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FILE No	PART			DEPARTMENT OF AIR
569 5 451	1.			

UNIT

TITLE REPS ON BEHALF of COMMONWEALTH  
AERIAL PHENOMENA INVESTIGATION  
ORGANIZATION RE UNIDENTIFIED FLYING  
OBJECTS IN AUSTRALIA.

ARCHIVAL ACTION

GDS 10 27-1-1 RP

REFERRED TO	FOLIO FOR ATTENTION	DATE REFERRED	ACTIONED BY INITIALS	REFERRED TO	FOLIO FOR ATTENTION	DATE REFERRED	ACTIONED BY INITIALS
PA	file	26/2/68					
A DECA	20	20/3/68					
DAFI	20	3 MAY '68					
EO (air)	20	2/3					
Brooks	20	3 MAY '68					
DA	21/22	4/6					
MINISTER	21/22	4/6					
DA	21						
A-100 Air	file						
EO (air)	24	5/6					
Exec O A	26	21/6					
A O Sec	27	24/6					
S DA	27	25/6/68					
MINISTER	27	25/6					
Exec O A	file	27/6/68					
Exec O A	29	25/7/68					
A O Sec	29	25/7/68					
S DA	29	25/7/68					
MINISTER	29	2/8					
DA/EOA	file	5/8					
<b>P/A FILE</b>		12 AUG '68					
DA/EOA FILE		26-2-69					
<b>P/A FILE</b>		17-2-69					
S A P/A FILE		15/5/71					
P/A P/A FILE		26/5/71					
DAFI - IR	file	14/12/72					
<b>P/A FILE</b>		12-5-73					
EXC O A	file	14-5-74					
<b>P/A FILE</b>		14-5-74					

FILE No 569 5 451 1  
 PART



An attached slip must be forwarded  
file movement channels when file is  
DEPT. OF AIR — ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE  
**FILE TRANSFER SLIP**  
A58 FEB 64

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OTHER FILES BEARING ON THIS SUBJECT

FILE No	TITLE
<i>File altered 28 Feb 68</i>	
574/3/88	UF-01 - Enquiries from Members of the Public (DPR file)
574/1/30 P61-2	Investigation of Flying Saucers - Policy

TITLE  
REF ID: A58  
A58  
DEF  
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AO SEC  
EO AIR  
AO Sec  
BAG/CAS  
PA  
FILE LOCATION CARD



TITLE

Human behavior C/Walt 569

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451

Residue Phenomena Investigation

FILE No.

Organisation/Unidentified Flying

PART

1

Objects in Australia

REFERRED TO	DATE	REFERRED TO	DATE	REFERRED TO	DATE
PA	26-2-68	BAC/CAS	14-2-68		
ASRA	20-3-68	PA	17-3-68		
DAFI		S/P01	18/5/71		
EXC/O/AR	3-6-68	PA	26/5/71		
EXC/AR	3-6-68	DAFI-1A	14/12/71		
NO SEC	24-6-68	DA	22-5-73		
EO AIR	27-6-68	EXC/O/AR	6/8/74		
AO Sec	25-7-68	PA FILE	4 AUG 70		
BAC/CAS	8-8-68				
PA	12-8-68				

FILE LOCATION CARD S12D SEP. 67

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commencing entries on this side.*

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29

Parliament House,  
Canberra. A.C.T. 2600

- 5 AUG 1968

Dear Mr. Stokes,

I refer to your representations of 26th June, 1968, forwarding on behalf of Mr. P.E. Morris, President of the Commonwealth Aerial Phenomena Investigation Organisation, a copy of a statement relating to a United States grant to the University of Colorado for the investigation of unidentified aerial phenomena.

I anticipate that you will have received by now a letter from Mr. Swartz dated 25th June, 1968, whilst he was Acting Minister for Air, which sets out the Government's views on investigations into unidentified aerial phenomena.

I can only re-iterate that the Government is satisfied with the present arrangements and that no advantage can be seen at this time in providing financial assistance from Commonwealth funds to any other agency for the purpose of carrying out research or investigations into unidentified aerial phenomena.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd.) GORDON FREETH

~~HEATH-NOBLE (P.S.)~~

GORDON FREETH

P.W. Stokes, Esq., M.P.  
P.O. Box 70,  
ESSENDON. VIC. 3040

FILE  
EXAMINED  
DATE 2 AUG 68



569-5-451 28



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

3 NAPIER STREET,  
(P.O. BOX 70),  
ESSENDON, VIC.  
TEL. 37 2326

26th June, 1968.

My dear Minister,

I refer to my representations on behalf of Mr. P.E. Norris, President of the Commonwealth Aerial Phenomena Investigation Organization and your advice of the 16th May, 1968, that you would make enquiries into this matter.

I also refer to your answer to a question of mine without notice to the effect that the subject was still under consideration. / Folio 26

The request for some financial assistance from the Commonwealth to help solve what is now recognized as an international problem is one which I feel should not be dismissed too lightly on the grounds of scepticism. I enclose copy of a statement of C.A.P.I.O. in respect to the United States grant of U.S. \$500,000 to the University of Colorado to finance investigation of U.F.O's as an indication of that Government's thinking in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

(Philip W. Stokes)  
Member for Maribyrnong.

Hon. G. Freeth, M.P.,  
Minister for Air,  
House of Representatives,  
CANBERRA. A.C.T. 2600.

SECRETARY.

For draft reply for  
Minister's Signature, Please

(1) REGISTRY ~~EX~~

(2) A. Sec A.

EO (A)

Private Secretary  
MINISTER FOR AIR

(No Interview)

27 JUN 1968



COMMONWEALTH AERIAL PHENOMENA INVESTIGATION ORGANISATION:

12th floor  
100 Collins Street.  
Melbourne.

THE COLORADO PROJECT:

U.S. SCIENTISTS TO PROBE U.F.O'S

In October 1966 the United States Air Force announced that a sum of \$300,000 (subsequently increased to \$500,000) would be made available to the University of Colorado to permit the establishment of a full time project to investigate the problem of the unidentified flying objects.

Head of the Project is Dr. Edward U. Condon the University's Professor of Physics and one of the country's outstanding and more outspoken scientists.

Besides Dr. Condon, the Project includes Mr. Robert J. Low, an Engineer, who is Project Co-ordinator; Dr. Michael Wertheimer, a psychologist; Dr. William Blumer a Meteorologist, and Dr. Joseph Rush a physicist.

