

PHILOMENE - 1/9/69



THE CONDON FLYING SAUCER REPORT - to be released today.

I talked with Dr. David R. Saunders, who was fired from the committee last spring.

He told me that it is a biased report, that they didn't look into a number of incidents that might have proved valuable, and that their idea from the very beginning was to kill the flying-saucer belief.

He said he did not know if these were machines from outer space, but that he thought at least there should be a scientific, unbiased investigation and report to the American people.

He told me he was head of the Psychology Department at the University of Colorado--Condon is there also.

He said that since he left the committee a number of people had approached him with information which they had not wanted to give to the Air Force, that they had not wanted to be made fools of by publicity.

He left me a copy of his book--which is on the stands today--if you are interested.

... five floors above where
... he spent most of the last move
... last June 5 of seven months.
... Senator Robert F. Kennedy. He was wearing a neat
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U.F.O. Finding: Not Visits From Afar

By WALTER SULLIVAN

The first full-scale scientific study of unidentified flying objects, or U.F.O.'s, has uncovered no evidence that they are intelligently guided spacecraft from beyond the earth, according to the final report of the project.

The report brushes aside the demands of some scientists and laymen for a large-scale effort to determine the nature of such "flying saucers." Such a project, the report says in effect, would be a waste of time and money.

The document, prepared by a University of Colorado team headed by Dr. Edward U. Condon, is to be made public shortly. At the request of the Air Force, which sponsored the study, the report has been assessed by a panel

of independent scientists convened by the National Academy of Sciences. It is expected that this evaluation will be made public at the same time as the report.

Yesterday, however, the Associated Press circulated a fragmentary account of the principal conclusion of the Colorado study. Sources with access to the report were then willing to discuss its contents further.

In their investigation of hundreds of incidents the Colorado scientists found that a number of episodes previously classed as inexplicable could be accounted for by natural means or by hoaxes. The accounts of witnesses with seemingly impeccable credentials were reported to have been found,

in some cases, to be self-contradictory and hence of little value.

This led the investigators to be skeptical regarding the residue of cases that, assuming the reliability of the witnesses, could not be explained by well-established phenomena. These were classed as unresolved but, according to the Colorado report, did not lend credence to the proposition that they represented visitations from another world.

The report is said to state unequivocally that no evidence could be found of a contemporary government effort to withhold information about the objects from the public. The only exception—

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termed a reasonable one—was the Air Force policy of delaying comment until the investigation of an episode had been completed.

It is understood that portions of the report are critical of individual Air Force units. One California episode involved the nightly sighting of lights that seemed, to an investigator from the Colorado project, to be aircraft landing and taking off from a distant air base.

The air base denied such flight operations, prolonging an investigation that finally demonstrated that the operations had, in fact, given rise to reports of unidentified objects. The Colorado group is also reported to be critical of delays, during the 1950's, in bringing the Air Force reports and investigations of reported objects fully into the open.

The Colorado study, which has cost roughly a half million dollars, was contracted for by the Air Force after it had become evident that a number of people did not believe that the Air Force had pursued the subject adequately. Dr. Condon was chosen to head the project, which lasted 18 months, as a man of eminence and known independence.

He was formerly head of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Physical Society and the National Bureau of Standards. The last-named operated a laboratory complex in the University of Colorado's home town of Boulder.

Aided by Many Specialists

These laboratories, plus the National Center for Atmospheric Research, on a mesa overlooking Boulder, provided a reservoir of specialists in atmospheric phenomena, abnormal radar propagation, astronomy and other sciences related to possible explanations of unidentified flying objects. The National Center for Atmospheric Research conducts a wide variety of balloon flights,

which have been responsible for U.F.O. reports over the

The Colorado group seems to have made every effort to remain aloof from any Air Force influence over its work. Thus the cases that it investigated were chosen largely from the recommendations of private groups. Notable among these was the National Investigations Committee for Aerial Phenomena, in Washington.

It is headed by Donald Keyhoe, a former Marine Corps major who first achieved considerable notice with a magazine article contending that "flying saucers" are extraterrestrial visitations. His committee is not committed to this view, but its members tend to regard this as a serious possibility.

As the investigative phase of the Colorado project drew to a close late in 1957 there was a falling out between Dr. Condon and Mr. Keyhoe's group, allegedly because some statements by Dr. Condon had shown his lack of sympathy for the view that some unidentified objects may be visitations from other worlds.

