our solar system. It is inconceivable that if there is sufficient intelligent development on their part that they, too, would not have gone through similar mental exercises designed to maximize the chances of having

their signals received. Why then should they beam their signals to an area that is as far from the centre of the galaxy and as sparsely populated by stars as is the region of our sun and earth? Since we cannot assume these beings are both intelligent and stupid at the same time, it appears that, if they exist, they must be sending their signals elsewhere - towards regions in which they feel the existence of other intelligent life is most probable.

A final fact to consider is that a signal received from such an extra-terrestial civilization originated some 30,000 years or more ago and that our acknowledging return message would take an equal time to reach them. After 60,000 years or so, would they (or us) still exist? However, at least we would have had some evidence that intelligent life existed at some previous time elsewhere in the universe, and our quest would have been satisfied to a large extent.

It appears to be disappointingly clear that we may never become aware of other "worlds" (or they of us), if they exist or have existed, and we may have to learn to live with ultimate failure in our search to discover extra-terrestial life.

Perhaps our greater efforts should be devoted to learning to live with ourselves - if we succeed at this and communication is later established, it would be evident to these outside "worlds" that ours is indeed a most intelligent and high form of life. As such, we might at least be the envy of all civilizations - past, present, future, and extra-terrestial.

RECORD OF DISCUSSION

BETWEEN

DAFI - PROF. A. HYNEK - DR M. DUGGIN - MR O. TURNER

24 AUG 73

16

1. An unofficial meeting of the above people was held in the office of the Director of Air Force Intelligence on 24th August 1973. Each member was present in a private capacity to discuss certain procedures of investigation into unusual aerial sightings in Australia and throughout the world, in an endeavour to expand the scientific relationship to the problem.

2. a. Professor Hynek is the Chairman, Department of Astronomy, Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois, USA and the author of 'The UFO Experience - A Scientific Inquiry'. He was for some years involved with the USAF in the study of unusual aerial sightings.

b. Dr Duggin is a member of CSIRO and is currently based in Sydney (North Ryde) and handles the Australian research aspects of ERSAT.

c. Mr Turner is a member of JIO and was involved in the initial enquiries into unusual aerial sightings that were reported to the RAAF from 1954 to 1956 and has since been interested in the subject from a 'defence' viewpoint.

3. Professor Hynek talked of his background in astronomy and his association of 20 years with the USAF relating to investigation of unusual aerial sightings. He showed disenchantment with the USAF methods of evaluation and ultimately with 'The Condon Report' on 'Project Bluebook'.

4. Professor Hynek stated repeatedly during the discussion that he does not believe that Earth has or is experiencing extra-terrestrial visitations and that his main interest in 'ufology' lies in determination of hitherto unexplained phenomena. He is only interested in those reports which are not readily answerable and which have some potential scientific connotations, especially those reports which may provide some physical evidence and/or are witnessed by several persons.

5. All present agreed that the scientific aspects were of prime importance. DAFI suggested that CSIRO or the Department of Science (but preferably the former) seemed to be logical agencies to conduct greater in depth investigation in Australia. DAFI agreed that a selection of reports (mainly those which were unanswerable and scientific in context) could possibly be made available to CSIRO for further study and computerization. The Professor stated that he could make computerized information available in an effort to categorize the various phenomena and to enhance any studies which may be carried out by CSIRO or other scientific organizations.

6. Any such studies should be low key and not known to the lunatic fringe of 'ufologists'. Normal day to day dealings with the public should continue as at present; all that is suggested is an extension of the present system to allow more detailed scientific investigation of the interesting and significant cases to be conducted by qualified scientists. There does not appear to be any security implication in unexplained phenomena, but there may well be potential of defence significance if progress can be made in determining whether there is a problem and if so, its nature.

8. Dr Duggin will hold further discussions with DAFI in the near future.

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FOR DAFI PD UFO POLICY PD PARA SEVEN OF ANNEX TO DEPAIR LETTER 554/1/30(1) OF 9 JUN 72 PRECLUDES RAAF OFFICERS SPEAKING AT SYMPOSIUMS CMM CONFERENCES ETC ON UFOS PD PLEASE ADVISE IF POLICY STILL CURRENT

BT

DAFI

RECEIVED
- 6 AUG 1973
DAFI

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE

DEPT. OF AIR 554-1-30 DAFI, 26.5.72.

TELEPHONE: PENRITH 2331

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS:
"AIRCOMMAND SYDNEY"

IN REPLY QUOTE 5/15/Air (17)

HEADQUARTERS OPERATIONAL COMMAND
RAAF
PENRITH 1W NSW

16th July 1973.

Secretary Department of Air (DAFI)

INVESTIGATIONS - UNUSUAL AERIAL SIGHTINGS
PROPOSED CHANGES TO REPORTING FORMS

Reference: A. Your 554/1/30 (10) of 28th May 1973.

1. Comments from units of this Command relating to the proformae enclosed with Reference A have been collated and attached as Annex A.

2. The last paragraph of Annex A illustrates that many officers may be unaware of the expertise necessary to carry out investigations. It is suggested that future UCIO Courses include a phase concerned with the investigation of unusual aerial sightings.

(K.D.CLARK)
(~~G.R. HICKEY~~)
Squadron Leader
for Air Officer Commanding

Annex A: Comments on Proposed Proformae

RECEIVED 20 JUL 1973 DAFI

ANNEX A TO
HQOC 5/15/Air (17)
DATED 11 JUL 73

COMMENTS ON PROPOSED PROFORMAE REPORT ON UNUSUAL AERIAL SIGHTINGS

1. Comments from Units of this Command on the proformae presented are collated as follows:

Part 1	Comment
Para 1	Are age and occupation necessary? Yes.
Para 4	Considered unnecessary as date can be readily determined. N/A.
Para 5	If this section is to be filled in by the observer the use of a box giving a selection of responses is recommended. N/A.
Para 9	Considered better placed on Page 2 as points of reference would be in front of observer as he wrote/sketched. Agreed N/A.
Page 2	Include a compass rose diagram showing the observer at the centre and ask him to annotate local reference points (streets, spires, towers, buildings and hills) and the relationship of the sighting to those reference points. Difficult.
Para 10	Reword as separate questions: "Do you have or do you know of any of the following evidence of the sighting: Photographs?..... Covered Fragments or pieces of equipment?..... Marks on the ground?..... Actual contact with the sighting?.....

2. It is suggested that provision be made for the observer to assess in Part 1 his/her familiarity with the area in which the observation was made. For obvious reasons, familiarity with local conditions could be the deciding factor as to whether or not a sighting is reported. Also Part 1 should include Question 3 of Part 3 as the evaluating officer is obliged to have asked the observer for these details. Not relative

3. An additional question might be included in order to assess the credibility of the observer such as:

> "Have you previously made any reports to official authorities regarding unusual aerial sightings? If so, give brief details of dates and circumstances".

Part 2	Comment
Para 2	Tabulate in box form under the possible headings: Celestial Body Magnitude Bearing elevation Time
Para 3	Tabulate in box form also.
Para 4	This and the question in Para 6 requires a wind profile. It is felt the answers to Para 6 would suffice.
Para 6	a. Neither the local nor state meteorological office can supply the pollution level. b. Dew Point more readily available than the Wet Bulb temperature. c. The majority of information required is available only from Central Meteorological Records. Local forecasting stations do not keep detailed records after a short time (2 to 7 days). The Periodic Observers Log records Air Temperature, Dew Point, QNH, cloud cover in eighths, surface wind, visibility, precipitation. Upper air temps and winds are not usually kept.

4. In Part 2 the inclusion of latitude and longitude would supplement para 2 in Part 1.

5. This Part appears to call for considerable research which might not be warranted if a report was obviously fallacious.

Part 3	Comment
Para 3	"Narrative evaluation of personalities of witnesses," a significant factor in overall evaluation, is, of course, only possible when the witness is personally interviewed.

6. Part 3 is considered too restrictive. A list of headings or points to be evaluated would be required. The investigation officer could then attach a narrative report of his own covering these points.

General Comments

7. The proposed new form would meet the needs of a UFO investigating officer if he is in a position to personally supervise every aspect of the investigation. It is felt that a proformae which is forwarded to a witness who resides in a locality remote from the nearest RAAF Base, and the subsequent follow-up by the investigating officer, must fall short of the requirements of ASI 3/A/5 because:

a. the completion of the proformae is of necessity left to the discretion of the observer who, in many cases, has insufficient knowledge of technical concepts such as "compass angle bearing" and so on, to be able to give an accurate estimate of these in relation to his particular sighting;

b. such a procedures is time consuming;

c. quite often a third party (eg, police) is involved; apart from wasting more time, the third party is not necessarily gifted with the "expertise" required of an investigating officer; and

d. when the proforma is at last returned the investigating officer is then faced with the task of gleaning as much pertinent information as he can from the hodge-podge of information supplied by the observer. If information which the investigating officer considers essential to the investigation is missing, he can:

(1) if the observer is not accessible by other means, request the third party to have the witness supply more information;

(2) write to the witness again; or

(3) make do with the information he has to hand.

8. It is considered that any proformae which may, for reasons stated above, be sent to an observer, should contain as much detail as is reasonable without confusing the issue.

9. Much greater detail is required in Parts 2 and 3 than in Part 2 of the existing form. For this reason it is suggested that consideration be given to waiving the need for a full narrative report to accompany the proformae as currently required.

10. It is suggested that the old Question 8 "Describe any aids/equipment used in the observation" should be retained as this could assist the final assessment of the sighting.

11. Paragraph 1 of Reference A lists probable causes for the insufficiencies in 'UFO' reporting and your advice as to the qualifications required by an officer, if he is to have the necessary expertise to carry out investigations, would be appreciated.

13

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE

TELEPHONE: Ipswich 803911 Ext 2357

Headquarters
RAAF Base
AMBERLEY QLD 4305

IN REPLY QUOTE 82W/5/9/Air (36)

12th July 1973

Department of Air (Attn: DAFI)

For Information:

Headquarters Operational Command (Attn: CIO)

IDENTIFIED AERIAL SIGHTINGS

1. Annexes A, B and C are informal reports of aerial sightings. As ready explanations could be given for these sightings, no formal investigation and report was carried out. The explanations were given verbally to the observers.