Information received by C.A.P.I.O indicates that the specific assignments now being undertaken are the development of a sighting case file which will be accessible to sorting by computer; planning for one or more well trained teams of field investigators; development of a special sighting (interrogation) form; preparing a manual or booklet, including background information on astronomy for public guidance in observing and reporting U.F.O's; giving serious consideration to an effort to deploy instruments for detection of U.F.O's and for gathering quantitative data.

A major effort is being made to open up new sources of information among professional pilots and others who would be likely to see UFO's; also to re-open information sources which, for reasons of dissatisfaction with the Air Force Project (Project Bluebook) have stopped reporting sightings.

For one scientific experiment, engineers of one of the largest automobile companies in the country will attempt to determine exactly what could cause failure of the electrical systems of automobiles, as is often reported as a result of the close approach of UFO's.

According to "Time" Magazine of 4th August 1967, the Project is now well under way and a computer-aided analysis of 2000 sightings has commenced. In addition, three sightings supported by ample photographic or eye witness evidence are receiving intensive examination. It is anticipated that the Project's report will be completed and published in September 1968.

One other Scientist who is closely associated with the Colorado Project is Dr. James E. McDonald, Professor of Meteorology at the University of Arizona.



Dr. McDonald recently appeared before the United Nations Outer Space Affairs Group and made the following statement on UFO's :-

1. There are strong indications of increased close approaches by UFO's here and abroad.
2. It is not possible to explain all the sightings as natural phenomena or as secret tests of highly advanced aerial or space vehicles built on earth.
3. In spite of official debunking, the verified evidence points to some unknown phenomenon about which all of us must quickly become better informed.
4. The most probable hypothesis is that the UFO's are extra-terrestrial probes capable of causing EM. (Electromagnetic) interference and other unusual effects.
5. The importance of the problem to our world if UFO's are actually extra terrestrial probes should quickly bring about international scientific co-operation to discover all possible information.

The prestigious National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena, largest and most influential of the American UFO private research groups sums up the Colorado Project as follows:-

"Clearly this is a new era of UFO research. Now that the validity of the Air Force explanations for UFO's has been seriously questioned and the doubts acted upon, it is time for a re-orientation of efforts. We have long been aware of the undue influence on public opinion (including scientists) that official pronouncements have had, delaying an open study and misleading those who could bring a resolution to the problem. All indications are that the investigators fully intend to have a thorough look at the facts. If this is done, we are confident that scepticism will end".

. . . . .



27

569/5/451

Acting

Parliament House,  
Canberra, A.C.T., 2600

25 JUN 1968

Dear Mr. Stokes,

In the absence of the Minister for Air overseas, I refer to your personal representations on behalf of Mr. P.H. Morris, President of the Commonwealth Aerial Phenomena Investigation Organisation, who has requested your assistance in bringing to the attention of the Government his organisation's views on the investigation of unidentified flying objects.

Under present arrangements the Department of Air investigates all well reported incidents involving unidentified flying objects. The extent to which these investigations are carried out varies considerably according to the reported sightings and their locations. However a synopsis of all sightings investigated by the Department of Air is up-dated periodically and copies of the findings are available to interested organisations upon request.

The Government is satisfied that our national interests are being adequately served with these arrangements and that no advantage would accrue at this time in providing financial assistance from Commonwealth funds to any other agency for the purpose of carrying out research or investigations into unidentified objects.

Yours sincerely,

(Sg)(R.E. Smith)

R.E. Stokes, Esq., M.P.,  
P.O. Box 70,  
BENDIGO, VIC. 3040

1



File No. / /

Extract from {Notice Paper  
Parliamentary Debates in  
the {Senate  
House of Representatives  
44/28

#### UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

Mr STOKES—I ask the Minister for Air a question which relates to representations which I have made to him on behalf of the Commonwealth Aerial Phenomena Investigation Organisation, requesting a government grant to assist with research into unidentified flying objects. Has the Minister seen recent Press reports of sightings of unidentified flying objects in the Wonthaggi district of Victoria? Is he in a position to say whether some Commonwealth assistance in this matter may be expected?

Mr FREETH—I have acknowledged receipt from the honourable member of representations seeking Commonwealth assistance in the investigation of reports of unidentified flying objects. This matter is being considered. I cannot undertake to give the honourable member very great encouragement, because as far as governments are concerned, no precise determination has ever been made as to where science fiction begins in relation to reports of unidentified flying objects or to what extent the reports are related to reality.

Mr Stokes—The United States of America is making investigations.

Mr FREETH—I know that far more intensified investigation of this matter is proceeding in the United States. I hope to be able to give the honourable gentleman a reply to his representations in the near future.

.....  
For preparation of a reply for the Minister's approval please.

.....  
A O Sec.



569-5-451 25  
A Sec A  
20-2-68

Parliament House,  
CANBERRA. A.C.T. 2600

16th May, 1968.

Dear Mr. Stokes,

I have received from my colleague the Minister for Education and Science your personal representations on behalf of Mr. P.E. Norris, President of the Commonwealth Aerial Phenomena Investigation Organisation.

I shall enquire into the matters you have raised and write to you again shortly.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd.) GORDON FREETH

(GORDON FREETH)

P.W. Stokes, Esq., M.P.,  
Parliament House,  
CANBERRA. A.C.T. 2600

L.O. (air)

SECRETARY,

For draft reply for  
Minister's Signature, Please

1 A Sec

2. A Sec A

27/5

Minister's Secretary  
MINISTER FOR AIR





MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND SCIENCE

PARLIAMENT HOUSE  
CANBERRA, A.C.T.

15 MAY 1968

Dear Mr Stokes,

I have now had an opportunity of looking into the request by Mr R.E. Morris, President of the Commonwealth Serial Phenomena Investigation Organisation for assistance from the Commonwealth. I must apologise for the delay in replying to your representations.

I understand that the matters Mr Morris' organisation are concerned with, namely unidentified flying objects, are dealt with by the Commonwealth Departments of Air and Supply and your enquiry, would be more properly directed to the Ministers for Air and Supply. I have therefore forwarded the relevant documents to them for their reply to you.

Yours sincerely,

MALCOLM FRASER

(Malcolm Fraser)

R.E. Stokes, Esq., M.P.,  
Parliament House,  
CANBERRA, A.C.T.