Memo Provokes Dispute

An internal university memorandum was taken from the project's files and passed to outside U.F.O. enthusiasts who were disenchanted with the project.

The document, written before the project had begun, discussed whether the university could undertake the study without incurring ridicule from the academic world and while satisfying the public that an open-minded study was being made.

Its phraseology was taken by some persons to indicate bias against the objects. Two members of the project's staff were dismissed, apparently for their role in the removal and publication of this memorandum. One was a psychologist, Dr. David R. Saunders, who had become a member of Mr. Keyhoe's committee shortly before joining the project.

This week a book by Dr.

Saunders, written with a journalist from Boulder, R. Roger Harkins, went on sale. This is entitled, "U.F.O.'s? Yes!" Its subtitle is, "Where the Condon Committee Went Wrong."

The book, in paperback, was set for publication simultaneously with issuance of the Condon report, but it was on sale at some newsstands yesterday. Dr. Saunders champions a conspiracy hypothesis.

That is, he and Mr. Harkins argue for the possibility that the Colorado investigation was a front contrived by the highest echelons of government to mask the truth. The "truth," presumably, was that U.F.O.'s are known to the government to be visitations from afar. Dr. Saunders stated:

"I am sure everyone on the University of Colorado Project at one time or another asked himself (unless he already knew the answer) why, if the true story was cover-up, the project was allowed to exist. There were many plausible answers to this question, but they all implied that someone on the project must be acting in a double role."

He said this had led to mutual distrust. He also complained that other members of the project's staff had referred to him as a "quasi-believer."

The reaction of Dr. Condon to past charges of bias was: Wait for the report. He argued that the validity of his conclusions and those of his colleagues must stand or fall on the observations and analyses described in that document. The Colorado group knew that Dr. Saunders was preparing a dissenting presentation and that their evaluations of some cases would be challenged.

However from other studies of this sort it has become evident that in most cases the evidence is largely hearsay and it is often impossible to prove or disprove a particular hypothesis. Presumably it is for this reason that Dr. Condon has concluded that further studies of the unidentified objects are unlikely to add much to scientific knowledge.

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UFO July 19, 1967

Mr. Drew Pearson
1313 29th Street Northwest,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Pearson:

Thank you for your letter of July 6 plus the other informative and carefully written missives I have received from you in the last four years. I appreciate being taken into your confidence on these matters. The intense personal involvement you have in your column makes it tops in my book.

You may remember a letter of mine, which you answered exactly a year ago, concerning my "pet" interest, unidentified flying objects. I noted with interest your recent reference to U Thant's feelings on this subject and its relative importance internationally.

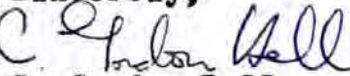
I remain convinced that a small amount of these sightings are bona fide phenomena of extra terrestrial origin. As I mentioned in my last letter, my wife, two neighbors, and I experienced an unexplainable sighting at my home last year. Many such occurrences continue to be reported in this area, but few people are willing to endure the ridicule public witness of these events entails.

Our neighbor confided to me that, had she known how many phone calls and how much poorly concealed disbelief she would experience, she never would have allowed us to publish an account of this event in our paper.

Eventually, this matter of UFO's must be resolved on a national level, or the ultimate consequences might prove deleterious to this country's interests.

I posit no invasions or similar phenomena. In this case no one can predict the future. However, I continue to have confidence in a well informed citizenry and the ability of the public to act sensibly in difficult situations.

Thanks again for listening to my favorite peeve.

Sincerely,

C. Gordon Bell
General Manager

Philomene

9/19/66

UFO's

file

Mel Noel (2760 Hollyridge Dr., Hollywood 28, Calif., 265-9063) a Los Angeles airplane pilot, expects on Oct. 1 word from the LA Costa Rican consul as to when and where an Earthling group (I signed you up for the trip--if you do not care to go, I want to) can contact natives of the planet Mars and take a ride in their spacecraft sometime during November or December. The rendezvous, it is expected, will probably be in the mountains of South America near Uruguay.

Plans are to bring back physical evidence in the form of tape recordings, pictures, etc. of the existence of high-level beings on other planets. Noel says there have been many contacts before, but no one has been able to bring uncontrovertible evidence.

FYI--Gallup Poll this summer reports some 5 million Americans have seen things they believe to be "flying saucers" despite our Air Force's 19-year-long investigation which has failed to establish the existence of even one flying saucer. Incidentally, it seems odd to me that none of the astronomers who constantly search the skies have ever reported a sighting.