2. These reports are forwarded for informational and statistical purposes only. The Intelligence Officer here would be interested to hear if your department agrees with his theory of the apparently moving stars described in Annex 'B'. If so, the information could be distributed to other places as it seems to be the most common sighting these days.

3. Further to that, this office would be interested to learn the details of other investigations, theories, explanations that have been made by other investigating officers concerning sightings that could be common to most areas. This may save a significant amount of time and paperwork. Also, the quality of our public relations would be enhanced if its officers could supply ready explanations of unusual phenomena.

4. Regarding the summary of Unusual Aerial Sightings, is there anything later than Summary No 3? This finishes at December 1971.

(R.M. BERTRAM)
Squadron Leader
for Officer Commanding

ANNEX: A. UFO Sightings in Amberley Area on 29th May 1973

B. UFO Sighting at Springbrook on 31st May 1973

C. UFO Sighting in Kilkivan Area in early June 1973

NOA
Annexes A, B & C placed on 580/1/1 Pt 26 as sightings 6, 7 & 8
20 Jun 73.

12

569/7/760 (10)

UFOs QUESTIONS FROM MR B. WRIGHT

A Sec A

1. Following is a suggested reply to the questions asked of the Minister for Defence by Mr B. Wright - refer 569/7/760(8b).

2. 'Since the early 1950s, the RAAF (Directorate of Air Force Intelligence) has investigated reported unusual aerial sightings - commonly referred to as UFOs - and where necessary, advice and assistance is sought from scientific and technical establishments such as the Defence Standards Laboratories, universities, observatories, CSIRO, and the Department of Supply. As such, 'in depth' investigation is accomplished, and statistics of findings are as follows:

a. 623 reports investigated between January 1960 and December 1972.

b. 93% were explainable by present scientific knowledge.

c. 6% of reports did not provide sufficient information to permit proper analysis and evaluation.

d. 1% of reports were attributed to unknown causes.

3. Similarly, the Air Ministry in The United Kingdom has stated that about 90% of the sightings it investigates are explainable by causes ranging from meteorological balloons and meteors to aircraft lights, and that the other 10% probably remain unexplained because of lack of reliable information.

4. In 1966 the University of Colorado, under contract to the USAF, spent two years processing and investigating all American reports. Its findings have been published by Bantam Books as the 'Condon Report'. Its general conclusion is that 'nothing has come from the study of UFOs in the past 21 years that has added to scientific knowledge' and that 'further extensive study of UFOs probably cannot be justified in the expectation that science will be advanced thereby'. A panel of eminent scientists, chosen by the U.S. National Academy of Sciences, has examined and endorsed the Condon Report. The USAF 'Project Blue Book' investigation of unidentified aerial objects between 1953 and 1965 analysed 7,641 UFO reports. It concluded that:

a. 80% of sightings were natural phenomena, hoaxes, birds or man-made objects;

b. 17% of sightings provided insufficient data to permit thorough analysis and evaluation; and

c. 3% were unidentified.

/5. US and

5. US and Soviet space exploration has found no evidence to support the theory of life on planets in our solar system. It seems that the Mariner series of space exploration to Mars has proved it a 'dead' planet. The only other source of extra-terrestrial life then would have to be in another 'solar system'. It would seem, therefore, that whilst it may be possible for extra-terrestrial life forms to visit Earth, it is improbable.

6. From the foregoing information and RAAF officers' experience in investigation of sighting reports, the following answers are supplied to the questions:

a. The Department of Air is actively engaged in investigation of reports but no other aspects are contemplated.

b. No official telescopic or radar monitoring is maintained specifically for observation of 'UFO' activity.

c. For many years radio signals have been transmitted from various nations throughout the world, including Australia. These signals have been for the purposes of astronomical measurement and space associated experiments rather than for the 'attraction of intelligent extra-terrestrial response'. Throughout these years no 'responses' are known to have occurred.

d. No radio signals are directed at sighted 'UFOs'. Alleged sightings are normally of such short duration that time would preclude this activity even if suitable equipment were available at the locations.

7. We cannot answer questions 5 and 6, but we feel that no benefit would be gained by agreement to the suggestions.

8. No proof of the existence of 'UFOs' or extra terrestrial activity has been forthcoming from any recognised agency in the world and we think that any escalation of effort in this field by Australia would be of no practical advantage.'

9. For your action please.

(K.R. JANSON)
Gp Capt
DAFI

9 Jul 73

DEPT. OF AIR
554/1/30
DAFI 26.5.72

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE

TELEPHONE: 69 0550

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS:
"AIRCOMMAND, MELBOURNE"

HEADQUARTERS SUPPORT COMMAND
RAAF
VICTORIA BARRACKS
MELBOURNE VIC 3004

IN REPLY QUOTE 5/6/Air(50)

28 JUN 1973

Department of Air (DAFI)

INVESTIGATIONS - UNUSUAL AERIAL SIGHTINGS
PROPOSED CHANGES TO REPORTING FORMS

Reference: A. Your 554/1/30(10) of 28th May 1973

1. Comments from units in response to Reference A are generally favourable; however, the following suggestions were made to improve completion of the pro-forma:-

a. the page for the observer's narrative report should be lined and a blank area provided for diagrams;

b. in some cases when aircraft fly OCTA (outside control area) on a NOSAR, no details category flight, no records are available and the section dealing with known aircraft movements cannot be completed; THIS INFO TO BE INCLUDED IN 1B.

c. rather than ask the observer to use his own words in answering para 9 of Part 1, it might give a clearer and more consistent description if all these references were for the observer to merely annotate; THIS PROPOSAL TO BE REVIEWED AFTER PRACTICAL EVALUATION

d. if possible, the investigating officer should be present when the observer completes Part 1; Agreed.

e. it was suggested that Part 1 of the proposed form appears less comprehensive than the current form. An inexperienced observer could find a series of pertinent questions a great aid to his recollection of the incident. In addition, a series of questions is considered to be of assistance when a sighting is reported, in the first instance, by telephone; Draw up an initial "record of report."

f. it may assist to identify paragraph 6 and 7 of the proposed form as 6a. and 6b. and 7a and 7b to ensure that an answer is given to each specific question. It would perhaps be helpful to have the direction of the sighting related to a fixed point such as a prominent landmark or feature;

/g. it was also

g. it was also suggested that provision be made for comments regarding any unusual noise or smell associated with the sighting. Comment could also be invited in relation to noise level, on the normal background noises and whether any change in intensity was noticed. An expansion of paragraph 9 would suffice.

covered in para 9.

2. Specialist officers of this Command have investigated a limited number of UFO reports since this proposal was made. While the revised proforma is considered suitable, a longer period of use is required before firm opinions can be expressed.

Agreed.

(W.C. KERITZ)
Wing Commander
For Air Officer Commanding

DVI
5 JUL 1973
RECEIVED

RECEIVED
- 2 JUL 1973
DAFI

10

28 MAY '73

554/1/30 (10)

Headquarters Operational Command
Headquarters Support Command

INVESTIGATIONS - UNUSUAL AERIAL SIGHTINGS
PROPOSED CHANGES TO REPORTING FORMS

1. Investigations of unusual aerial sightings have, in many cases, been prolonged because of inadequate questions and detailed description from investigating officers and witnesses. Causes for these insufficiencies are thought to be:

a. lack of expertise of investigating officer;

b. lack of motivation, interest or time, expressed by or available to the investigating officer; and

c. insufficient direction available on the reporting proformae.

2. In an endeavour to upgrade the standard of investigations into these sightings, revised proformae have been drafted, and are attached as Annex A. Comments are requested from Commands after collation of formation/unit comments, on the suitability of, or recommended changes to, the draft forms.

3. This requirement is to be actioned so that comments are returned to the Directorate of Air Force Intelligence by 30 Jun 73.

(K.H. JANSON)
Group Captain
for Chief of the Air Staff

DRAFT.

REPORT OF UNUSUAL AERIAL SIGHTINGS

Part 1 - Report by Observer

1. Name of observer _____ Age _____

   Address _____

   _____ State _____ Postcode _____

   Occupation _____

   Phone (home) _____ (business) _____

2. Exact location of observer _____

   _____

3. Start of observation: Date _____ Time _____ am/pm

   End of observation: Date _____ Time _____ am/pm

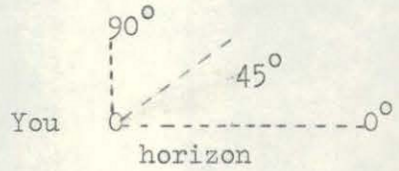
4. Accuracy of date _____ times _____

5. Weather conditions at time of observation, referring to cloud, wind visibility etc. _____

   _____

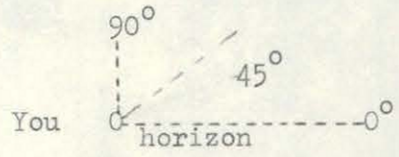
6. In what direction was the sighting first observed? _____

   At what angle to the horizon?



7. In what direction was the sighting last observed? _____

   At what angle to the horizon?



8. Estimate of distance and/or altitude from observer _____

   _____

9. Describe the object(s)/light(s) in your own words, referring to the number, colour, size, shape, brightness (relative to full moon/star), movement, sound, speed, method of propulsion, manner of disappearance and any other unusual features. If possible provide a sketch.

/9. (cont'd)

10. Have you any photographs of the sighting, or is there any physical evidence of fragments, scorching or ground indentations? _____

_____

_____

_____

11. How many other witnesses to the sighting? (Please provide names and addresses if possible) _____

_____

_____

_____

12. Any additional comments you wish to make.

Date _____ Signature _____

D R A F T

Part 2 - Unit Report

1. a. Details of military aircraft activity in the area at the time of the sighting.

Type	Heading	Height	Speed	Departed from	ATD	Destination	ATA

Source of information _____

b. Details of civil aircraft activity, including light private aircraft and international flights, in the area at the time of the sighting.