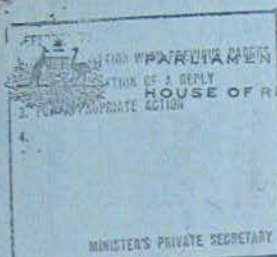
Private Secretary to the  
Minister for Air

For your Minister's consideration and direct reply  
please.

*Therese Davis*  
Private Secretary



25B



3 NAPIER STREET,  
(P.O. BOX 70),  
ESSENDON, VIC.  
TEL. 37 2326.

10th April, 1968.

My dear Minister,

You will no doubt recall the discussion I had with you on or about the 13th March, 1968, concerning a request by Mr. P. E. Norris, President of the Commonwealth Aerial Phenomena Investigation Organisation for assistance from the Commonwealth.

I shall be pleased to learn whether anything further has eventuated in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

*Philip W. Stokes*  
(Philip W. Stokes)  
Member for Maribyrnong.

Hon. J. M. Fraser, M.P.,  
Minister for Education and Science,  
Commonwealth Parliament Offices,  
P.O. Box 1692P,  
MELBOURNE. 3001.





Stokes  
Norris.

250

20th December, 1967.

Dear Mr. Norris,

I acknowledge receipt of your  
representations of the 31st October,  
1967, for which I thank you.

Yours sincerely,



(Philip W. Stokes)  
Member for Maribyrnong.

Mr. P. E. Norris,  
President,  
C. A. P. I. O.,  
100, Collins Street,  
MELBOURNE, 3000.



25 D

C A P I O

COMMONWEALTH AERIAL PHENOMENA INVESTIGATION ORGANISATION

(Affiliating Australian U.F.O. Societies)  
Under the distinguished Patronage of Air Marshal Sir George Jones, K.B.E., C.B., D.F.C.

President: PETER E. NORRIS, A.L.B.

Secretary: Mrs. SYLVIA SUTTON

P.O. BOX 180, MOORABBIN, VIC., AUSTRALIA.

Telephone: 95 1659

100 Collins Street,  
Melbourne.  
31st October, 1967.

Mr. P.W.C. Stokes, M.H.R.  
House of Representatives,  
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

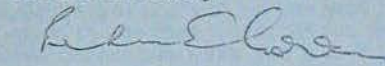
Dear Sir,

I have pleasure in enclosing herewith a note describing the work being undertaken on unidentified flying objects by the University of Colorado under the auspices of the United States Air Force.

My Organisation maintains that a similar Project inaugurated in Australia with Commonwealth funds would be of assistance in helping to solve the great international problem of the UFO's.

Your assistance in bringing this matter to the attention of the Government will be greatly appreciated.

Yours faithfully.



P.E. NORRIS.  
President.

Done in bag



COMMONWEALTH AERIAL PHENOMENA INVESTIGATION ORGANISATION:

12th floor  
100 Collins Street.  
Melbourne.

THE COLORADO PROJECT:U.S. SCIENTISTS TO PROBE U.F.O'S

In October 1966 the United States Air Force announced that a sum of \$300,000 (subsequently increased to \$500,000) would be made available to the University of Colorado to permit the establishment of a full time project to investigate the problem of the unidentified flying objects.

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Besides Dr. Condon, the Project includes Mr. Robert J. Low, an Engineer, who is Project Co-ordinator; Dr. Michael Wertheimer, a psychologist; Dr. William Blumer, a Meteorologist, and Dr. Joseph Rush a physicist.

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"Clearly this is a new era of UFO research. Now that the validity of the Air Force explanations for UFO's has been seriously questioned and the doubts acted upon, it is time for a re-orientation of efforts. We have long been aware of the undue influence on public opinion (including scientists) that official pronouncements have had, delaying an open study and misleading those who could bring a resolution to the problem. All indications are that the investigators fully intend to have a thorough look at the facts. If this is done, we are confident that scepticism will end".

. . . . .



# MINUTE PAPER

(This side only to be written on)

569/5/451 (1)

24

Subject:

Exec 0 (Air)

Further to our recent discussions re folio 22 etc, would you please now initiate the following action:-

- a. Take up with DPR the question of the future actioning of departmental correspondence re unidentified flying object sightings. As you know I am concerned at the present delays that exist in answering some of the departmental correspondence on unidentified flying objects.
- b. Would you review the nature of the material which is sent out to enquirers. For example, I don't think that we should continue to send out Mr Roberts' address which was made in 1965. In addition I ~~would~~ feel that the synopsis of sightings should be reviewed with a view to pruning out some of the earlier years sightings.
- c. In respect of para 7, folio 22 on this file would you prepare an appropriate draft letter to Department of Defence raising this general aspect for consideration. In particular the letter should outline our general role in this subject, some of the earlier history as to how we became involved and the system which we now follow. Then we should refer to the types of representations that are now being made on this subject re Commonwealth assistance for funds etc, and then raise the general question as to whether it is appropriate that this department should continue to be the sole "Commonwealth agency" in this matter of unidentified flying objects - or whether some other Department should co-ordinate overall Commonwealth aspects.

5 Jun 68

  
A Sec A



23

**FREETH**  
*MAGE PS.*  
**COOL ON**  
*5/6/68*  
**'FLYING**  
**SAUCER'**  
**STUDY**

**NO HELP FOR**  
*Article 5-6-68 P22*  
**U.F.O. STUDY**

CANBERRA, Tues.—The Minister for Air (Mr. Freeth) said today he could not give any encouragement to people who wanted the Commonwealth to subsidise research into unidentified flying objects.

He was replying in the House of Representatives to Mr. P. W. C. Stokes (Lab. Vic.), who said the Commonwealth Aerial Phenomena Investigation Organisation had asked for the grants.

Mr. Stokes asked if Mr. Freeth had seen recent reports of U.F.O. sightings in the Wonthaggi district of Victoria.

Mr. Freeth said the matter was being considered, but he could not undertake to give Mr. Stokes any encouragement.

"As far as governments are concerned, it has never been precisely determined where science fiction ends and where these objects begin to be related to reality," he said.

CANBERRA. — The Minister for Air (Mr. Freeth) said yesterday he could not give any encouragement to people who wanted the Commonwealth to provide grants for research into unidentified flying objects.

