



NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION  
MANNED SPACECRAFT CENTER  
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77058

IN REPLY REFER TO: A1

Mr. Ralph Rankow  
NICAP Photographic Adviser  
1145 Broadway  
New York, New York

Dear Mr. Rankow:

Fifteen years ago, when UFO's were first reported, I was intrigued (as were many others) with the possibility that these phenomena could be visitors from another world. Because of the numerous sighting reports from very responsible persons, I felt we were being observed by some alien intelligence.

However, as the years sped by, I have come to temper this reasoning. I no longer believe this thesis as probable, although I must admit it could be possible.

I asked NICAP to cancel my membership simply because I have become irked at the continuous use of my name and my NASA position by various publications, all without my permission.

There has never been any NASA or other government agency pressure for such action on my part. If the above sounds unreasonable to you, I might add that about forty-six years ago I firmly believed that Santa Claus was a reality.

So far as UFO's are concerned, I still have an abiding interest in the subject. I feel people are seeing something unusual. But, I now have a rather healthy understanding of orbital mechanics, and I would need to have some very solid proof that actual spaceships are maneuvering about our planet at will and against all the laws of space flight mechanics.

Sincerely,

Albert M. Chop  
Deputy Public Affairs Officer

SPACE RESEARCH FACILITIES BRANCH

DIRECTION DES INSTALLATIONS DE  
RECHERCHE SPATIALE



CABLE ADDRESS

ADRESSE TÉLÉGRAPHIQUE

PLEASE QUOTE FILE NO

NO DE DOSSIER À RAPPELER

"RESEARCH"

7826-3

NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL OF CANADA  
CONSEIL NATIONAL DE RECHERCHES DU CANADA

OTTAWA 7.  
18 April 1967.

Lt. Col. R.R. Hippler,  
Headquarters, USAF (AFRSTA)  
Washington, D.C.,  
USA, 22030.

Dear *Col Hippler*

Please refer to the conversation you had with Mr. J.F. Aitken on the subject of UFO's during his recent visit to Wallops. He has asked me to pass the following information to you.

There is no group within NRC authorized to study UFO's as part of its official programme, nor, as far as can be determined, is any other government department charged with this responsibility, as such. At one time, however, both the Department of Transport and the RCAF did keep track of these phenomena. Information on the DOT studies known as "Project Magnet" may be obtained from

Mr. W.A. Schultz,  
Space Systems Section,  
Telecommunications and Electronics Branch,  
Department of Transport,  
Ottawa, Ontario.

RCAF records were apparently passed to the following Canadian Forces Headquarters who may be able to provide some information and who may still have an interest in this field.

Northern NORAD Region Headquarters,  
Canadian Forces Base,  
North Bay, Ontario.

Yours very truly,

*G. O. Berringer*

G. O. Berringer,  
Range Section.

GOB: sc

# CORNELL UNIVERSITY

*Center for Radiophysics and Space Research*

SPACE SCIENCES BUILDING  
Ithaca, New York 14850

Telephone (607) 275-4971

Laboratory for Planetary Studies

September 18, 1968

Lt. Colonel Hector Quintanilla, Jr.  
Chief, Aerial Phenomena Office  
Production Directorate  
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio  
45433

Dear Colonel Quintanilla:

The only published ideas on interstellar ramjets that I have had were published in Planetary and Space Science 11:485, 1963, and were merely an elaboration of ideas published earlier by Robert W. Bussard, as referenced in my paper. A copy of my paper is enclosed. I would be grateful for a reprint of the paper by Froning to which you referred. Incidentally, I was sorry that the Air Force was reluctant to permit your participation in the symposium in December, but I hope that if similar meetings are held at a later time -- well after the release of the Condon report -- you will find yourself able to participate.

With best wishes,

Cordially,

*Carl Sagan*  
Carl Sagan *CS*

CS:pb

NO ACKNOWLEDGEMENT  
REQUESTED

[REDACTED]  
PETROLEUM ENGINEER  
[REDACTED]  
GOLDEN, COLORADO

*Barb*  
March 2, 1968

Dr. Condon           UFO laboratory  
Boulder, Colorado

UFO sighting

A few weeks ago, late in January, I was driving east on Colo. Hwy 86 a few miles east of Kiowa. It was about 4:00 pm. The sun was low in the west and shining thru holes in heavy, red broken clouds.

As I topped the hill on the west side of the valley of Bijou Creek I saw a long string of large, bright lights across the valley to the east. Some were quite close, perhaps 2 or 3 hundred yards ahead. I judge there were 15 or 20 of these lights. Some of the lights seemed low, near the ground. The more distant ones appeared to be a couple of hundred feet up.

I was startled and pulled to the gravel strip along the pavement for I thought it was a military convoy with some helicopters.

The lights appeared to be from 15 to maybe 30 inches diameter. They were vari-colored, reds, orange, yellowish and bright white but no blues or greens. They flashed very brightly and seemed to move or twinkle a bit. I thought it was a convoy in movement.

Suddenly a few went out - then flashed again. I drove along slowly and watched. Then I realized what they were.

They were a string of highway reflector markers along the right side of the road, all the way across the valley and to the top of the hill on the east side. About two miles.