Type	Heading	Height	Speed	Departed from	ATD	Destination	ATA

Source of information _____

2. Give the bearing, elevation and movement of any planets or major stars that were in that portion of the sky at the time of the sighting. _____

_____

_____

Source of information _____

3. Details of any predicted satellites, rockets, comets or meteorite activity in the area at the time of the sighting _____

_____

_____

Source of information _____

/4. Details

4. Details of any meteorological, research or radar balloons known to have been in the area at the time of the sighting (refer to point of release, size, colour, ROC, wind profile and whether it was known to have burst)

_____

_____

Source of information _____

5. Details of any unusual radar traces or images, which may relate to the sightings, as recorded by military or civil networks _____

_____

_____

Source of information _____

6. Provide the following information relating to the weather and atmospheric conditions at the time of the sighting:

Temperature (dry bulb) _____ °C (wet bulb) _____ °C Relative Humidity _____ %

Cloud cover _____ type _____

Temperature inversion of _____ °C at _____ ft measured at _____ hrs

from _____

Wind direction _____ at _____ ft

_____ at _____ ft

_____ at _____ ft

_____ at _____ ft

Pollution level _____

7. Details of terrain and natural and/or man-made features in the area. (Attach map with significant points marked, if possible) _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

D R A F T

Part 3 - Investigating Officer's Evaluation

1. a. Date of interview _____

   b. Place if interview _____

2. Names and addresses of persons interviewed (include phone numbers where applicable)

   1. _____ 2. _____

   _____ _____

   _____ _____

   _____ _____

   3. _____ 4. _____

   _____ _____

   _____ _____

   _____ _____

3. Narrative evaluation of personalities of witnesses (include any relationship with UFO organizations and their interest in subject matter).

4. Investigating officer's evaluation of possible cause(s).

_____ (Unit) _____ (Name)

_____ (Date) _____ (Rank)

554/1/30 (9)
569/8/735
569/7/919

MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE - UFO

A/EXECO A

1. Reference 569/8/735 folios 1 and 2.

2. This background information may be useful when answering both Mr Wilks and Mr Mocis. Since the early 1950s the RAAF (Directorate of Air Force Intelligence) has investigated reported UFO sightings, and since 1966 has made the findings available to the press and public on request. The system in operation is that reported sightings are received and initially evaluated at the nearest RAAF installation to the reported occurrence and then sent, together with the investigating Officer's report, to the Department of Air for further evaluation. Where necessary advice and assistance is sought from scientific and technical establishments, such as Defence Standards Laboratories, universities, observatories etc., and the final report is then returned to the originator. It will be seen that in fact the RAAF does 'centralize consideration of the UFO question'.

3. Of the 623 UFO reports investigated by the RAAF from January 1960 to December 1972, 93% were explainable by present scientific knowledge. In some cases (6%) the initial reports did not provide sufficient information to permit proper analysis and evaluation. Only 1% of the reports were attributed to unknown causes. The UK Air Ministry has stated that about 90% of the sightings it investigates are explainable by causes ranging from meteorological balloons and meteors to aircraft lights and that the other 10% probably remain unexplained because of lack of reliable information.

4. In 1966 the University of Colorado, under contract to the USAF, spent two years processing and investigating all American reports. Its findings have been published by Bantam Books as the 'Condon Report'. Its general conclusion is that 'nothing has come from the study of UFOs in the past 21 years that has added to scientific knowledge' and that 'further extensive study of UFOs probably cannot be justified in the expectation that science will be advanced thereby'. A panel of eminent scientists, chosen by the U.S. National Academy of Sciences, has examined and endorsed the Condon Report. The USAF 'Project Blue Book' investigation of unidentified aerial objects between 1953 and 1965 analysed 7,641 UFO reports. It concluded that:

a. 80 percent of sightings were natural phenomena, hoaxes, birds or man-made objects;

b. 17 percent of sightings provided insufficient data to permit thorough analysis and evaluation; and

c. three percent were unidentified.

5. US and Soviet space exploration has found no evidence to support the theory of life on planets in our solar system. It seems that the Mariner

/series of space

series of space exploration to Mars has proved it a 'dead' planet. The only other source of extra-terrestrial life, then would have to be in another 'solar system'. It would seem, therefore, that whilst it may be possible for extra-terrestrial life forms to visit Earth, it is improbable.

6. Paras 3, 4 and 5, and the comparatively low volume of reports necessitating investigation (623 in 12 years) would seem to indicate that a central research body as advocated by Messrs Wilks and Morris is unnecessary. There is no evidence available to support the belief that interlopers from other places in this world or outside it have been visiting us. The decision as to which Government instrumentality should be responsible for UFO investigation must remain with the Government, but the present system seems on balance to be satisfactory.

7. The above should provide sufficient information to enable the Department of Science to answer Mr Morris and to meet the request of Mr Wilks at his para 4 (5). It is beyond my competence to propose answers to Mr Wilks in his para 4 (3) and 4 (7).

Janson

(K.R. JANSON)
Gp Capt
DAFI

30 Jan 73

8

UFO INVESTIGATION IN THE RAAF

Research into this subject has come up with some unrewarding answers, firstly the inquiry can not go back any further than the 11th November 1953. The cause of this blockage is the loss of Part 1 of file 114/1/197 (ex SEC CD2/2) in the move of the Department from Melbourne to Canberra. Two searches through records and the archives have failed to trace this file. One search was carried out in March 1966 and the other on 15th and 16th July 1969. As the first UFO report was received in America in July 1947, there would be up to six years of correspondence dealing with UFOs unaccounted for.

A further hinderance was the reference to four different files dealing with UFO policy, however after rationalization of the files in 1966 there is now only one current file on this subject (554/1/30).

In dealing with the policy it will be divided into three sections; Australian Government Policy; RAAF Policy with regards to the investigation; Overseas observations. A special section will deal with an investigation carried out by Mr O. H. Turner in 1954.

Australian Government Policy

The first recorded statement by Government minister was by the Minister for External Affairs. There is no statement of policy as such, but it suggests a connection between UFO sightings and periods of intense meteorite activity (ANNEX "A").

In April 1954 the DCAS approved the official policy that there had not been enough evidence collected to make a conclusion (ANNEX "B").

In answer to questions from "World Wide Magazine" in November 1957, the RAAF officially acknowledged a "wait and see" policy (ANNEX "C").

In March 1963 the Minister for Air (Mr Osborne) made a statement in the House that there was no evidence to verify that "interlopers ..... have been visiting us" (ANNEX "D").

This is the last statement on record by a Government official on the attitude of the Australian Government, so the present situation has arisen whereby there is no definite policy, but a "wait and see attitude" is held, with the reservation that there has been no evidence as yet to confirm the presence of "flying saucers".

RAAF Investigation Policy

Folio 3 of 554/1/30 Part 1 (ex folio 7 of 114/1/197 Part 2) dated 16th November 1953 is the first record of a letter to Commands concerning UFOs. The letter suggests inprovements to the report forms used, so there was undoubtedly a previous directive to Commands on their responsibilities. Whether this was written or verbal is not known. According to a minute (ANNEX "E") dated February 1966, there were no written responsibilities for Operational Command in the UFO field, and after much discussion a directive was issued to both Commands in March 1966 (ANNEX "F"). Paragraphs 6 and 7 of ANNEX F deal with Base responsibilities.

Since that date there have been numerous reminders sent to Command of Command and Base responsibilities.

The release of information to the public was not allowed until 1966, when there was a ministerial statement authorizing the release. In April 1966 the first "Summary of Unidentified Aerial Sightings Reported to Department of Air" was compiled. This dated back to January 1960. Since then there have been periodic releases updating the Summary. These are available to any person.

It seems therefore that the RAAF has definite policies on collection and release of all information pertaining to UFOs.

Overseas Observations

In America, the USAF set up "Project Blue Book" soon after the first sightings in 1947. This project keeps files on and investigates all reported sightings. In the United Kingdom a similar office was formed and still operates, although it is not as well known as the American project.

From time to time releases have been made to Australia by both these offices and some of them are attached (ANNEX "G").

In 1966 the United States Govermment set up an official inquiry into the problem. A team led by Dr Condon spent two years processing and investingating reports held in "Project Blue Book". They published the report in 1968 as a paperback Bantam book (copy held by DAFI but on loan to Mr O. H. Turner). The conclusion drawn by all these investigators is that as yet there is no corrobarative evidence to suggest the presence of any unearthly beings. Only about 2% - 3% of reports are unexplainable by natural phenomenon, and these are usually due to lack of information. A copy of the Scientific Americans' book review of the Condon report is attached (ANNEX "H").

Mr O. H. Turner's Interests

In 1954, Mr O. H. Turner, then a member of the Physics Department of the Melbourne University, requested permission to do a study on UFOs in Australia. This permission was given and so Mr Turner carried out this study. His report is rather lengthy, but his conclusions and recommendations are attached. Mr Turner then left Australia for the United Kingdom. After his return to Australia he again approached DAFI from his new position in the Scientific Intelligence section of JIB. Permission was again given to him to investigate the UFO files (in late 1968). This permission was given unofficially by D/DAFI (Ops), with the Director's agreement. On Mr Turners suggestion a new report form was devised in May 1969, and forwarded to Commands. This form will give a more scientific slant to the reports.

Note should be made that the 1954 report was largely based on American information by a Major Kehoe. This "Kehoe" report has been proved to be an unofficial highly biased opinion written by an ex-Marine officer-turned-science-fiction-writer.

Mr Turner also disagrees with Dr Condon's findings.

All correspondence on this topic is attached at ANNEX "J".

(K. JORDAN)
Flt Lt
AI-4

554/1/30(6)

ANNEX 'A'
page 1

6

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

Group Captain Charlton,
DIRECTOR OF AIR INTELLIGENCE.

With the Compliments

of the

Private Secretary to the Minister for External Affairs

The attached letter was sent to the press in Sydney, Brisbane, Adelaide and Melbourne -

C Hansen

COMMONWEALTH OFFICES,
TREASURY GARDENS,
MELBOURNE. C.2

23/6/1954.

(6A 554/1/30(6A)

ANNEX 'A'
page 2

Treasury Gardens,
MELBOURNE. C.2.