He was replying in the House of Representatives to Mr. Stokes (Lab. Vic.) who said the Commonwealth Aerial Phenomena Investigation Organisation had requested the grants.

Mr. Stokes asked if Mr. Freeth had seen recent reports of UFO sightings in the Wonthaggi district.

Mr. Freeth said the matter was being considered, but he could not undertake to give Mr. Stokes any encouragement.

"As far as Governments are concerned, it has never been precisely determined where science fiction ends and where these objects begin to be related to reality."

See attached  
Hansard extract



McKinnna stated that, whereas 201 Australian soldiers have died during the whole Vietnam war, it is estimated that 3,200 persons will die on Australian roads during 1968? Does the Minister agree that many protesters against the war in Vietnam have their priorities badly mixed up?

Mr SINCLAIR—I am not in a position to say how many Australians have been killed or injured in the course of the war in Vietnam. It is true that, having regard to the number of fatalities on our roads last year, we can expect that more than 3,200 people will be killed on our roads this year. The conclusion drawn by the honourable member from the comparison of fatalities in Vietnam and fatalities on our roads speaks for itself. Naturally every member of the Australian community is very concerned at the high incidence of fatalities on our roads. A considerable measure of publicity is given to this problem. One sometimes wonders whether, in considering their order of priorities, members of the Opposition have as much concern about fatalities on Australian roads as they have about their explanations of their understanding of the war in Vietnam.

#### SUPERANNUATION

Mr GRIFFITHS—I direct a question to the Prime Minister as Leader of the Government. Will Cabinet, prior to the introduction of this year's Budget, review the financial plight of superannuation pensioners in the light of increasing costs and their falling standard of living? Are superannuitants receiving net pensions of upwards of \$60 a week much worse off financially than other pensioners receiving \$40.50 a week plus fringe benefits of tax relief, free pensioner medical service, Postal Department concessions and concessions in respect of rates and travel? If in its financial proposals for 1968-69 the Government does not ease the means test, will the Prime Minister consider the feasibility of providing taxation relief and free hospital and medical services for recipients of superannuation, thus eliminating a longstanding anomaly?

Mr GORTON—The honourable member has asked whether Cabinet will give consideration to a matter of policy at a particular time. Announcements as to policy

and the consideration of policy by Cabinet are, I understand, matters not appropriate to be dealt with at question time.

#### UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

Mr STOKES—I ask the Minister for Air a question which relates to representations which I have made to him on behalf of the Commonwealth Aerial Phenomena Investigation Organisation, requesting a government grant to assist with research into unidentified flying objects. Has the Minister seen recent Press reports of sightings of unidentified flying objects in the Wonthaggi district of Victoria? Is he in a position to say whether some Commonwealth assistance in this matter may be expected?

Mr FREETH—I have acknowledged receipt from the honourable member of representations seeking Commonwealth assistance in the investigation of reports of unidentified flying objects. This matter is being considered. I cannot undertake to give the honourable member very great encouragement, because as far as governments are concerned, no precise determination has ever been made as to where science fiction begins in relation to reports of unidentified flying objects or to what extent the reports are related to reality.

Mr Stokes—The United States of America is making investigations.

Mr FREETH—I know that far more intensified investigation of this matter is proceeding in the United States. I hope to be able to give the honourable gentleman a reply to his representations in the near future.

#### AUSTRALIAN SERVICEMEN KILLED IN VIETNAM

Mr JAMES—I ask the Minister for the Army a question. Is it a fact that the Army has three or four different scales of burial costs for Australian servicemen killed in Vietnam and returned to Australia for burial according to whether the Army wholly arranges the burial, whether the parents arrange a non-military funeral or whether the parents or relatives hold a private funeral? Is a special rate allowed for the burial of officers?



# MINUTE PAPER

(Write on this side only)

569/5/451

22

SUBJECT:

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS - CONFERENCE

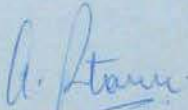
Minister

(through Secretary)

1. At folio 20 on this file is a request from the Secretary of the Canberra U.F.O. Research Society for an officer of the RAAF to give a talk at a final public session to be held next week-end in Canberra during the Third Conference of the Commonwealth Aerial Phenomena Investigation Organization.
2. The specific request made has been that an officer not only attend, but also bring with him a synopsis of UFO sitings investigated by the RAAF to date.
3. This particular request does raise some considerable problems which may be summarised as follows:-
  - a. There is difficulty in finding a suitable officer to attend for the purpose. Under present arrangements the Directorate of Air Force Intelligence is the Directorate which is responsible for the co-ordination and investigation of Unidentified Flying Objects Reports.
  - b. Primarily the Department of Air and the RAAF's interest in flying objects has been concerned with the Defence (Air) aspects of the Commonwealth and has not been concerned with any other aspects related to say the scientific nature of such sitings.
  - c. There does not appear to be any other Commonwealth Agency or organization involved in this matter, and subsequently this Department has become the "Commonwealth authority" on UFO sitings, although as I say its prime interest has been with Air Defence aspects in particular.
4. In 1965 Mr Roberts gave an address to the Ballarat Astronomical Society, and a copy of this paper at the time is attached in the material being sent to Mrs Klein. Mr Roberts is still in the Department with the Operational Research Office. However it is not part of his responsibility to be associated with this particular subject, and he has not been involved for the last three years.
5. The possibility of an officer from the Directorate of Air Force Intelligence being sent has been considered, but to send an officer from this Directorate, underlines that our interest in this subject is that associated with Air Defence/Intelligence aspects, and this could cause some problems and lead to some unwanted publicity.
6. Taking all factors into account at this stage, the reply at folio 21 attached has been prepared on the basis that an officer cannot be made available, but that the attached material might be useful to the Conference. This reply is accordingly referred for your signature.



7. It is intended however to take up further the question of Commonwealth responsibility in this particular subject with other Commonwealth departments, e.g. Defence, Supply, Education and Science, Prime Minister's Department etc, to see whether some other Commonwealth Agency is better placed to assume responsibility for Unidentified Flying Objects. At the same time we would maintain our interest in the matter and work with any other Commonwealth agency who is considered to be more appropriate as a co-ordinating agency for the Commonwealth as a whole.



A Sec A

3 Jun 68



21

Parliament House,  
CANBERRA. A.C.T. 2600

4th June, 1968.