The play of colors apparently was caused by the red sun shining thru a hole in the red and orange clouds. The effect was one I never before have seen in 50 years of driving. The display was dazzling.

UFO IDENTIFIED:           String of highway reflectors.

FINIS:

-----  
\*\*\*\*\*

Addendum:

Some weeks ago I wrote about a UFO sighting east of Ordway, Colorado which turned out to be the sun reflected off 3 insulators on a power line. Twice since then I have traveled that road and have looked at the insulators but have seen no light. Apparently the sun must be at just the right angle to give the effect of a large luminous disc.

cc to Project Bluebook  
Wright-Patterson AFB Ohio.

2/Lt. John Engel  
ATD Project Monitor  
ATTN: TDBAE

February 2, 1968

William R. Dodge, Acting Chief  
Aerospace Technology Division

Information on Soviet Citizen

In your letter of January 19, 1968, you had requested that we search our holdings for information on a Soviet general connected with work on UFO.

We have checked all possible sources of information in the holdings of ATD and LC and came up with only one reference to the said general, a copy of which we are enclosing for your information. As you will see, there is a different version of his first and last names as given in the Polish newspaper from that given in your letter. We are inclined to believe that the Polish version is correct. The Polish article however does not indicate the source of information about the Soviet general.

We have not been able to find any additional information about the general or even any recent mention in the Soviet press of the committee reportedly established for the study of UFO's.

We will forward to you any additional information we may come across on this person in the near future.

1 encl.

WRD:SDO:mbc

Gentlemen: (Or, should I say, spare visitors)

I'll get right to the point. You fellows know what I'm talking about don't you? Huh? Do you realize all your men do not have buttoned lips? There is a squawker among you. Do you know that someone spilled the beans? Your beans, in fact. You are aliens deceiving the public. You know what the UFO's are don't you? Because they are your people. It has been a number of years now since you came. ~~It~~ During World War 2, a group of you appeared from Alpha Centauri. Through history, right and might have always conquered evil motives. You will not get away with this forever. It is good that not all of the civilians are deceived by your evil motive, to deceive the earth and overtake them. WE are not deceived; we know your evil plot.

President Lyndon Bird Johnson is a commandant of a Centaurion saucer. He has a black Uniform with a very intricate design established on it. I will reproduce it for you here:  You know what that design means. Robert Kennedy will be banished to Cypress before the end of 1982. He will be banished on December 21, 1982. Now, I'm spreading your secret, aren't I? It's too late though buddies, your evil plot is being spread! You had better scam to Alpha Centauri, fast! We are coming to capture you, soon! This organization which you call yourselves on earth is **THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE!!!** All I say is bye bye Centaurions! Sincerely,

I have enclosed a photo of a saucer taking off from Wright-Patterson Airforce Base, heading for Alpha Centauri. You know this is one of your space ships, isn't it? Good Luck, Boop. ~~and~~ The cat's out of the bag. This picture was taken by our men in the business. The one who told us of your little secret. His name is ~~the~~ ~~Edward~~ Geoffrey Agle who knows your innermost secrets. His address is Star route 1 Box 350 Jackson, Kentucky. Good Luck boys.  
Sincerely

DTA

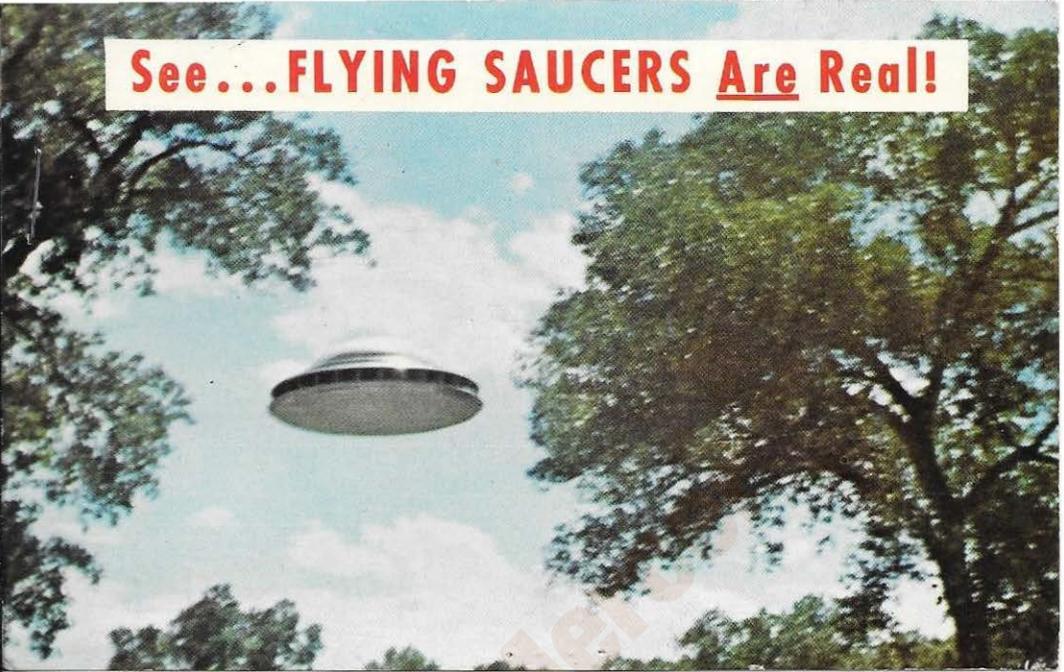
~~Send information to this address.~~

P.S. send information and comments to: Merry Hartman  
State Route #1

another copy colbs.