28th January 1954

Dear Sir,

From time to time people report having seen unexplained objects in the sky which have come to be called "flying saucers". There have been many explanations of them - the sun shining on high flying aircraft - meteorological balloons - imagination, etc. There is another possibility that may account for some of them, which has not been suggested, so far as I know. On known dates in each year, the earth passes through meteor streams. These are the remains of meteors that have disintegrated in outer space, but which continue their original paths round the sun in the form of streams of solid particles and meteoric dust. The fact that the earth moves round the sun in a fixed path and that these debris of meteors also move round the sun in fixed paths, means that the paths of the earth and of some of these meteoric streams intersect each other on a series of dates which are the same each year. The earth sometimes takes a number of days to pass through the more important of these meteoric streams. The dates of maximum meteoric activity are - 3rd January, 21st April, 4th May, 8th June, 30th June, 28th July, 10-13th August, 10th October, 20-23rd October, 3-10th November, 14th November, 16th November, 11-13th December.

I have lists of the dates over the last several years on which people have reported having seen "flying saucers" in Australia, and have compared them with the dates on which the earth passes through the principal meteoric streams. There appears to be a noticeable relationship between these two sets of dates. By this I mean that there tends to be a grouping of flying saucer sightings round about the meteor-stream dates that it is hard to believe is by chance. And again, there is a relative absence of "flying saucer" reports during the principal gaps between meteor-stream dates. For instance, the minimum meteoric activity of the year is between January and April. These are also the months in which fewest "flying saucers" have been reported in Australia. I do not suggest that this evidence is by any means complete, or that it is, at best, more than a partial explanation of "flying saucer" phenomena. All that I suggest is that there is some evidence that people seem to report otherwise unexplained objects in the sky round about the dates on which the earth passes through the principal meteor-streams, and there seems to be a lull in the reporting of flying saucers in between these dates.

I do not suggest any more than that what I have said may be an explanation of at least a proportion of the "flying saucer" reports.

I am,
Yours very truly,

R. G. CASEY

(R. G. CASEY)

The Editor,
"The Sydney Morning Herald",
SYDNEY. N.S.W.

ANNEX 'B'

DRAFT

Press Release 7A

INVESTIGATION OF FLYING SAUCERS

STATEMENT OF R.A.A.F. POLICY

Approved By. DCAS and issued in April 1954.

1. The R.A.A.F. accepts reports on flying saucers and attempts an allocation of reliability. Those that fall in the reliable class are then subjected to further investigation as and when the opportunity occurs. As a result of this further investigation, a smaller number of reports are followed up and investigations are made with the Meteorological Services, the Government Astronomer and the Civil Aviation authorities in an attempt to fit the original occurrences in with any normal flying activity or meteorological phenomena.

2. As a result of investigations in the past, there is no doubt that reliable observers have reported sightings which today are inexplicable within the resources available to the R.A.A.F. Reports of this type are continuously filed in an attempt to develop sufficient depth of evidence for accurate analysis to be made. It may however, be several years before the required depth of evidence is available.

DAFI.

OK

Depts
26/4/54

REPLY TO QUESTIONNAIRE ON UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS - WORLD WIDE MAGAZINE

(ANNEX "C

21 Nov 57

1. Q. What is the official attitude and policy of your Government in connection with so-called flying saucers?

A. At the time of the spate of flying saucers reports in 1952/54, the Australian Government adopted a 'wait and see' attitude. Reports on flying saucers from various parts of the world have been studied and local investigations have taken place. The Government has adopted the attitude that there is still insufficient evidence available to enable an accurate analysis to be made.

2. Q. The United States of America have a special commission which investigates reliable reports of unidentified flying objects. Has your Government a similar project in operation?

A. There have been insufficient reports of unidentified flying objects in Australia to warrant the formation of a special commission to investigate them. The Royal Australian Air Force accepts reports and attempts an allocation of reliability. Reports that fall in the reliable class are subjected to further investigation ~~information~~ as and when opportunity occurs. As a result of this further investigation a small number of reports are followed up and investigations are made with the Meteorological ~~Service~~, the Government Astronomer and the Civil Aviation authorities in an attempt to fit the original occurrences in with any

ANNEX "D"

~~82~~
83

554/1/30 (82)

6 MAR 1963

Dear Sir,

I refer to your letter dated 23rd January, 1963, regarding unidentified flying objects.

From time to time reports of unidentified flying objects are received and investigated by the Royal Australian Air Force, but details of individual investigations have not been made public.

On October 20th, 1960, the Minister for Air, the Honourable F.M. Osborne, made a statement in the Australian National Parliament at Canberra, summarizing the position, and his comments may be pertinent to your request.

In the course of his remarks Mr. Osborne said, "The Department of Air does obtain information about all well-reported cases of unidentified flying objects. Although reports of this sort have been investigated very carefully for some years, nearly all of them are explainable on a perfectly normal basis. Sometimes they are found to be weather balloons, high-flying aircraft, or even stars. On one occasion, it was established that a reported spaceship was the moon. Of all these reports, only three or four per cent cannot be explained on the basis of some natural phenomenon, and nothing that has arisen from that three or four per cent of unexplained cases gives any firm support for the belief that interlopers from other places in this world or outside it have been visiting us".

Yours faithfully,

(A. B. McFarlane)
SECRETARY

Mr. John Laval,
7 Idlewild Lane,
Matawan,
NEW JERSEY, USA.

Wg Cdr
D/DAFI (Ops)
Feb 63

DEPARTMENT OF AIR

ANNEX E

11

MINUTE PAPER

(This side only to be written on)

Subject: Unidentified Flying Objects

C.4337/60—PL

D/DAFI (Opd)

1. Ref Folio 10

2. I have reviewed the current "Ad Hoc" system in the practice of processing U.F.O. reports and with minor criticisms it appears to be working satisfactorily, entailing the minimum of work by this Directorate.

3. However, in view of SO Intell (Opcom) objections of not having his responsibilities in writing and DAFI direction that he is to receive them it is obvious that we will have to do something. As a starting point your recommended statement contained at Folio 5A should be accepted for distribution as required.

4. The next point we should consider is the updating of the report proforma. I have drafted a new questionairre which I feel will give a more complete picture of the incident and it is submitted for your consideration.

5. Furthermore, as well as advising Hqopcom on our recommended course of action we will also be required to include D.C.A. on distribution of the new directive to keep them in the picture.

Feb 66

Sqn Ldr
AI-2

File AIR2/25/1 (11) DEAD FILE

15
ANNEX "F"
Page 1

Directorate of Air Force Intelligence

2/25/1(15)

25 MAR '66

Headquarters Support Command RAAF Victoria Barracks MELBOURNE SC1 VIC
Headquarters Operational Command RAAF PENRITH 1W NSW

INVESTIGATION OF UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

1. The Royal Australian Air Force is responsible for the investigation of reports of unidentified flying objects (UFOs) in Australia and the Trust Territories. The purpose of this letter is to lay down the procedure for the handling and investigation of such reports.

2. The main purpose of the investigation of any UFO is to establish whether or not the subject of the report poses a threat to the security of Australia. The identification of the cause of the UFO report and its classifications as aircraft, balloon, missile, astronomical body or phenomena etc, is of minor importance and mainly for the benefit of members of the public whose interest may have been aroused by the report.

3. The handling and investigation of reports of UFOs is to be the responsibility of the AOC of the Command at whose base the UFO is reported. The investigation is to be based on a questionnaire which is shown at the annex and which is designed to record all necessary details of the observation and provide the information on which an investigation can be based.

4. The present arrangement for bringing to the attention of the RAAF a report of a UFO are widely known. Under the present scheme, anyone who sees, or thinks he sees an aerial object which he cannot identify contacts the nearest RAAF base, or civil airport and if this is impractical, his nearest police station. These arrangements are working satisfactorily and there is no intention to change them.

5. In a country as large as Australia, it is considered that the authority best suited to the investigation of a UFO is the nearest RAAF base, where local weather conditions, natural phenomena and aircraft movements are well known. This is the principle on which the procedure is to be based.

6. Air Officers Commanding are to ensure that as soon as possible after the report of a UFO is received the Base Commander sends a signal to Command Headquarters and Department of Air giving brief details of the observation and appoints a responsible officer, preferably of the General Duties Branch, to initiate inquiries. Normally this officer should interview the observer and complete the proforma. In cases where the remoteness of the area of observation would make this procedure impractical, or the Base Commander is satisfied from the initial inquiry that nothing would be gained by such a procedure, he should arrange for the proforma to be completed by or in the presence of a police officer or other responsible person.

.../2

ANNEX "F"
Page.2.

7. When the completed proforma is received at the RAAF base, Officers Commanding are to ensure that an adequate examination of the report is carried out, bearing in mind the principles outlined in para 2 above. A brief report on the findings of the investigation along with a copy of the proforma should be despatched without undue delay to Command Headquarters. After consideration by the Air Officer Commanding, the UFO proforma and investigation findings are to be forwarded to Department of Air for filing and record purposes.

8. No attempts should be made to answer public enquiries at unit or command level. Requests by members of the public for information on UFOs in Australia and for the RAAF assessment of their origin etc should be referred to the Department of Air where they will be dealt with by the Directorate of Public Relations.

(I.S. PODGER)
Group Captain
For Chief of the Air Staff

ANNEX G
Page 1

554/1/30 44A 012

RECD. 30 DEC 1959 AIR REGISTRY CANBERRA

CONFIDENTIAL

ROUTINE

RAAF No. 27 COMMUNICATION CENTRE 24 DEC 1959 DEPT. OF AIR MELBOURNE

NO UNCLASSIFIED REPLY OR REFERENCE

R 221700Z A[redacted]
FM AM LONDON
TO DEPAIRMELB
BT
C O N F I D E N T I A L 1485/DDI3 22 DEC PERSONAL FOR WING CDR BYRNE FROM SUTHERLAND . YOU MAY INFORM AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT OF THE FOLLOWING (A) SPECIFIC QUESTIONS HAVE BEEN ASKED IN THE HOUSE CONCERNING INDIVIDUAL SIGHTINGS REPORTED IN THE PRESS . (B) THE AIR MINISTER HAS REPLIED TO QUESTIONS AS THEY HAVE OCCURED AND PARLIAMENT HAS NOT AT ANY TIME DEBATED THE SUBJECT . (C) ALL SIGHTING REPORTS OCCURING IN THIS COUNTRY HAVE BEEN PROCESSED THROUGH AIR MINISTRY INTELLIGENCE . (D) ON AVERAGE 90 PER CENT ALL SIGHTINGS CAN BE EXPLAINED . VARIETY OF CAUSES RANGING FROM MET BALLOONS METEORS TO AIRCRAFT LIGHTS .