Dear Mrs. Klein,

I refer to your letter of 17th May, 1968, in which you request that a R.A.A.P. Officer attend the final public session of the Third C.A.P.I.O. Conference, to be held in Canberra on 8th June. You also asked that a synopsis of U.F.O. investigated by the R.A.A.P. to date, be also provided.

Unfortunately, due to the relatively short notice of your request and also the fact that the particular session concerned takes place on a week-end, we have been unable to arrange for a suitable officer to attend your forthcoming Conference.

However, I am attaching some material which is a summary of unidentified aerial sightings reported to my Department from 1960 onwards, together with a summary of an address given by Mr. Roberts of this Department to the Ballarat Astronomical Society in February 1965.

I regret that we are unable to meet your request for an Officer to attend your Conference, but I do hope that the material which is attached will assist your Society in matters under discussion at the Conference. I would like to take this opportunity to extend my best wishes to the members of your organization and to wish the Conference every success.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd.) GORDON FREETH

(GORDON FREETH)

Mrs. V. Klein,  
Secretary,  
Canberra U.F.O. Research Society,  
P.O. Box 972,  
CANBERRA. A.C.T. 2601



21

Russell Offices,  
Canberra A.C.T. 2600

Dear Mrs. Klein,

I refer to your letter of 17th May, 1966, in which you request that a R.A.A.F. Officer attend the final public session of the Third C.A.P.I.O. Conference, to be held in Canberra on 8th June. You also asked that a synopsis of U.F.O. investigated by the R.A.A.F. to date, be also provided.

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Yours sincerely,

GORDON FREETH

Mrs. V. Klein,  
Secretary,  
Canberra U.F.O. Research Society,  
P.O. Box 972,  
CANBERRA CITY. A.C.T. 2601



# CUFORS

CANBERRA U.F.O. RESEARCH SOCIETY

President : Mr. H. Zwankhuizen  
Phone : 43319 (after hours)

Secretary : Mrs. V. Klein  
45 Gardiner Street, Downer,  
A.C.T. 2602  
Phone : 42238

P.O. Box 972,  
Canberra City,  
A.C.T. 2601

17th May 1968

(20)

Minister for Air,  
Parliament House,  
King George Terrace,  
Parkes. A.C.T.  
2600

Dear Sir,

The Commonwealth Aerial Phenomena Investigation Organisation (C.A.P.I.O.) will hold their third Conference in Canberra, 8th - 10th June 1968.

On behalf of C.A.P.I.O. we wish to request the presence of an officer of the R.A.A.F. with a synopsis of U.F.O. sightings investigated by the R.A.A.F. to date. This request was most ably met at the 1st Conference in 1965 by Mr B.G.Roberts.

If the request is granted we would wish the Officer to attend the Final Session, 8-30 p.m., 8th June, and we would also wish to know how long his talk would be and if it would be illustrated and what equipment he would need. The Final Session will be held in the Academy of Science and all facilities for the showing of slides and films are available.

Yours faithfully,

*V Klein*

(Mrs) V. Klein  
Secretary

*Bo (am)*

*P. Ho please.*

*AR 28/5*

SECRETARY,

For draft reply for

Minister's Signature, Please

1. No Sec

2. A Sec A.

*[Signature]*  
Private Secretary  
MINISTER FOR AIR

(No Interim)

24 MAY 1968



UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS - AN EVALUATION BASED ON  
AUSTRALIAN, AMERICAN AND BRITISH AIR FORCE REPORTS

A summary of an address given by Mr B.G. Roberts, to the  
Ballarat Astronomical Society at BALLARAT,

February 1965

The Term UFO and Some Objections to it

1. Unfortunately the term "unidentified flying object", or UFO for short, 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 just such an eventuality, and so overcome the tendency automatically and haphazardly to relegate all unidentified sightings to the category of "flying saucers".
2. Even the term "unidentified flying object" is somewhat of a misnomer, and this probably is the underlying reason for its indiscriminate use. We believe it to be a misnomer on a number of counts. Firstly many sightings are not of material objects but of what the observer, in all good faith, believes to be material objects. Freak weather conditions, electrical storms and unusual light conditions can give rise to misleading impressions, especially when the observer is unused to them and the time of viewing is short. The eye is not alone in this respect. For instance Radar is far from infallible. Radar echoes from dense clouds and pockets of air are quite common and can give the erroneous impression that some material object has been detected.
3. Secondly it is our experience that, except in sightings of aircraft the process of flying is rarely involved. Many sightings are of the planets or of meteors entering the earth's atmosphere, and, in one case, we received an excellent report from some 17 separate observers in the Central NORTHERN TERRITORY of the re-entry of the Russian Satellite Cosmos II into the earth's atmosphere.
4. One might even go a stage further and challenge the word "unidentified" 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 subsequently. It is our experience that more than 90% of all well reported sightings can be identified satisfactorily. The rest cannot be identified specifically, mainly because the observer's report of the sighting does not contain sufficient information to provide an identification, or in cases where it is considered that further investigation is unwarranted. An example of the latter is illustrated by the case of a woman who wrote in 1964, after reading a newspaper report of a UFO sighting, to tell us of sounds she had heard one night more than twelve months previously; she did not know what date it was she had heard the noises and, as she was too frightened to get out of bed, she did not see what was making the noise. Could the "object" be identified? Naturally it could not be.
5. Although it is difficult to conjure up a name which adequately describes these sightings I think a more appropriate term than "unidentified flying objects" would be "unidentified aerial sightings" - the sightings being "unidentified" only insofar as the observer is concerned. It could be defined as an observation which remains unexplained to the viewer at least long enough for him to report it. Although the term may still be inadequate in some respects I think it removes some of the misleading inferences which were apparent previously when using the term "unidentified flying object".

Assessment of Aerial Sightings

6. The assessment of reports of unidentified aerial sightings in AUSTRALIA and the TERRITORIES is the responsibility of the Department of Air at CANBERRA. There is no hidden implication in this allocation of responsibility. The Department is simply the most appropriate authority for the task, which is performed to determine whether or not a threat to the security of the nation is involved.