This picture is in OUR Files. Please send it back! Not a fake either. We want our pictures! send back to,

See... **FLYING SAUCERS** Are Real!

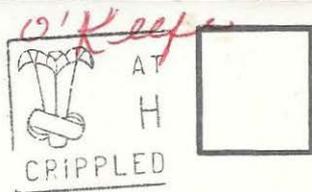


**EXTRATERRESTRIAL SPACESHIP**

Actual photograph of a Flying Saucer taken June 16, 1963 near Albuquerque, New Mexico. Learn about people from other planets! Subscribe to "UFO International". Six issues \$3.00. Single copy — 50¢. Published by: AMALGAMATED FLYING SAUCER CLUBS OF AMERICA, INC. (AFSCA); Gabriel Green, president; 2004 N. Hoover St., Los Angeles, California 90027 U. S. A.

P62291

NOV 25 1966  
PM



POST CARD

*Gentlemen:*

I am very much interested in U.F.O.s and I would appreciate your Blue Book Report,  
*sincerely,*



PROJECT BLUE BOOK  
U.S. AIR FORCE  
WASHINGTON D.C.

WESTMONT, NEW JERSEY

See... **FLYING SAUCERS** Are Real!



PEPE, NAR

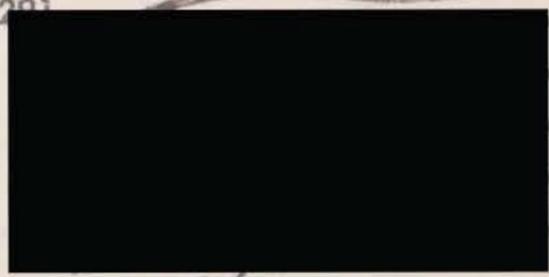
**EXTRATERRESTRIAL SPACESHIP**

Actual photograph of a Flying Saucer taken June 16, 1963 near Albuquerque, New Mexico. Learn about people from other planets! Subscribe to: "UFO International". Six issues \$3.00. Single copy — 50¢. Published by: **AMALGAMATED FLYING SAUCER CLUBS OF AMERICA, INC. (AFSCA)**; Gabriel Green, president; 2004 N. Hoover St., Los Angeles, California 90027 U. S. A.

EDGEPORT  
SEP 13  
1965

FROM:

P62201



06608



**POST CARD**

To: Wright-Patterson  
Air Force Base  
Ohio (A.F.L.C.)

Information office

Ohio

VIA SAUCER

Dear Sir,

Please send me information on saucers that you have at your base. You have files of U.F.O reports. I will appreciate it.

[REDACTED] Street,  
London, S.W.1.,  
ENGLAND.

4th July, 1969

Mr. George W. Towles,  
R. R. 1,  
Box 85A, Fairborn,  
Ohio 45324,  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Dear Mr. Towles,

Your name and address have been given me by the Pentagon as you had at one time been associated with the Project SIGN or GRUDGE back in the late 1940s or early 1950s.

At present, I am undertaking some historical research into the early years of the USAF and, at this stage, am concentrating on the 1947-52 period when the USAF, as it does now, investigated reports of unidentified flying objects (UFOs) from the Wright-Patterson AFB at Dayton, Ohio, under one of the above given code names.

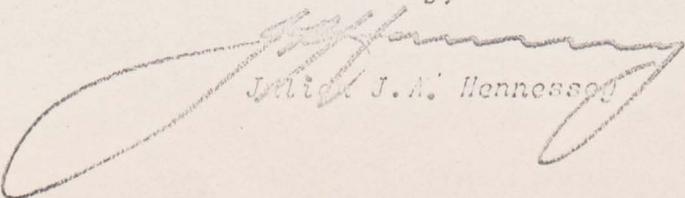
In correspondence with the late Captain Edward J. Ruppelt, former head of these Projects, also Major Deway J. Fournet, Pentagon UFO Program Monitor in 1952, I learned that in 1948, a Top Secret Estimate of the Situation was prepared using the best UFO reports made between mid-1947 and about Spring of 1948. The Estimate concluded that UFOs were "interplanetary spaceships" and when this was submitted to General Hoyt S. Vandenberg, then Chief of Air Staff, it was thrown out for further evidence and subsequently declassified and burnt.

However, although one copy of the Estimate was burnt, several other copies were apparently kept as souvenirs by persons associated with the Project, but Captain Ruppelt could not remember who. Therefore, I am writing you in the hope that either you have a copy of the 1948 Estimate, information concerning it, or the names and addresses of persons whom you worked with at that time who may have a copy.

Disregardless of whether you have any information concerning the Estimate, I would very much appreciate your advising me what post you held with the UFO Project, also what your recollection of these years are today.

Hoping that you can render me some assistance in these matters.