RECD. 24 DEC 1959 REGISTRY

 CONFIDENTIAL
WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT THE OTHER 10 PER CENT ONLY REMAIN UNEXPLAINED BECAUSE OF THE LACK OF RELIABLE INFORMATION ABOUT THEM . (E) AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT MAY BE INTERESTED TO OBTAIN UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AIR TECHNICAL INTELLIGENCE CENTRE REPORT KNOWN AS QUOTE PROJECT BLUE BOOK UNQUOTE PUBLISHED IN 1955. QUOTE PROJECT BLUE BOOK UNQUOTE ANALYSES THOUSANDS OF REPORTS AND ATTEMPTS TO TABULATE IN ORDER TO DETERMINE A POSSIBLE COMMON DENOMINATOR . THE REPORT CONCLUDES BECAUSE NO CONNECTION BETWEEN VARIOUS REPORTS DISCERNABLE THAT SIGHTINGS PURPORTING TO BE FLYING SAUCERS ARE EITHER CASE OF MISTAKEN IDENTITY OR IMAGINARY
BT
231740Z [redacted]

DAFI Canberra

8/1-60.

NO UNCLASSIFIED REPLY OR REFERENCE

$17

UNITED TELEPRINTER FORMS PAPER PATENTED BY N.C.R. CO.

ANNEX G
Page 2.

58A.

554/1/30

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

Minister

1. The Directorate of Air Force Intelligence wrote to Air Ministry London, and to the Australian Joint Services Staff in Washington on 26th November 1959 for the latest views of the British and United States Governments on Unidentified Flying Objects. You may be interested in the replies received recently.

2. Air Ministry stated that specific questions have been asked in the House of Commons concerning individual sightings reported in the press. The Air Ministry has replied to questions as they have occurred and Parliament has not at any time debated the subject. All sighting reports occurring in the United Kingdom have been processed through Air Ministry Intelligence. On an average 90% of all sightings have been explained by a variety of causes ranging from meteorological balloons and meteors to aircraft lights. Air Ministry is confident that the other 10% only remain unexplained because of lack of reliable information.

3. The Defence Department in Washington stated that "over twelve years of investigating and evaluating unidentified flying object sightings has provided no evidence to confirm the existence of the popularly-termed "flying saucers", as interplanetary or interstellar space ships". During the period June 1947 and October 1958, 6,000 reports were investigated. More than 84% of the reported UFO sightings were definitely established as natural phenomena, hoaxes, birds, or man-made objects. Insufficient data was available to thoroughly analyse and evaluate 14% of the reports and less than 2% were classified as unknown. The investigations carried out during the last half of 1958 set a record low for the number of cases classified as "unknown" - .67%.

for Gp Capt
DAFI

7 Mar 60

6-29

UFO'S ANNEX "G" page 3

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EXCERPTS FROM

PROJECT BLUE BOOK

59

SPECIAL REPORT NO. 14

(Analysis of Reports of Unidentified Aerial Objects)

Project No. 10073

5 May 1955

AIR TECHNICAL INTELLIGENCE CENTER

Wright-Patterson Air Force Base

Ohio

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improved methods of investigation and reporting, and by scientific analysis, the number of unexplained cases has decreased rapidly towards the vanishing point.

Therefore, on the basis of this evaluation of the information, it is considered to be highly improbable that reports of unidentified aerial objects examined in this study represent observations of technological developments outside of the range of present-day scientific knowledge. It is emphasized that there has been a complete lack of any valid evidence of physical matter in any case of a reported unidentified aerial object.

* * * * *

CONCLUSIONS

It can never be absolutely proven that "flying saucers" do not exist. This would be true if the data obtained were to include complete scientific measurements of the attributes of each sighting, as well as complete and detailed descriptions of the objects sighted. It might be possible to demonstrate the existence of "flying saucers" with data of this type, IF they were to exist.

Although the reports considered in this study usually did not contain scientific measurements of the attributes of each sighting, it was possible to establish certain valid conclusions by the application of statistical methods in the treatment of the data. Scientifically evaluated and arranged, the data as a whole did not show any marked patterns or trends. The inaccuracies inherent in this type of data, in addition to the incompleteness of a large proportion of the reports, may have obscured any patterns or trends that otherwise would have been evident. This absence of indicative relationships necessitated an exhaustive study of selected facets of the data in order to draw any valid conclusions.

A critical examination of the distributions of the important characteristics of sightings, plus an intensive study of the sightings evaluated as UNKNOWN, led to the conclusion that a combination of factors, principally the reported maneuvers of the objects and the unavailability of supplemental data such as aircraft flight plans or balloon-launching records, resulted in the failure to identify as KNOWNS most of the reports of objects classified as UNKNOWNS.

An intensive study, aimed at finding a verified example of a "flying saucer" or at deriving a verified model or models of "flying saucers" (as defined on Page 1)[1], led to the conclusion that neither goal could be attained using the present data.

It is emphasized that there was a complete lack of any valid evidence consisting of physical matter in any case of a reported unidentified aerial object.

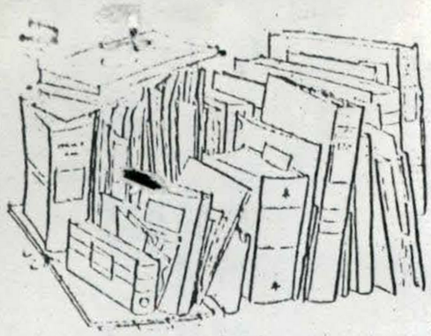
Thus, the probability that any of the UNKNOWNS considered in this study are "flying saucers" is concluded to be extremely small, since the most complete and reliable reports from the present data, when isolated and studied, conclusively failed to reveal even a rough model, and since the data as a whole failed to reveal any marked patterns or trends.

Therefore, on the basis of this evaluation of the information, it is considered to be highly improbable that any of the reports of unidentified aerial objects examined in this study represent observations of technological developments outside the range of present-day scientific knowledge.

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1 In June, 1947, Kenneth Arnold, a Boise, Idaho, businessman and private pilot, publicly reported the now-famous sighting of a chainlike formation of disc-shaped objects near Mount Rainier, Washington. Resulting newspaper publicity of this incident caught the public interest, and, shortly thereafter, a rash of reports of unidentified aerial objects spawned the term "flying saucers". During the years since 1947, many reports of unidentified aerial objects have been received by the Air Force from many and diverse sources.

The unfortunate term "flying saucer", or "flying disc", because of its widespread and indiscriminate use, requires definition. Many definitions have been offered, one of the best being that originated by Dr. J. Allen Hynek, Director of the Emerson McMillin Observatory of The Ohio State University, who has taken a scientific interest in the problem of unidentified aerial objects since 1949. Dr. Hynek's definition of the term is "any aerial phenomenon or sighting that remains unexplained to the viewer at least long enough for him to write a report about it" (Hynek, J. A., "Unusual Aerial Phenomena", Journal of the Optical Society of America, 43 (4), pp 311-314, April 1953). Dr. Hynek, elaborating on his definition, says, "Each flying saucer, so defined, has associated with it a probable lifetime. It wanders in the field of public inspection like an electron in a field of ions, until 'captured' by an explanation which puts an end to its existence as a 'flying saucer'".



BOOKS

The Condon report on unidentified flying objects, and other matters

by Philip Morrison

SCIENTIFIC STUDY OF UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS, conducted by the University of Colorado under contract to the United States Air Force. Edward U. Condon, Scientific Director. Daniel S. Gillmor, Editor. Bantam Books ($1.95). More than a decade ago the political struggles that are born of the fears and the strengths of a great nuclear power were made starkly clear in a thick Government document called *In the Matter of J. Robert Oppenheimer*. That work was unrelieved tragedy; its content and its impact were fearful; even its form was austere, unified, concentrated. Once again the reader is presented with a thick official volume of genuinely dramatic interest, describing another unique episode of our times. This document, however, is diffuse, cheerful, catholic, discursively instructive and marvelously illustrated. It is no farce but rather a high and human comedy. In a curious way the two dramas overlap.

This report presents the work of able men, led by a wise physicist of high repute, who have tried to bring order to the disorderly, to make what sense they could out of rumor and hard data, out of cynical fraud and honest and courageous observation. They have succeeded brilliantly, building a monument to reason, to experiment and to intellectual patience, modesty and candor. The heart of their work is the careful study of about 60 unusual reports. Their chief data are the accounts of eyewitnesses; their main instrument is the tape recorder. The thrust of the work, however, is not psychological but physical. Each event is described, and a set of sensible hypotheses is tested against the data. Could the object have been a balloon? Then seek the data on upper-air winds. Was a strong magnetic field used to stop an automobile? Then compare the magnetic pattern of the automobile body with that introduced into other cars cold-formed by the same presses.

The most interesting cases are the ones that present photographic evidence; these have been analyzed with great penetration and alertness, mainly by William K. Hartmann, a planetary astronomer at the University of Arizona. About a quarter of the photographs show evidence of fabrication, a quarter are mistakenly identified normal phenomena, a quarter simply present too little information (point sources or mere luminous blobs), and a quarter are clear enough but lack supporting data for analysis. Only two out of 35 photographic cases remained. Both of them are events of 1950. In one "all factors . . . appear to be consistent with the assertion that an . . . object, silvery, metallic, disk-shaped, tens of meters in diameter . . . flew within sight of two witnesses" (an Oregon man and his wife). Fabrication cannot be ruled out; the position of the object in the same place below a wire in two pictures suggests that it is the small suspended model it resembles, yet photometry of the pictures argues that the object was far away, since its shadowed portion is brightened as though by the scattering of light by the intervening atmosphere. The second event, which yielded 16-millimeter film, shows two bright lights moving slowly across a noonday sky in Montana. They were not meteors (too slow) and not birds (too steady); both aircraft and balloons remain possible but not compelling fits.