7. Much effort and time is devoted each year to the assessment of aerial sightings. Reports have been received from as far south as TASMANIA and as far north as NEW GUINEA. Immediately following a report the observer is usually contacted and requested to complete a detailed pro-forma covering all aspects of the sighting. If there is no immediate and obvious explanation for the sighting the observer may then be interviewed by a member of the RAAF so that his creditability may be assessed and in order to obtain useful additional information. The Department of Civil Aviation may then be contacted concerning civil aircraft movements in the area, while military aircraft movements and weather balloon flights are also checked, in case they may have been responsible for the sighting. Satellites are also responsible for a number of reports, basically because of public interest in satellites and the increasing number out into our skies. The movements of satellites and satellite debris are checked through the Department of Supply, which tabulates data on all satellites, regardless of country of origin. Because of the steadily increasing amount of traffic in our skies, and in space for that matter, (more than 500 pieces of satellite hardware are orbiting the earth at this minute), the task of identifying aerial sightings is assuming substantial proportions.

8. Reporting Procedure. The procedure to be adopted when reporting an unidentified aerial sighting is to write a letter to the nearest RAAF base or, alternatively, to the nearest police station giving your name and address and as much of the following information as you may be able to recall :-

- (a) Date and precise time of the sighting;
- (b) Length of time sighting under observation;
- (c) Where the sighting took place;
- (d) Position of the sighting when first observed (e.g., overhead coming from behind a hill, over the horizon etc.);
- (e) What was it that attracted your attention; (e.g. light, noise);
- (f) Did the sighting appear to be a light or a solid object;
- (g) What was its colour;
- (h) What was its apparent shape;
- (j) If more than one sighting was concurrently observed, how many were there and what was their formation;
- (k) Was any detail of the structure of the sighting observed;
- (l) Was any method of propulsion obvious;
- (m) Was there any sound (description, if any); and,
- (n) Your estimate of the object's height, speed and direction of flight.

9. Now this last item is very important and I would venture to say that unless you have some experience in estimating height and speed your impression of any object's height, speed and direction of flight could be completely erroneous. Why this is so becomes clear when one realises that any estimation of speed requires that we have some idea of an object's height and this, in turn, requires that we have some idea of the true size of the object.

10. If a sighting appears as a light or is so far away that we cannot discern any detail about it other than that it appears to be an object, then we have nothing against which to compare its size. Consequently an estimation of its size or an impression of its height and speed are likely to be in error. For example, an aircraft flying overhead at 300 mph at a height of 5,000 ft.



could easily give an observer the erroneous impression that he had sighted an object flying at 3,000 m.p.h., if he thought that the height was about 50,000 ft. Thistledown, less than one inch in diameter, which are blown up to 100 ft or so by the wind during our summer months, can appear as objects flying very high at fantastic speeds and capable of the most amazing manoeuvres, simply because their size is a matter of conjecture at the time. Similarly an aircraft flying directly away from the observer, particularly at night, could appear as a slowly descending or hovering object.

11. Since the size of the sighting, the direction of its flight and its distance from us is normally impossible to estimate accurately, it is better to make an estimate of the sighting's initial angle of elevations above the horizon, the angle through which it subsequently may appear to move and the time taken to do so.

#### The Identification of Aerial Sightings.

12. Identified Sightings With the information available from the aerial sighting report, an attempt is made to identify the sighting. In 9 out of 10 well reported cases this is usually possible. By far the greatest number of sightings have been attributed to astronomical phenomena, such as falling meteors or the view of a particular planet (such as Venus, Jupiter or Mars) which may have appeared unusual to the observer. Aircraft are responsible for the next highest percentage of sightings, while a variety of other causes, such as rockets of the firecrackers variety, weather balloons, satellite material and so on, combine to form the remainder. It is significant to note that records show, both in 1963 and again in 1964, that the months during which the greatest number of aerial sightings were reported were also the months of greatest meteor activity. The months of July and August consistently bring in more sightings than any other month of the year.

13. Unidentified Sightings. The number of sightings which cannot be identified from the information available has remained fairly consistently at around about two a year. Indeed, given sufficient time and effort, the number of unidentified sightings probably could be reduced further. One has to assess, however, whether the required additional time and effort is warranted. It is generally accepted that there is, and always will be, a small number of sightings (due to high altitude phenomena, which are strange to the untrained eye) for which the available information will never be sufficient to enable an identification to be made. In other words it is just not possible to achieve a 100% record of successful identification. The ideal can be approached but not achieved, simply because the inaccuracies inherent in this type of work militate against its achievement. So much for experience in AUSTRALIA; what of the experience of overseas Air Forces such as for instance the USAF.

14. Experience in USA. Experience in the UNITED STATES runs parallel to Australian experience. The Americans, however, handle many more reported sightings, averaging from 400 to 600 each year. The analysis of all reported sightings in the USA has been the responsibility of the USAF Air Technical Intelligence Centre since investigations started in 1947. Since that time they have investigated some 9,000 reports.

15. In their effort to identify reported aerial sightings the Americans use automatic sorting and computing techniques, because these methods provide the best way to handle such great amounts of data. The written reports are reduced to IBM punch-card abstracts by means of logically developed forms and standardised evaluation procedures. The evaluation of the reports, a crucial step in the preparation of the data for statistical treatment, consists of an appraisal of the reports, the subsequent classification of the sighting, with the emphasis on complete consistency and objectivity. This consistency and objectivity can be maintained right through the analysis since the computer is a machine and not a man.



16. A typical breakdown of American identification, before improved reporting and investigating procedures were introduced, would have been as follows :-

Astronomical phenomena:	25%	of total sightings
Aircraft:	20%	"
Balloons:	16%	"
Other causes (lights, birds, hoaxes):	13%	"
Reports with insufficient information:	17%	"
Unidentified reports:	9%	"

17. Reports classified under the heading of "insufficient information" are those for which an essential piece of information is missing. For example the omission of sighting time or location.

18. After the new procedure had been in operation for some 6 months, the percentage of sightings remaining unidentified was reduced to one third of the previous figures. The figures for this period then became:-

Astronomical phenomena:	23%	of total sightings
Aircraft:	21%	"
Balloons:	26%	"
Other causes:	20%	"
Reports with insufficient information	7%	"
Unidentified reports:	3%	"

19. The effect of the new reporting and investigating procedures has continued to be marked, reducing the percentage of those unidentified to 1.6% and, on one occasion, to as low as 0.7%. The Americans, in fact, believe the percentage can be reduced even further.