Yours truly,

  
J. A. Hennessey

R. R. #1  
Fairborn, Ohio, U.S.A.

July 17, 1969

Mr. Julian J. A. Hennessey  
[REDACTED] Street  
London, S. W. 1., England

Dear Mr. Hennessey,

I was somewhat surprised, and perhaps a little flattered, to receive your letter of July 4th. I have not been associated with this project for some 20 years; however, I am still employed with the same Air Force Activity in a different capacity.

I apologize for not answering your letter sooner; however, I find that a vacation coupled with some unfinished personal business took more time than I anticipated.

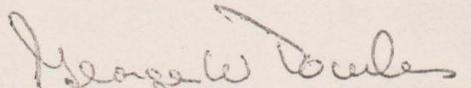
Enough excuses, now to get to the matter at hand and answer your query. During the period, early 1947 until the fall of 1949, I held the position of Assistant to the Project Officer during Projects "SIGN" and "GRUDGE" initially under Capt. Robert Schneider, (3 to 5 months), and later under Lt. Howard W. Smith (now Col. Smith). It was under the latter that our final report was written and I served him as Assistant Project Officer and Co-Author. A secretary and the occasional loan of a clerk completed our staff. Our final report contained a limited amount of confidential information, all of which was later declassified and released to the public. This report specifically stated there was no evidence that these objects constituted a direct threat to the National Security.

The initial and primary purpose of initiating this study was, in the first place, to determine if these sightings did constitute such a threat.

At no time during the period I was associated with the Project was any Top Secret report or estimate prepared by us nor did any of the findings resulting from our studies warrant such a classification.

If any such report as you mention was prepared, it was without our knowledge and certainly not based upon the evidence at hand. It is my personal belief that someone has either misinformed you or purposely sent you on a fishing expedition. I hope the above helps substantiate the true facts in this case.

Sincerely yours,

  
GEORGE W. TOWLES

UNCLASSIFIED

U. S. NAVAL STATION  
BLDG 247  
1611 W. Wheeler Street  
Seattle 99, Washington

UNCLASSIFIED

26 November 1948

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

From: Commander W. J. Young, USNR  
TO: District Intelligence Officer, 13ND  
SUBJECT: Flying Disks, Report on.

1. Reporting officer has had occasion to do considerable flying as a passenger in connection with his duties. On several occasions he has witnessed a phenomenon which could easily have been mistaken for flying disks. This phenomenon has been observed in the vast plains of the Willamette Valley and the plains of Eastern Washington and Oregon. One striking example was on the trip over the Willamette Valley on a clear sunny day when the blue haze, always present, seemed somewhat thicker than usual. The aircraft flying at 3,000 ft, appeared to be in company with several planes flying at altitudes from approximately 1,000 to 5,000 feet. Some appeared on the beam of the airplane, others on the bows or dead ahead. The objects would disappear from time to time and new ones would appear. It was finally determined that what looked to be aircraft at various altitudes were reflections of the sun from aluminum roofs or barns and other farm buildings at great distances from the aircraft. This was caused by the perspective of land converging with sky on the horizon, and the reflection of the roofs and the limited ground visibility made it appear as though these objects were actually airborne at various altitudes in the haze.

2. This report is not meant to discount the possibility of "flying disks" but may be helpful in the evaluation of the many reports which will be received from sincere sources once a cycle of such reports has started.

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS:  
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.  
DOD DIR 5200.10

s/ W. J. Young

W. J. Young  
Comdr., USNR

rsl.

C  
O  
P  
Y

UNCLASSIFIED

ENCLOSURE (A)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

FUNDS

# Summary on Topics of Coins.

DRAFT/SAFQICC/Sara Hunt/72042/16 Apr 65

Dear Senator Jackson:

Funds are not appropriated specifically for the investigation of UFO reports submitted to the Air Force for evaluation. Funds for this purpose come from the total allocation to the Defense effort.

This can be explained by an insight into how the UFO program is conducted.

When a UFO sighting is reported, it is the responsibility of the Air Force base nearest the sighting to conduct the initial investigation. Funds for this portion of the investigation come from the funds appropriated to the gaining command of that base. If this initial investigation does not yield a definite identity of the object sighted, an additional investigation is conducted by the Project Blue Book investigation office at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. Funds for this portion of the investigation come from the funds appropriated to the Air Force Systems Command.

Consequently, no information can be supplied as to the total amount of funds used in the investigation of UFO reports.

Sincerely,

Send To Maj. R. ?

Letter with  
parts about

Banana  
Cloud  
Releases

14 December 1966

[REDACTED] Sorenson  
[REDACTED] Avenue, North  
[REDACTED] Florida 33540

Dear Mr. Sorenson:

Major Quintanilla has forwarded the correspondence concerning your sighting to the Dearborn Observatory, asking us to see what ideas we may be able to come up with.

I cannot give any positive identification of what you saw, but there are some possibilities that you may wish to consider. Since this was not a solid object seen at close range from several different angles by many witnesses, as is the case in our most puzzling sightings, we would not be able to say with any certainty that what you saw was an unknown object (that is, something definitely different from a human or natural phenomenon); the closest we might come to that would be to say that you saw something very striking, but which bears enough resemblance to known phenomena that we cannot call it a "grade A UFO".