So the report goes. The investigators do not contend that they have explained away every event; they are too honest for that. They nonetheless make a real try, and overall they succeed wonderfully. The whole work seems to show conclusively that there is no prima facie case for closer study; no one can think of means that at any reasonable cost would greatly increase our data on such scattered, diverse and transient events. The group tried out a few such schemes; they didn't work at all. The formal conclusion is widely known, and it seems particularly sensible and well supported: "Further extensive study of UFO's probably cannot be justified in the expectation that science will be advanced thereby." Yet if specific ideas for new work appear, let them receive consideration for support on their individual merits. No new agencies, no big plans. New evidence, better than any we now have, would be needed to change this eminently convincing view.

There are many amusing bits. "One evening . . . a most articulate gentleman told us with calm good manners . . . [in] some detail about how his wife's grandfather had immigrated to America from the Andromeda nebula." A piece of celestial foil turned out to be radar chaff, precisely identified by its makers as to lot, color and material (1145 alloy, Kerstyn lacquer, Acrituax G). It was "manufactured in Brooklyn, New York, U.S.A., and not in some remote corner of the galaxy."

There is a large and interesting section devoted to the physics of optical and radar mirages, to atmospheric electricity and ball lightning, to the surprisingly widespread use of high-altitude balloons, to problems of perception and so on. There is an outline of the prehistory of the UFO's, with a rather discouraging burden of misleading and even false citations on the part of many authors. There are 32 pages of photographs and many sketches and graphs.

One comes away edified, amused, admiring and well satisfied. The report documents how much the story is linked to the national mood of the early 1950's: the concerns of secrecy and the near-paranoia. Even the cogent report made in 1953 by a panel of distinguished physicists, headed by H. P. Robertson, sponsored by the Air Force and the Central Intelligence Agency, reflects that extraordinary atmosphere. It is sad that the CIA still insisted on censoring the old report, so that we learn of Dr. ——, and even "The —— opened the meeting." (*Never* mention the —— in print, the rule must say out there at headquarters.) Careful students will be interested to see an overlap in minor cast between the Oppenheimer hearings and the UFO report. "Foo-fighters" and the cabal called ZORC are both the expertise of one professor. It is clear that a profound

Subject:
PROGRESS

Report of the World Land Reform Conference, 1966

The purpose of the Conference was to provide the Governments of Member States with a forum for the reappraisal of their programme for adjusting agrarian structures, with an opportunity for a thorough assessment of their current policy in the light of economic and social development plans, and for the exchange of experience in the planning and implementation of land reform programmes. 92 pp. $1.50

Urbanization, Development Policies and Planning

Problems and policies connected with urban growth and population distribution. 130 pp. $2.00

Compendium of Social Statistics, 1967

Statistical tables include: Population and vital statistics; Health conditions; Food consumption and nutrition; Housing; Education and cultural activities; Labour force and conditions of employment; Income and expenditure; Consumer prices. Bilingual (Eng./Fr.) $8.75

UNDP/Project Descriptions

Commencing January 1969, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) will make available on a subscription basis UNDP Project Descriptions, containing comprehensive information about UNDP-assisted projects approved by the Governing Council. Twice a year, the UNDP Governing Council meets to approve assistance for a large number of pre-investment projects. The projects range from those aimed at developing agricultural and mineral sectors to those intended to create advanced industrial complexes, transport systems and public administrations.
The descriptions are intended as a useful source of information for Governments, the general public, financing institutions and, particularly, commercial firms and organizations interested in contracting opportunities.
Each project description will be about five pages long and will include information on the need for the project within the context of the economic situation of the country concerned; the estimated duration of the project; the objectives of the project and their relation to the national development plan; the work plan of the project; expert services, contracts and equipment needed for the project's implementation; and the budget. Annual subscription (two issues), $65.00

UNITED NATIONS PUBLICATIONS
New York, N.Y. 10017

mistrust both of official science, with its link to weaponry, and of the secret operations of our government suffuses the subject. UFO's are not wholly but in large measure a creature of the American scene circa 1950.

One would have welcomed a brief factual account of the scale and scope of the flying saucer "industry," which today touches even some national publications, and represents a vested interest in mystery. Condon urges that teachers not allot credit for schoolwork on currently available UFO books and articles. He has made that recommendation out of date; this report is well worth broad study at many levels. Finally, it is clear that the UFO reports should not be met by ridicule but by real interest. They are often the faint echo of science itself, men seeking order in a world made anxious not only by fancied fears but also by real ones. That among the witnesses are madmen, rascals and jokers does not single out any group. Science is the stronger for this sincere and expert effort to deal with a public concern.

THE MACHINE AS SEEN AT THE END OF THE MECHANICAL AGE, by K. G. Pontus Hultén. The Museum of Modern Art ($6.95). The text of this book is fresh enough, but the book is literally canned. That is, it is bound between Swedish tinplate covers, embossed and color-lithographed, as apt as they are durable. It is the extensive catalogue by a director of the Stockholm museum who assembled the art exhibition presented in New York in the fall of 1968. He himself observes that it is in no sense a history of the machine; rather, it is "a collection of comments on technology by artists of the Western world." It is full of interest, less for the novelty of the works illustrated and explained than for the fact that it displays so many diverse works, most of which are well known in other contexts. It begins, of course, with a Da Vinci: one design for a pseudo-helicopter. Then comes one of Dürer's fantastic engravings of the cogwheel chariots for Maximilian's paper triumph. The marvelous Neuchâtel automata, real clockwork figures that draw and write, are here, and a strange drawing out of the Italian baroque depicting a street knife-sharpening machine drawn as a man with mechanical parts.

There is a Shortshanks etching of English gentry walking in steam-driven boots, and a familiar anonymous Victorian lithograph of a Mr. Golightly astride a "steam riding rocket." Nonetheless, it is the 20th century that makes the collection. Most of the newest ideas of the artists are seen to be very early: there is an *art nouveau* wax model of a double-decker automobile that could be influential today; op-art illusions, the collage and assembly of machine parts and junk, and kinetic sculpture (the example shown is standing waves in a vibrating metal rod) all began before 1920. The most dazzling concept of this period is the fantastic plan of Vladimir Tatlin for a monument to the Third International in Moscow, which was to have been a slanted steel helix 400 meters high holding four glass-walled chambers of decreasing size, the largest rotating in a year and the smallest daily. "The technical potential to build it did not exist," and even a wooden model 15 feet high was lost, although it was much praised.

The last word also appears, in the self-destructive mechanical comedies of Jean Tinguely, the still or animated tableaus of Edward Kienholz (for example "The Friendly Grey Computer," an electronic chassis in a rocking chair with a doll's legs protruding) and the reactive electronic devices of the organization Experiments in Art and Technology. Altogether this is a summarizing document of a catholic taste. The philosophical analysis of the writer will not always appeal to readers who are closer to the machine than he is.

MILITARY AND CIVILIAN PYROTECHNICS, by Herbert Ellern. Chemical Publishing Company Inc. ($15). Here is an expert's account of a living technology—up to date, coherent and personal. Pyrotechnics is much older and much more conspicuous than its present economic scale would suggest. For this author pyrotechnics can no longer be fireworks alone; he defines it as the technology of the use of the heat and other products from the mainly nonexplosive exothermic reactions of solids. The core of the industry is the safety match; the 400 or 500 billion matches made each year in the U.S. exceed by tenfold the value of all fireworks production. Matches are treated here both historically and technically, although with little attention to the purely mechanical side of their mass production. The safety match has no secret formula; its successful manufacture is based on skillful management of the process, on maintaining uniformity in the face of small changes in materials and external conditions. The key is in details such as the use of the best hide glue ("Peter Cooper Grade IIa extra with foaming properties"); other binders can form a hardened skin over the pyrotechnic material, and the match

Condon To Head UFO Study

The Air Force, beset for years by charges that it considers reports of unidentified flying objects to have a psychiatric rather than an aerodynamic basis, took steps last week to establish what it hopes will be regarded as an impeccably objective scientific investigation of the UFO issue. It announced that the distinguished physicist Edward U. Condon, who is noted for speaking his mind, has agreed to serve as scientific director of a far-ranging, no-strings UFO inquiry backed by $313,000 of Air Force money. The study, under contract from the Air Force Office of Scientific Research, will be conducted at the University of Colorado, where Condon, 64, is professor of physics and astrophysics and a fellow of the Joint Institute for Laboratory Astrophysics.

Condon, who declined to work at Los Alamos during World War II because of what he considered stifling and unnecessary security restrictions, served as director of the National Bureau of Standards from 1945 to 1951. During that time he was attacked by the House Un-American Activities Committee as "one of the weakest links in our atomic security," a charge that caused widespread indignation throughout the scientific community. In 1954, while he was director of research and development for Corning Glass Works, the Navy suspended his security clearance after he had been cleared by three government agencies. Condon publicly denounced the procedure and, rather than reapply for a clearance, resigned from Corning. He later assailed the Eisenhower administration for "callous indifference" to political attacks on scientists.

Condon was president of the American Physical Society in 1946 and president of the AAAS in 1953. Prior to joining the Colorado faculty, in 1964, he was professor of physics at Washington University, St. Louis.