20. Experience in UK. In the UNITED KINGDOM a somewhat similar picture presents itself. There, all reports of unidentified aerial sightings are processed through Defence Ministry Air Intelligence, and an average of 9 out of 10 sightings have been identified. Astronomical phenomena and aircraft are once again the main reasons for sightings. The Defence Ministry is confident that with more reliable information and improved reporting procedures, the number unidentified could be substantially reduced. The Ministry shares the opinion with the Americans that the impossibility of devoting more time and money is the main factor preventing the achievement of a rational identification for every report.

#### Conclusions

21. I would like to repeat the main points I have made as I think they are important. Reports of unidentified aerial sightings have been assessed by the Department of Air for the past ten years or so. Nearly all of these sightings have been identified as either astronomical phenomena, aircraft, fireworks, balloons or satellite material re-entering the earth's atmosphere. Astronomical phenomena is responsible for the greatest number of sightings and it is significant that there is a noticeable relationship between the time of year when the greatest number of sightings are reported and the time when the greatest meteor activity is experienced. There tends to be an increase of reported sightings each year around about the main meteor stream dates, which it is hard to believe is purely coincidental, and conversely there are few reports during the principal gaps between dates of meteor activity.



22. Both in the UK and USA, analyses of reported sightings have resulted in similar conclusions to our own. In the UNITED STATES, where some 9,000 sightings have been investigated over the past 18 years, scientific methods of data reduction have consistently demonstrated that there are no significant similarities between sightings which have not been identified. In fact improved reporting and evaluating procedures have markedly reduced the number of sightings falling into the "unidentified" category. Only the impossibility of providing an intensive effort and immense expense prohibits the expectation of a complete reduction of sightings, which currently remain unidentified and which now stands at around 2-3%.

23. The number of unidentified sightings each year in AUSTRALIA does not warrant such great effort or expense. Only where there is evidence that a threat to the security of the nation is involved (e.g. the possibility of foreign aircraft infringing our air space) would this attitude be reversed. The Department of Air believes that there always will be aerial sightings of high altitude phenomena which are strange to the untrained eye and that of these some will not be identified.



569/5/451

19

Victoria Barracks,  
Melbourne. Vic. 3004.

22 NOV 1967

Dear Mr. Norris,

70110 16

Thank you for the report on the work undertaken by the University of Colorado forwarded with your letter of 31st October, 1967.

As you are aware the Government is presently satisfied that the arrangements under which the R.A.A.F. is responsible for the investigation of unidentified flying objects in Australia adequately serves our national interest.

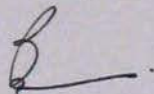
However, I am keenly aware of the developments taking place overseas and I shall continue to watch them with interest for their possible implication to the situation in Australia.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd) PETER HOWSON

Peter Howson

Mr. P. E. Norris,  
President,  
Commonwealth Aerial Phenomena  
Investigation Organisation,  
P.O. Box 180,  
MOORABBIN. VIC. 3189.

  
70110.

FILE  
EXAMINED  
DATE 23/11/67

6/11



## MINUTE PAPER

(This side only to be written on)

St. 4117

*Subject:* UFO'sExec O A4P

1. As stated in F12, the RAAF's prime concern in UFO investigation is to ensure that there is no threat to Australia's security and the present RAAF resources for investigation cannot go beyond this directive. At present there is no evidence to suggest that any UFO's threaten Australian air space and, from a defence point of view, increased effort or expense on investigation would seem to be unwarranted.

2. The weight of evidence suggest that scientific, as opposed to defence, investigation of these phenomena would be more appropriate if any further investigation is desired by the government.

9NOV67

*Sheppard*  
Group Captain  
D.A.F.I.



DEPARTMENT OF AIR

17

MINUTE PAPER

Subject:

U F 05

DAFI

1. Folio 16 is referred for your comments and advice so that a reply can be prepared for the Minister.
2. Would you please give this matter priority so that either a full or interim reply can be forwarded from CAS Branch as soon as possible.
3. If you are unable to provide material for a full reply within 7 days would you please return this file so that an interim reply can be prepared.

7 E 11/67

*R. Cantani*  
Exec O Air



569-15-451 - 115  
16  
**C A P I O**

COMMONWEALTH AERIAL PHENOMENA INVESTIGATION ORGANISATION  
(Affiliating Australian U.F.O. Societies.)  
Under the distinguished Patronage of Air Marshal Sir George Jones, K.B.E., C.B., D.F.C.

President: PETER E. NORRIS, LL.B. Secretary: Mrs. SYLVIA SUTTON P.O. BOX 180, MOORABBIN, VIC., AUSTRALIA. Telephone: 95 1659

100 Collins Street,  
Melbourne.  
31st October, 1967

Mr. P. Howson, M.H.R.  
House of Representatives.  
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

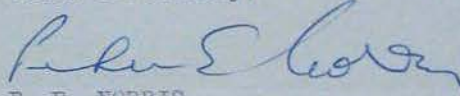
Dear Sir,

I have pleasure in enclosing herewith a note describing the work being undertaken on unidentified flying objects by the University of Colorado under the auspices of the United States Air Force.

My Organisation maintains that a similar Project inaugurated in Australia with Commonwealth funds would be of assistance in helping to solve the great international problem of the UFO's.


Your assistance in bringing this matter to the attention of the Government will be greatly appreciated.

Yours faithfully,

  
P. E. NORRIS.  
President.

  
SECRETARY

For draft reply for  
Minister's Signature, Please

  
Private Secretary  
MINISTER FOR AIR

FILE  
EXAMINED  
DATE 2/11/67

E.O. (air)



COMMONWEALTH AERIAL PHENOMENA INVESTIGATION ORGANISATION:

12th floor  
100 Collins Street.  
Melbourne.

THE COLORADO PROJECT:

U.S. SCIENTISTS TO PROBE U.F.O'S

In October 1966 the United States Air Force announced that a sum of \$300.000 (subsequently increased to \$500.000) would be made available to the University of Colorado to permit the establishment of a full time project to investigate the problem of the unidentified flying objects.

Head of the Project is Dr. Edward U. Condon the University's Professor of Physics and one of the country's outstanding and more outspoken scientists.

Besides Dr. Condon. the Project includes Mr. Robert J. Low, an Engineer, who is Project Co-ordinator; Dr. Michael Wertheimer, a psychologist; Dr. William Blumer a Meteorologist. and Dr. Joseph Rush a physicist.