Last summer and fall, I had occasion to investigate a large number of sightings in the Midwest. The observers reported a rapidly expanding ball of light (about a third of the witnesses interpreted the expansion as an approach) which grew in size until it was some four times larger than the apparent size of the full moon. Its edges were sharp nearly all the way around except for one sector where the light faded away gradually. At one point in the event, swirling blue and green lights were seen within the object. After an initial expansion lasting perhaps fifteen seconds, the object turned silvery and persisted for another half hour, during which it faded and became progressively more indistinct. It also moved slowly to the west. Finally it became very dim and assumed the shape of a column or streak, like the beam of a searchlight, and stars could be seen through it.

Before the final fading away, a bright spark was seen at the approximate center of the object, which moved rapidly to the east for perhaps ten degrees of arc, and then blossomed into an exactly similar display. All told, something was visible for two hours.

Five of the people who interpreted the rapid expansion as an approach were commercial or military pilots, in the air at the time. They felt

that the object rushed at them, and then turned and followed their airplanes, pacing them for between five and twenty minutes, and then veered off, as the change of shape began. One of these pilots contacted an approach-control radar station, without telling why he was asking for information, and was told that there was indeed traffic moving toward him some 12 miles away, and which had turned to a parallel course.

All of the pilots were mistaken, without any possibility of doubt. The same phenomenon was seen at precisely the same time (within a few minutes) by observers scattered between Rockford, Illinois, and northern North Dakota. I have letters and interviews from over 60 people who watched the display, and all of their descriptions match those of the pilots in every respect (size, expansion, color, form) except for the interpretation of approach. Lines of sight drawn on a map from the position of each observer converge to an area in north central Canada, some 500 to 1000 miles away from the various observers.

We have now found out that at exactly the median time given by the witnesses, the first of two consecutive releases of clouds of barium took place, 250 miles above Ft. Churchill on Hudson's bay. Two releases took place a few minutes apart. The results were photographed, and the photographs match perfectly the pictures drawn by several witnesses, including one of the pilots. We contacted the radar station involved in the one sighting, and found that nothing unusual was seen on radar that night - the operator who had been on duty didn't even recall the specific pilot's request. There is so much air traffic in that area (near Milwaukee, Wisconsin) that we cannot doubt that the supposed radar observation was a coincidence. One would have to reach very far to say that one pilot happened to see a spectacular UFO which just happened to match the description of the barium cloud released by the rockets, at the same moment, and in the same direction.

I presume that you have watched launchings from Cape Kennedy, on television or live: have you ever noticed what happens to the exhaust from the rocket when the booster gets well out of the denser atmosphere? Instead of producing a long tail, the exhaust gases spread into a wider and wider cone, and when a near-vacuum is reached, the cone flattens to a disc which then actually curls forward and forms a ball around the whole body of the rocket, moving, of course, with it. This ball is luminous, and expands with altitude. The rocket motor, still firing, is seen as a brilliant light at the center of the ball, when the point of view is behind the direction of acceleration.

The area of the Pacific where your sighting took place is known to be used for rocket experiments, both from this country and from others. There was, as you note, a rocket launched near the right time, only 110 degrees of longitude from your position, but I don't know anything about its trajectory. You were well within range of launching facilities all over the Pacific, including Vandenberg AFB in California.

I can't account for the flashing white light in the center of the object, although I can guess what it might have been (a marker for optical acquisition of the center of the explosion). Departure of the white object suggests a most interesting type of experiment, and also suggests that one would have a very bad time getting any information about it from the military.

I think that there is convincing, if indirect, evidence that what you saw was an explosion, or at least a shock-wave-limited expansion, of gas, in outer space. The symmetry rules out motion through the atmosphere, as does the long duration of the gas cloud. Since the object was moving (relative to the ship's 20 mph speed, at any rate) it must have been moving in a vacuum, in order to retain its shape.

As I said, we can't positively identify what you saw, but I think you will agree that what you saw could be reproduced by several known phenomena, and so we would be unjustified in concluding that a space ship from somewhere else was involved (or a poltergeist at high altitude).

Concerning your other remarks, I don't know where you get your information about gravitic research, but it isn't correct. Inertial mass exists regardless of gravitational fields - think what would happen to orbital calculations if it didn't! And how could we so accurately predict the paths of comets, which travel at aphelion in regions where the sun's gravitational field is down to a billionth of its value at perihelion, if the equations using inertial mass as constant were wrong? Nobody has ever succeeded in producing even the slightest artificial gravitational effect, the slightest shielding effect, or in fact any influence whatsoever on gravitation: newspaper, magazine, and UFO journal articles which have hinted at this having been done in some "secret laboratory" are just making noises - they don't know what they are talking about.

The Gallup Poll revealed that five million people have seen something in the sky which they would call a UFO (the wording of the question). I take that more as an indication of the appalling level of ignorance that prevails in this country, which I have seen first hand on many occasions. I have had dozens of witnesses go outdoors with me and point out their UFO, which was a twinkling star, or a planet, or even a lousy airplane. I mean ordinary, solid citizens, too, not imbeciles or psychotics. Judging from experience and knowledge of UFO reports in the Air Force files and in other hands (such as Jacques Vallee's far more impressive files), I would guess that perhaps 100,000 people in the whole world have seen something which would make an educated man even look twice; of these, there are certainly no more than 2000 to 3000 which merit any serious attention. I would place yours, incidentally, in this last category, since it was definitely a striking and unusual phenomenon, not something ordinary misinterpreted out of ignorance.