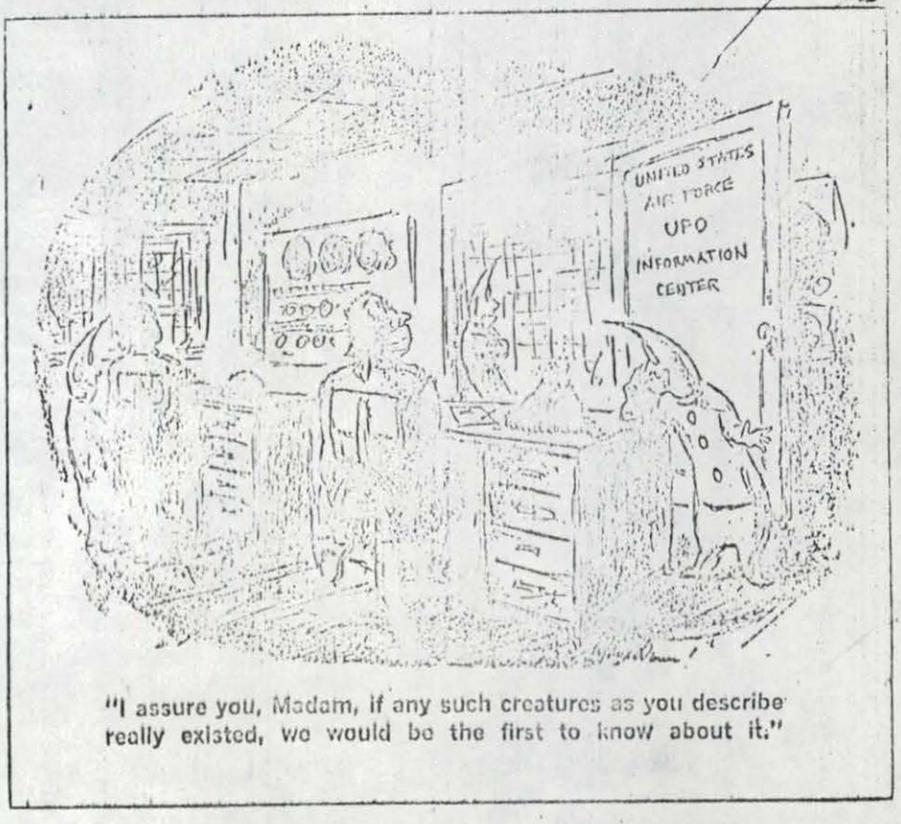
Associated with him in the UFO study will be Franklin E. Roach, an astrophysicist and air glow specialist on the staff of the Environmental Science Services Administration, Boulder, and Stuart W. Cook, chairman of the Colorado psychology department. Advice will be sought from other institutions, and, as a final certification of scientific purity, the National Academy of Sciences will review the results of the study.

One of the first steps will be a conference around mid-November in Boulder at which Air Force officials will brief Condon and his associates on earlier UFO reports and investigations. It is hoped that detailed plans for the new study can be formulated by the beginning of February.

In connection with the study, the University announced that "the Air Force has given assurances that all information in its possession which bears on the subject will be made available to the University investigators. The University will be given everything, not merely that which it requests." The contract for the investigation is for 15 months, but the Air Force said the study may be extended if necessary.—D.S.G.



Edward U. Condon



"I assure you, Madam, if any such creatures as you describe really existed, we would be the first to know about it."

Drawing at right by Alan Dunn; © 1966 The New Yorker Magazine, Inc.

Science Vol 154 14 Oct 1966

554/1/30 PT3 (7)

27 NOV 72

Headquarters Operational Command (Attention: C INTEL O)
Headquarters Support Command (Attention: C INTEL O)

INVESTIGATIONS - UNUSUAL AERIAL SIGHTINGS

References: A. 554/1/30(1) dated 9 Jun 72

B. HQOC 5/15/Air(34) dated 22 Jun 72

C. HQSC 5/6/Air(25) dated 4 Jul 72

1. Recent investigations of unusual aerial sightings have highlighted numerous insufficiencies in reports. These insufficiencies reflect either a lack of motivation of the investigating officer and/or lack of direction and supervision from the appointing authority.

2. The Directorate of Air Force Intelligence requires as much information as possible, including the investigating officer's conclusion, to enable suitable replies to be completed and forwarded to the original reporter(s).

3. Attached is a sample investigating officer's report, which shows the detail of investigation carried out by a responsible officer. A report of this type, together with the information contained in the proformae 'Report On Unusual Aerial Sighting', Parts 1 and 2, should enable an adequate reply to be formulated and dispatched.

4. This requirement should be disseminated to formations and units, in an endeavour to upgrade the procedures of investigation of unusual aerial sightings.

(K.R. JANSON)
Group Captain
for Chief of the Air Staff

Enclosure: Investigating Officer's Report

[redacted]

~~ANNEX A TO HQSTL 5/5/AIR (3) DATED 25 SEP 72~~

INVESTIGATING OFFICER'S REPORT ON THE SIGHTINGS OF AN UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT AT TRARALGON ON 11 AND 13 OF SEP 72

INTRODUCTION

1. On the 11 Sep 72 the Administrative Staff Officer received a telephone call from Snr Sgt TANIAN of TRARALGON Police concerning a UFO sighting at 4.30am that morning. The initial sighting had been made by a Mr J. DIXON of TRARALGON, and the object was subsequently observed by Mr J. GILBERT, Const N. DAVEY, and Snr Const W. ALLEN.

2. The investigating officer visited TRARALGON Police Station on 12 Sep 72 to interview the four principals involved in the sighting. All four witnesses were interviewed individually.

3. Mr DIXON stated that, on Monday morning at about 4.30am EST, as he was riding his bike east along the Princes Highway about 1½ miles from TRARALGON, he saw a bright light in the eastern sky. He paid no more attention to light until he was several miles further down the highway, when he looked up and saw it as a very large bright light travelling very rapidly toward him along the road. It then stopped above him, lighting the surrounding country for a quarter of a mile with an intense blue light. described the intensity of the light hovering over him as much brighter than the sun, and almost impossible to look at. After a short period he observed the light to transit extremely quickly towards the North, where it remained stationary except of small vertical and horizontal 'bobbing' movements.

4. He then returned towards TRARALGON and stopped enroute to talk to Mr GILBERT, who was working in the sale yards. Mr GILBERT then saw the light in the North Eastern sky, and continued to watch it for about 1 hour 20 minutes. It remained stationary except for small, rapid sideways movements. Both Messrs DIXON and GILBERT reported that dogs in the surrounding area were in an excitable state.

5. Mr Dixon continued on to the TRARALGON Police Station where he reported his sighting to Const DAVEYS, who went outside and also saw the bright light in the sky, which appeared to him to be over GLENGARRY (025°T at 4½ miles from TRARALGON). Const DAVEYS continued to observe the bright light until 0700K, during which time it had become a silver ball, after the transition to daylight.

6. At approximately 0630K the object was pointed out to Senior Const ALLEN, who saw it as a small silver ball, due north of the Police Station. It was seen to disappear at 0700K by Const DAVEY, who said it appeared to shoot straight up out of sight.

7. On the 13 Sep 72 at 0500K, Const DAVEY again saw the object, this time to the north east of TRARALGON. He immediately contacted Snr Sgt TANIAN, and they both watched it until it dissappeared behind cloud at about 0515K.

QUALITY OF THE EVIDENCE

8. The evidence taken from the three police officers is considered to be very sound, the only appreciable difference being in the estimation of the angle of elevation by DAVEY and ALLEN. Mr GILBERT appeared to be a quiet sensible man, the main difference between his statement, and those of the two policemen being the bearing of the object. As far as the investigating officer could ascertain all of the above people were in no way prone to lapses of imaginative thinking.

/9. Mr DIXON

[redacted]

WGCDR
DD-15 13 Apr 04

9. Mr DIXON prior to the interview, had been drinking, and when the investigating officer took his statement, he was obviously intoxicated. The effect of alcohol, combined with what was considered a first class imagination, led the investigating officer to the conclusion that Mr DIXON should be treated as an unreliable witness.

POSSIBLE EXPLANATIONS

10. The following aspects were considered, in attempting to find a satisfactory explanation:

a. Aircraft. There were no known civil or military aircraft in the vininity at the time of the sighting. Melbourne recorded no radar traces in the area.

b. Visible Satellites. There were no visible satellite passes at that time.

c. Meteorological Balloons. The balloon released from LAVERTON at 1700Z would have blown well to the South of TRARALGON by the time of the sighting. The only other balloon which could possibly have a bearing was launched from MILDURA at 1700Z, but would not have reached the area of the sighting by 1830Z.

d. Local Phenomena. The only local phenomena in the area is the gas burner at the ESSO-BHP plant at LONGFORD. Even though it lies in the general direction of the first sighting, all witnesses stated that they were familiar with it, and all discounted it completely.

e. Meteorological Conditions. At 101700Z, the weather in the area was:

Wind - Surface calm 350/02 at 1000', increasing to 310/40 at 5000' and 300/60 at 20,000'.
Cloud - no cloud, visibility 10nm in mist, strong possibility of patches of fog in the Latrobe Valley.
Temp was 4°C, dew point 3°C.
Inversions - a strong surface inversion of 4°C between 0 and 1000', and an isothermal layer between 3000'-5000'.

f. Celestial Bodies. The two most likely celestial bodies to affect the sighting are Venus and Sirius. At the times of the sightings Venus had a magnitude of -3.8, and would have moved from a position 064°T, 03°32' Elevation at 0430K to 035T at 26°00' Elevation at 0700K. Its bearing therefore co-incides with the reported azimuth of the object, although the elevation does not. Sirius with a magnitude of -1.8, would have moved from 070°T at 57° elevation at 0430K, to 182°T, elevation 68° at 0700K.

CONCLUSION

11. The most probable cause of the blinding light seen by Mr DIXON is the refraction of the sun, though the surface inversion. At 0430K the sun would be approximately 10° below the visibile horizon and it would therefore have been in a suitable position for a refraction to occur. Owing to the large amount of water vapour present in the inversion layer the light would have appeared to have a bluish tint, although the investigating officer cannot explain the reported illumination of the surrounding area by the light.

/12. In the

12. In the investigating officer's opinion, after Mr DIXON saw the light disappear he looked around to locate it again, and, seeing the planet Venus concluded that this was the object he had seen. It is suggested that the reported high-speed transit to the north, and the trail of light were a figment of his imagination. On attempting to point out his sighting to Mr GILBERT, it is probable that this gentleman saw the star SIRIUS, as the position and elevation of this star is consistent with Mr GILBERTS observations over the 1 hour 20 minutes he observed it. Supporting this supposition is the fact that Mr GILBERT saw the object dissappear at 6.14K, 45 minutes before the other observers. Sirius having less than half the magnitude of Venus, would fade away at sunrise; whilst it is common for Venus to be observed several hours after.