Out of 10,147 sightings over the 19-year period--1947 through 1965--94% or 9,501 have been explained by the U. S. Air Force and 6% or 646 listed as "unidentified."

As you know, there has been particular increase in interest this year in UFO's. The Pentagon in Spril received 1,597 letters and in May 1,173 concerning UFO's. And your friend, Mendel Rivers, on April 5, 1966, held a hearing on UFO's.

It is expected this Noel group will rendezvous in the mountains, I think of Brazil, near Uruguay where 124^{foreign} scientists are working with the Martian group--the nucleus of these foreign scientists, according to Noel, were Marconi co-workers who are going on his research.

Noel says Marconi demonstrated some fantastic powers for Mussolini for whom he disintegrated 15 mules. He also destroyed 23 planes for Mussolini. Only 18 pilots were able to bail out and five were lost. Noel says that three hours later Marconi, who refused to cooperate with Mussolini and wanted to use these discoveries for world peace, was dead. Medical records, he said, showed that Mussolini's own physician was in attendance at 3:45 am on July 20, 1937.

These co-workers of Marconi's went to South America where they got together with scientists from all over the world who are working on spacecraft. Men from Mars over 7 ft. tall with platinum hair and blue eyes contacted them there and are helping them.

Noel described himself as representing Ufology Research Institute, Inc. whose service is to obtain physical evidence of the Existence of UFO's. He is a chartered commercial airplane pilot and a former Air Force pilot.

He explained that while on duty as an Air Force pilot he was assigned with a group of 4 F-86 jets to hunt down and photograph UFO's. They flew 73 missions and encountered UFO's three times. The first time November 1953, they were in the Rocky Mountains over Idaho. For eight minutes they watched the formation of

16 objects maneuvering at speeds estimated up to 3,000 mph. The UFO's were disc-shaped, about 150-180 feet in diameter and 30 to 40 feet thick. The aura around each one changed color constantly.

Two weeks later they again saw a formation of five UFO's. They took pictures, thousands of frames, but were never allowed to see the results.

The third sighting was January 1954. This time they heard a voice over their aircraft radio (225-240 megacycles) speaking English very slowly. The voice made a series of statements.

"We believe the almighty power of the universe...We originate from planets known to you as Mars, Venus, Mercury and Saturn... Life exists on these planets, not on the surface, but within the interior..."

"The Bible is the history of the Jews, not of any other people..."

"This is the end of a major cycle, and from 1958 to 2025 there will be changes in the planets--geographic, economic, physical, spiritual."

Noel said they told him a major war would develop in Southeast Asia, that great earthquakes would come starting in 1967, especially in California, Alaska and Japan and that a portion of Japan would be destroyed.

Noel says he remained silent after being released from the Air Force during the ten-year statute of limitation period. Since October 1965 he has been lecturing and has appeared on national television as well as many radio and TV regional appearances.

Noel said he has a number of case histories of pilots (Air Force and commercial) who have encountered UFO's while in flight and who have developed strange powers of extra-sensory perception as a result. (He told me that some of them kind of bulge out at the temples.)

Members of the Ufology Research Institute, including many professional and technical people, scientists and others he said. All I know is that the attendance at the lecture had a lot of women who were either violently for or against but everybody wanted to believe.

Noel said that he expected in November or December to be one of a group of 12 earth people who will rendezvous for the ride in the spacecraft piloted by the people from Mars. He said that the Los Angeles Costa Rican Consul was handling the liaison--that he had contacted him through married relatives. And that a professor of history at the Mexican Univ. and some of the high officials of the Mexican government are also deeply interested in this. On the Here's Barbara Show he appeared with Frank Edwards who has just published a book on flying saucers. Edwards said that after the flying UFO's had been around about 6 years they came to Washington and they have been systematically surveying this earth, that official policy is to tell no one and deny it because it's something we can't cope with. Noel said that after contacting these UFO's some people had had their IQ's greatly increased. One person from 137 to 212, ~~xxxxxx~~ his hair has changed color ever since from

black to white to red and his forehead was greatly extended and marked. Edwards said there weren't so many stories about the little creatures and when shown a picture of the supposed flying saucer by Barbara, scornfully dubbed it a hubcap on a fishing line between two trees.

FYI--Look magazine October 4 and Oct. 18 issues are to have additional excerpts of flying saucers.

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