I happen to agree with you that the Air Force could have done a better job in the past; I have disagreed even with the present Blue Book people (who are doing a better job than most of their predecessors) and I expect to disagree in the future, since they don't tell me what to say or not to say and since I wouldn't dream of working for them as a very occasional consultant if they did. The Blue Book people and I are just ordinary people, working on a puzzling problem, and trying not to be subjected to snow jobs by the many people who would like to try doing just that. Major Quintanilla doesn't happen to think that there is any mystery behind the UFO phenomenon, while I think that there is probably something of scientific interest, even, just possibly, spaceships. That doesn't mean that he's wrong and I'm right - it just means that as in most of the affairs of life people don't agree on every aspect of every problem. I have no intention of trying to bully Quintanilla into taking my point of view, and he would never make an attempt to do the same to me. What he does expect of me is that whatever I have to say on the problem be constructive and rational, and that if I have any criticisms, I come up with recommendations that are reasonable, possible, and well-thought-out.

Where on earth did you get the idea that 50 million dollars was ever spent to investigate UFO's? Blue Book consists of four (count'em, four) people: the Major, Lt. Marley, a secretary, and an airman. Maybe like many others you have an imaginary picture of something like NORAD headquarters, with rows of teletypes and computers, and a big plotting board down at one end, and dim blue lights. It ain't so, and never has been. Blue Book is a very tiny operation, as operations in the Air Force go. Once you understand that, you will see the importance of the fact that the Pentagon has given \$3000,000 to the University of Colorado to conduct an independent study of the whole problem, with no strings attached. That much money would run Blue Book for five years. In other words, the Air Force has been convinced, through the efforts of many people including their own scientists, that it is time to look at the whole phenomenon and see what if anything needs to be done. It couldn't have been done before now - give or take a couple of years. We just haven't known enough about the phenomenon even to guess how to approach it, until a few people out of the thousands of clamoring enthusiasts actually did some hard work, and made some statistical studies of reports from all over the world, and showed how one might go about studying this phenomenon in a meaningful way. People are always eager to demand to know why "somebody" doesn't do something: it rarely occurs to them to do it themselves, since a lot of effort and time is involved.

This has been a long letter - I hope that somewhere in it you find what you were looking for. I have no solutions to the UFO problem, but I am quite confident that inside of a few years we will know what

we are dealing with, and that some day we will solve it. I don't care how it comes out, just as long as we don't make fools of each other by making a lot of wild guesses before anybody knows anything worth talking about.

Yours truly,

William T. Powers

WTP:lh

Rob Mercer

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

JST  
JAN

**SUBJECT:** Soviet Interest in UFO's

**PARTICIPANTS:** Mr. Mark Gayn, Toronto Star Correspondent  
Mr. Richard D. Wethercut, American Consulate General

**DATE AND PLACE:** December 5, 1968, Hong Kong

**COPIES TO:** American Embassy, Moscow, Attn: Sherrod McCall  
EA/ACA - Paul Kreisberg  
INR/RSB - Benjamin M. Zook  
SCI - John A. Lacey

-----

Mr. Mark Gayn, a Canadian Correspondent in Hong Kong who makes periodic trips to the Soviet Union, passed on the following account of Soviet interest in "flying saucers." This story was related to him during his last visit to the Soviet Union (in September) by a Russian journalist who attended the meeting.

In March 1968, Gayn was told, a group of interested Soviet space scientists and military officers gathered at the home of a Soviet newsmen in Moscow to discuss recent reports of UFO's sighted over the USSR. Among documents read at the meeting was one containing the testimony of two Aeroflot pilots on a Moscow to Rostov flight who observed an object which flew around the plane and then flew off. The object was described as luminous, cigar-shaped and bigger than the plane. Another report from a pilot on a Moscow to Minsk flight described the sighting of a similar object.

The scientists attending the meeting disagreed as to whether these were genuine flying objects or whether these observations were the result of some natural phenomena. Mr. Gayn's source stated that he knew a group in the Moscow Academy of Sciences was studying the question of UFO's, but did not know whether the Soviet military had a similar project.

Richard Wethercut:am  
12/10/68

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

I-15223/68

November 21, 1966

TO:

TDETR

PTD

Project Bluebook - Officer in charge  
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base,  
Ohio

Dear Sir:

I visited the Smithsonian Institution here in Washington, D.C. along with the U.S. Weather Bureau, AFSC HQ, Geological Survey, November 21, 1966. Subject: A discussion on the earth's volcanos..... active and inactive. Object: To relate this study to the Unidentified Flying Objects problem and Clear Air Turbulence.

Linz, Austria is a town with a population of 5,566 on the right bank of the Rhine (landing) and fourteen miles SE of Bonn rail junction ---basalt quarrying and trade.

In 1926, Dr. Charles F. Bush, M.E., M.S., Dr. Sc reported that he had discovered some strange characteristics in a substance known as Lintz Basalt. He found that it generated much more heat than did uranium and that it refused to accelerate in free fall as prescribed by the laws of gravitation. It did not defy gravitation. It did not conform either. Dr. Bush could not explain it but he did report it. The Unified Field Theory of Science holds that electricity, gravity, and magnetism are different manifestations of the same form of energy.