13. The object pointed out to Const DAVEY by Mr DIXON was most probably the planet Venus. The elevation observed does not coincide with the location of the planet but the surface inversion could have made it appear higher in the sky than it was. The water vapour present in the lower layers at the time would make the planet appear larger through the halo effect, common under those conditions. It would also explain the various protrudences of light seen to appear at intervals during the period of the sighting. The presence of dust and smoke haze common in the area, trapped under the inversion would discolour the light, and most probably cause the red dots seen on the object.

14. The rapid horizontal movements observed by all the witnesses, could have been caused by the constant and rapid changes to the angle the light entered the inversion layer at. The strong wind shear between 1000' and 5000' would cause the top of the inversion to adopt a wave like motion, therefore constantly changing the angle of refraction as seen from the ground.

15. In the investigating officer's opinion the most probable cause of the sighting was the planets Venus and Sirius, observed in unusual atmospheric conditions. The subsequent observation of the star Sirius by Snr Sgt TANIAN at 0500K on the 13 Sep 72 and the statement by Const DAVEY who saw it with him, that it looked the same as the object he observed 2 mornings previous, support this theory.

RAAF Base East Sale
18 Sep 72

(J.N. OGDEN)
Flight Lieutenant
Investigating Officer

6

UFO. POLICY
Inside Cover

CSIRO (Dr Wakehouse) has a very high resolution radar which is mobile and which we could possibly utilize at some future date.

Dr DP Clarke is the scientist normally interested in operating the equipment the equipment is normally based in Melbourne at the Rad Physics Division in Aspendale.

Tele number for Dr Wakehouse is Can 48 7722

NOTE

Make no contact without specific clearance from DAFI.

J.

14 Sep 72.

(5)

24 JUL 1972

554/1/30(5)

Headquarters Operational Command
Headquarters Support Command

CHANGES TO INVESTIGATION OF UFO POLICY

References: A. DEPAIR 554/1/30(1) of 9th June 1972

B. HQOC 5/15/AIR (34) of 22nd June 1972

C. HQSC 5/6/AIR (25) of 4th July 1972

References B and C indicate that Headquarters Operational Command and Headquarters Support Command are in agreement with the proposed new UFO investigation policy detailed in Reference A. Would each Command now inform their respective formations and units of the new policy which will be effective immediately.

(K.R. JANSON)
Group Captain
for Chief of the Air Staff

File and return please

(4)

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE

TELEPHONE: 69 0550

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS:
"AIRCOMMAND, MELBOURNE"

HEADQUARTERS SUPPORT COMMAND
RAAF
VICTORIA BARRACKS
MELBOURNE SC1 VIC 3004

IN REPLY QUOTE 5/6/Air(25)

- 4 JUL 1972

Department of Air (DAFI)

CHANGES TO INVESTIGATION OF UFO POLICY

Reference: A. Your 554/1/30(1) 9th June 1972

1. It is considered that direct dealing with units by Department of Air in the investigation of reports of unidentified flying objects is most desirable.

2. Drawbacks under current policy are the considerable delays encountered and the additional workload associated with processing the reports. Additionally, long delays cause the "trail to become cold" and makes investigations so much harder, particularly in cases where civil agencies are required to examine records up to two months old.

3. It is felt that the process of investigation, if undertaken directly by Department of Air, will eliminate delays and streamline reporting of unidentified flying objects.

(W.C. KERITZ)
Wing Commander
For Air Officer Commanding

RECEIVED
- 5 JUL 1972
DAFI

DAFI
Yes pls
19/7

HQOC also agree with the proposed change in policy (folio 3). Do you wish IR to prepare a draft to commands asking them to advise their formations of the new policy.
19 Jul 72

G.R. Tuckey
Sqn Ldr
DDAFI(IR)

FOLIO 42
DEPT. OF AIR
DAFI. 26-5-72
554/1/30

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE

TELEPHONE: PENRITH 2331

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS:
"AIRCOMMAND SYDNEY"

HEADQUARTERS OPERATIONAL COMMAND
RAAF
PENRITH 1W NSW

IN REPLY QUOTE 5/15/Air(34)

22nd June 1972

~~Department~~ of Air, CANBERRA, ACT

DAFI

CHANGES TO INVESTIGATION OF UFO POLICY

Reference: A. DEPAIR 554/1/30(1) of 9th June 1972

1. The proposed policy for the investigation of reports on unusual aerial sightings, forwarded under cover of reference A, has been examined by this headquarters.

2. The revised policy is acceptable to this headquarters providing we are kept informed of correspondence between units under command and Department of Air.

for (G.W. STEEGE)
Air Commodore
for Air Officer Commanding

LR

Pls ensure that we observe para 2.

29 JUN 1972
DAFI


RECEIVED
28 JUN 1972
AIR REGISTRY
CANBERRA

554/1/30 (3) 2

72 MAY 12 6 01

~~EMP~~?

ROUTINE

12 06052 MAY 72

DEPAIR

HQOC

HQEDN

RESTRICTED

AI 388

REFERENCE HQEDN AI051 AND HQOC A794 PD NEW UFO POLICY IN FINAL STAGES OF CONSIDERATION AND WILL BE ISSUED IMMEDIATELY ON COMPLETION PD SOME FURTHER SMALL DELAY MAY BE EXPECTED DUE TO STAFF DEPLETION THROUGH CURRENT COMMITTMENTS TO EXERCISE TOP LIMIT

AC THIS MESSAGE IS CLASSIFIED. YOUR REPLY OR REFERENCE MUST BEAR A MINIMUM CLASSIFICATION OF RESTRICTED.

J.P. McCARTHY IR(DAFI) 2410

554/1/30 (1)

8 JUN 72

Headquarters Operational Command
Headquarters Support Command

CHANGES TO INVESTIGATION OF UFO POLICY

1. Enclosed herewith is the proposed policy for the investigation of reports of unidentified flying objects.

2. The main purpose of the intended changes is to eliminate unnecessary duplication of effort and to streamline the process of investigation. With Commands' concurrence it is proposed that Department of Air deal direct with bases and thus eliminate unnecessary work by officers of both commands.

3. It would be appreciated if Commands consider the proposed policy and return their comments to Department of Air.

(J.C. SCOTLAND)
Wing Commander
for Chief of the Air Staff

Enclosure: Investigation of Unidentified Flying Objects

INVESTIGATION OF UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

1. The Royal Australian Air Force is responsible for the investigation of reports of unidentified flying objects (UFOs) in Australia and the Trust Territories. The main purpose of the investigation of any UFO is to establish whether or not the subject of the report poses a threat to the security of Australia. The identification of the cause of the UFO report and its classification is mainly for the benefit of members of the public whose interest may have been aroused by the report.

2. It is considered that the authority best suited to the investigation of a UFO report is the nearest RAAF base, where local weather conditions, natural phenomena and aircraft movements are well known. Therefore, anyone who sees, or thinks he sees an aerial object which he cannot identify, should contact the nearest RAAF base and if this is impractical his nearest civil airport or police station.

3. The investigation of a report of a UFO sighting is to be based on a questionnaire which is shown in Annex A and is designed to record all necessary details of the observation and provide the information on which an investigation can be based.

4. On receipt of a report of a UFO sighting, Officers Commanding are to appoint a responsible officer to initiate inquiries. Normally this officer should interview the observer and complete the proforma. In cases where the remoteness of the area of observation would make the procedure impractical or the Officer Commanding is staisfied from the initial inquiry that nothing would be gained by such a procedure, he should arrange for the proforma to be sent to the person reporting the sighting for completion.

5. When the completed proforma is received at a RAAF base, Officers Commanding are to ensure that an adequate examination of the report is carried out and Part 2 of the UFO proforma is completed with as much detail as possible. The UFO proforma and investigation findings, if any, are to be despatched without dèlay direct to Department of Air, with an information copy distributed to the appropriate command.

6. Requests from members of the public for information on UFOs received by commands or bases may be answered directly. Requests of this nature are to be dealt with by distributing the proforma (Annex B) and the summary of UFO sightings (Annex C), to the enquirer. The superscript and subscript of the proforma (Annex B) with an introductory paragraph is to be completed by the base or command.

7. Only that information contained in Annexes B and C is to be released to the public. Enquirers who are not satisfied with the information received are to be instructed to direct further enquiries to the Secretary, Department of Air. Requests for speakers at Symposiums, Conferences, etc on UFOs are to be refused and the person or organization wanting a speaker be given copies of Annexes B and C.

ANNEX A

The existing proforma is still to be used.

REGISTRY CLASSIFICATION PARTICULARS

CLASSIFIER

1 *Original/Copy*

2 *Duplicate Copy made*

3 *Date opened* 26 MAY 1972

REGISTRATION

CONFIDENTIAL

1 *Security Classification*

2 *Title* Investigations of Flying Saucers - Policy.

3 *Registration Number* 554-1-30 pt3 (new pt)

4 *Mark to* DAFI

5 *Cancel File No* _____ *vide this File and inform Movements Section of cancellation and new File No*

6 *Close File No* pt 2

7 *Cross Reference this File with File(s)* pts 1 & 2

SUBJECT INDEX

Posting	*Precis*

NAME INDEX

1

Heading	*Precis*

2 *Alter File No on Logging Card for* _____

Letter dated _____ *Reference No* _____

18566/71—L

W. G. MURRAY, Government Printer, Canberra

CONFIDENTIAL

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE

A56B MAY 65

FILE No.			PART
65H	1	30	3

UNIT
1

TITLE
INVESTIGATIONS OF FLYING SAUCERS — POLICY

ARCHIVAL ACTION

REFERRED TO	FOLIO FOR ATTENTION	DATE REFERRED	ACTIONED BY INITIALS	REFERRED TO	FOLIO FOR ATTENTION	DATE REFERRED	ACTIONED BY INITIALS
~~DAFIS~~	30	25 May 81	~~[illegible]~~				
~~DESPATCH~~	30	26 May 81					
REGISTRY	FILE	27/1/84					
(CLOSE FILE & RETURN TO DAFIS)							
(E-4-27)							