It appears at this stage of my investigation that this substance called basalt could be the culprit in the UFO mystery.

1. Volcanos dump their ashes in the atmosphere. Basalt is the widespread and abundant volcanic rock or pulverized ash. It occurs predominantly as flows and less commonly as tuffs and small intrusions (such as dikes and sills). It may erupt as huge volcanoes, like those of the Hawaiian Islands; or it may flood vast areas (hundreds of thousands of square miles) of the earth's surface--such as the Snake and Columbia River areas in northwestern United States, the Deccan of western India, and the Poren'a Basin of South America. (Quote MC Graw-Hill Encyclopedia of Science and Technology. EAB-CET. No.2.

2. Basalt is a volcanic rock or ash.
3. Basalt generates more heat than uranium, or a substance better known as lintz basalt.
4. (Volcanic ash, when spread over stagnated pools of water or cess pools, will form an envelope into a tight honeycombed cover of disc shape.)
5. Here are the ingredients to a aerial plasma. Is nature accomplishing the impossible here? Apparently they are. UFO's have been observed in stationary positions or hovering for a few minutes at a time. We might ask ourselves a question here. "Does basalt need corona discharge to form into a plasma? If so, under what conditions?" Another question..."How can a mass zoom out at a fantastic speed and immediately execute a 90° right turn without tearing itself apart?"

If volcanoes can dump pulverized basalt ash many miles from its source to form a catalyst for a form of plasma and be lofted by the winds into areas of the world, then you would indeed have a UFO. A disc of basalt plasma or pulverized basalt ash containing gas burns itself due to air friction while doing aerial maneuvers. One of three things is being accomplished here:

1. UFO's are propelling themselves by distorting the gravitational field and converting it into usable energy.
2. Clear Air Turbulence could be present giving the impression to ground observers that the UFO's are propelling themselves.
3. UFO's are utilizing the magnetic fields.

I suppose that the cases where people have experienced tremendous heat from a UFO was nothing more than an envelope of charged gaseous particles enclosed in an envelope of basalt plasma, giving off more heat than uranium, burning the areas where it landed. Power stations etc.

Another important area in this research on UFO's is the direct application to the I.C.B.M. problem--the manufacturing of artificial plasmas to engage a foreign I.C.B.M. at altitudes. If the charges are opposite in space, it is inevitable that they will meet in space and render the I.C.B.M. inoperative. This is, of course, if the plasma propels itself by distorting the gravitational field or magnetic field and can convert it to usable energy.

Would you please pass this information on to the I.C.B.M. people at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio for their consideration?

To date, the Air Force has found no evidence that any of the UFO reports reflect a threat to our national security. However, the phenomena of ball lightning could possibly effect our combat capability of this country. Over the years a number of aircraft have exploded in flight for no apparent reason. The causes were unknown. Aircraft cost millions of dollars and lives that cannot be replaced. Why should million dollar aircraft explode in flight? A very interesting phenomena will come into view that I think Air Force should give some consideration to. Due to the many electrical points in aircraft, it is obvious that they can give birth to ball lightning because some of the electrical lines and terminals run through areas or compartments. If a basalt substance is present in these areas or compartments, could they represent resonant cavities and give birth to ball lightning with the help of the corona discharge from the points and electrical lines and ionized air?

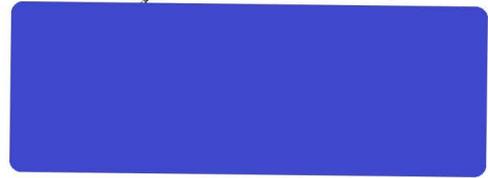
1. If ball lightning were created in an aircraft, could it explode and crash the plane?
2. If ball lightning were created in an aircraft, could it ignite the fumes and cause an explosion?

This could take place in any of the aerospace equipment and aircraft.

In closing, I hope I have been of some help to your program.

Respectfully yours,

*John W. Gallagher*



From: Mather, Kirtley F.

A source book in Geology, 1939. Page 138.

#### WERNER

Abraham Gottlob Werner (1749-1817) was for many years the most famous of the professors in the Freiberg School of Mines. His Neptunist school may have retarded geological thought, but his inspiring teaching and his earnest effort to classify all data did even more to advance it.

#### THE AQUEOUS ORIGIN OF BASALT

Translated from Journal de physique (de Rogier), Vol. xxxviii, pp. 409-420, 1791--a translation by "J.P.B.W.B." of Neue Entdeckung, Intelligenz-Blattes des Allegemeinen Literatur Zeitung, No 57, 1788.

The unexpected observation which I made last summer at the hill of Scheibenberg, well known as basaltic, ought to be infinitely important because of the relations of the basalt with the rocks on which it rests\*. It should be considered impartially by every geognost observer, especially at a time when the nature and origin of basalt provoke the inquiries of savants and hold their attention.

Earlier I had noticed from a distance, a great, white mine dump near the summit of this basaltic mountain, which is situated a scant quarter league and almost due south from the little town of Scheibenberg. On inquiry, I was told that it was the dump of a sand pit that had served the needs of the town since it was founded. A mine of sand at the summit of a basaltic mountain seemed a very singular thing to me. So it was my first care, on climbing this mountain to make a mineralogic examination, to direct my attention to this sand pit.

I had already seen from afar that the hill, or rather its summit, was cut in one place so that I would find a nearly perpendicular section there. Thus I would be able to reconnoiter the interior of the basaltic mountain a little. It will be seen that I was not mistaken in my opinion. Nevertheless I thought that it was only a bank of sand which surrounded the foot of the basaltic summit, in the way it generally was be-  
\*That is, its relations with the gneiss on which the basalt and the bas which from its base are found here, not as the product of an eruption and of a volcanic heaping, but always as a precipitation by the humid way.

(Cont. from Mather, Kirtley F., 1939. Page 139)

lieved then that the sand and clay were deposited at Pohlberg, near Annaberg, where, as is known these fossils (fragments of basalt) were extracted in great quantity.

But how surprised I was to see, the first glance on arriving, first, at the base, a thick bank of quartzose sand, then above, a bed of clay, finally a bed of argillaceous stone called wacke, and resting on this last, the basalt! I saw the first three beds bury themselves nearly horizontally under the basalt and thus form its base, the sand becoming finer above, more argillaceous, and finally changing into true clay, as the clay was converted into wacke in its upper part, and finally the wacke into basalt. In a word, I found here a perfect transition from pure sand to argillaceous sand, from the latter to sandy clay and from the sandy clay by many gradations to the fat clay, to the wacke, and finally to the basalt.

At this sight, I was led at once and irresistibly to think (as would, without doubt, any impartial connoisseur, struck by the consequences of this phenomenon)--I was, I say, irresistibly led to the following ideas. This basalt, this wacke, this clay, and this sand are of one and the same formation. They are all the result of a precipitation by the humid way in one and the same submersion of this country. The waters which covered it then transported first the sand, then deposited the clay, and gradually changed their precipitation into wacke and finally into true basalt.

Space does not permit me to enter into more detail on this great and important observation, but I shall certainly give a more ample description of it soon in one of our journals. Now what will the large party among our mineralogists who are very much biased in favor of the volcanic origin of the basalts say?

I shall add some further short remarks to this observation. The basalt presents a considerable section here, but it is nearly perpendicular and it is divided into columns. The gaps which separate these basaltic columns descend into the wacke and penetrate in some places across the bed at the base. The wacke has almost a schistose structure. One cannot see the base of the bed of sand, as it is covered by the dump, but one observes that it becomes coarser towards the bottom and changes into true gravel or pebbly sand. The gneiss

that constitutes the country rock of all this region is found immediately below the sand dump.

Page 101

SPALLANZANI

Lazzarro Spallanzani (1729-1899), Italian abbot, Professor of Natural History at Padua, was one of the first to use experimental methods in the study of rocks.

ON BASALTIFORM LAVAS AND THE ROLE OF GASES IN VOLCANIC ERUPTIONS  
From Travels in Two Sicilies, translated anonymously, London, 1798.

The first time I ventured to explore the bottom of the crater of Vulcano, I only found some fragments of this prismatic lava: but when I repeated my visits, and had divested myself of the fear I at first felt, and more carefully examined this dreary bottom, I was enabled to complete my discovery by ascertaining the origin of these prismatic, or, as some may choose to call them, these basaltiform lavas. For raising my eyes to that part of the crater which was over my head, and facing the northeast; I perceived a large stratum of lava, almost perpendicular, divided lengthwise into complete prisms, some of which were continued with the lava and made one body with it.....

The production of these basaltiform lavas, which, from their situation, and their forming a whole with the lava, no one can aptly derive their origin from fire, may, I conceive, be thus explained. In former times an effervescence took place in the melted lava in the crater, which, after having swelled, and perhaps overflowed its edges, slowly sunk in the cavity of the crater, from the diminution of the fire, and the impellent elastic substances, while a portion of the lava attaching itself to the internal sides and hastily cooled by the atmospheric air, contracted, and divided into regular parts, such as are the forms of the hexagon prisms above mentioned.

In various parts of this work mention has been made of the gases of volcanos. It has been shown that, by their elasticity, stony substances fused in the fire are rarefied, inflated, and become cellular; as is proved by the great number of lavas, glasses and enamels. We have seen that, by the violence of these gases, the liquefied matters are hastily raised from the bottom of the craters to the top, filling their whole internal capacity, and flowing over their sides; since, by

(Cont. from Mather, Kirtley F., 1939. Page 102)

the action of the same gases, we frequently observe similar phenomena in the furnace.

I shall now proceed to enquire what part this aeriform vapour acts in the eruptions of volcanos. Where it exists in the depths of a volcanic crater, abundantly mixed with a liquid lava violently urged by subterranean conflagrations, I can easily conceive that by its energetic force it may raise the lava to the top of the crater, and compel it to flow over the sides, and form a current.

It is likewise probable that this elastic vapour, when collected in a large quantity, if it finds under the earth any impenetrable obstacle, produces local earthquakes, and subterraneous thunders and roarings; bursting open the sides of the lava and forcing out the lava. We have an example of this, if I may so speak, in miniature, in the two matrasses\* broken by this fluid from its exuberance and the resistance it met with.

---

\*Containers to hold crushed material melted by Spallanzani in his experiments.----Editors.