Information received by C.A.P.I.O indicates that the specific assignments now being undertaken are the development of a sighting case file which will be accessible to sorting by computer; planning for one or more well trained teams of field investigators; development of a special sighting (interrogation) form; preparing a manual or booklet, including background information on astronomy for public guidance in observing and reporting U.F.O's; giving serious consideration to an effort to deploy instruments for detection of U.F.O's and for gathering quantitative data.

A major effort is being made to open up new sources of information among professional pilots and others who would be likely to see UFO's; also to re-open information sources which, for reasons of dissatisfaction with the Air Force Project (Project Bluebook) have stopped reporting sightings.

For one scientific experiment, engineers of one of the largest automobile companies in the country will attempt to determine exactly what could cause failure of the electrical systems of automobiles, as is often reported as a result of the close approach of UFO's.

According to "Time" Magazine of 4th August 1967, the Project is now well under way and a computer-aided analysis of 2000 sightings has commenced. In addition, three sightings supported by ample photographic or eye witness evidence are receiving intensive examination. It is anticipated that the Project's report will be completed and published in September 1968.

One other Scientist who is closely associated with the Colorado Project is Dr. James E. McDonald, Professor of Meteorology at the University of Arizona.



Dr. McDonald recently appeared before the United Nations Outer Space Affairs Group and made the following statement on UFO's :-

1. There are strong indications of increased close approaches by UFO's here and abroad.
2. It is not possible to explain all the sightings as natural phenomena or as secret tests of highly advanced aerial or space vehicles built on earth.
3. In spite of official debunking, the verified evidence points to some unknown phenomenon about which all of us must quickly become better informed.
4. The most probable hypothesis is that the UFO's are extra-terrestrial probes capable of causing EM. (Electromagnetic) interference and other unusual effects.
5. The importance of the problem to our world if UFO's are actually extra terrestrial probes should quickly bring about international scientific co-operation to discover all possible information.

The prestigious National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena, largest and most influential of the American UFO private research groups sums up the Colorado Project as follows:-

"Clearly this is a new era of UFO research. Now that the validity of the Air Force explanations for UFO's has been seriously questioned and the doubts acted upon, it is time for a re-orientation of efforts. We have long been aware of the undue influence on public opinion (including scientists) that official pronouncements have had, delaying an open study and misleading those who could bring a resolution to the problem. All indications are that the investigators fully intend to have a thorough look at the facts. If this is done, we are confident that scepticism will end".

. . . . .



569/5/451

Victoria Barracks,  
Melbourne, Vic.

26 APR 1967

Dear Mrs. Sutton,

I refer to your letter of 6th May, 1967 about the possibility of making funds available for specialised research into unidentified flying objects.

I am aware that the United States Government has made a sum of money available to the University of Colorado for the purpose of a closer investigation into unidentified flying objects. I would think that in due course the results of this research will be made available not only to the United States Government but also to other associated and interested organisations in other countries.

As you already know, the Government believes that the right authority to investigate unidentified flying objects in Australia is the Royal Australian Air Force. The Government is satisfied that our national interests are adequately served by this arrangement. The R.A.A.F. seeks appropriate scientific advice when required and will, of course, be in consultation with the United States Air Force on this particular issue if the need arises.

I do not believe, therefore, that there is any need at the present time for a special grant for research to another agency such as the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization or a university.

You may be assured, however, that the Department of Air will continue to co-operate with your organisation to the fullest extent possible.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd) PETER HOWSON

Peter Howson

Mrs. S. Sutton,  
Honorary Secretary,  
Commonwealth Aerial Phenomena  
Investigation Organisation,  
P.O. Box 180,  
MOORABBIN. VIC.

*[Signature]*  
26/4



14

Parliament House,  
Canberra, A.C.T.

Dear Mrs. Sutton,

I refer to your letter of 6th March, 1967 about unidentified flying objects.

The Royal Australian Air Force is concerned with the investigation of reports of unidentified flying objects from the aspect of the air defence of Australia. In the absence of any evidence of a threat to air defence, the RAAF could not justify the type of research into and scientific analysis of reports of UFOs which you contemplate. It was probably for similar reasons that an independent body has been charged with the responsibility for this type of investigation in the United States.

The Government is aware of the steps taken in America and will, I am sure, make provision for similar research and analysis should it consider such action necessary.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Howson

Mrs. S. Sutton,  
Honorary Secretary,  
Commonwealth Aerial Phenomena Investigation  
Organization,  
P.O. Box 180,  
MOORABBIE, VIC.



13

## LETTERS FROM HERALD READERS

# Those 'flying saucers'

MELB  
HERALD  
4/4/67

In reply to Trevor Skinner's letter (Herald, 1-4-67), referring to my letter on unidentified flying objects (28-3-67), I wish to point out that I did not use the term "flying saucer" nor was the heading my invention.

The term "flying saucer" was, in fact, coined by the U.S. Press after the Kenneth Arnold sighting in 1947 and it has been consistently used by world-wide Press ever since.

Having made a serious study of the subject for several years, it is apparent to me that UFOs have many basic shapes and designs, some of which are not at all saucer-like. Hence, unidentified flying objects is a more fitting designation.

Oddly enough, Trevor Skinner agrees that many UFOs have been sighted and he also knows of the fantastic speeds and manoeuvres executed by the objects — achievements beyond our present-day space technology — to what does he attribute this?

Also, how can he account for the physical and physiological effects ex-

perienced when UFOs are in the vicinity but which usually cease when the UFOs depart? By physical effects I refer to electrical interference to radios, television, car and aeroplane engines, car headlights, radar, power supplies, city and street lighting; by physiological effects I refer to headaches, dizziness, minor burns, skin irritations and temporary paralysis which have been experienced by some people who happened to be relatively close to UFOs. There has been no logical reason for these effects.

If Trevor Skinner cares to take time to give the UFO subject a little careful thought and analysis, he will find documented evidence overwhelmingly in support of the theory that a higher intelligence controls UFOs.

—(Mrs) Sylvia Sutton,  
Hon. Secretary, Commonwealth Aerial Phenomena Investigation Organisation, Moorabbin.



Ralph Ditter, a barber of Zanesville, Ohio, U.S.A., claims he photographed this unidentified flying object above his house with a polaroid camera.



# MINUTE PAPER

(Write on this side only)

569/5/451(12)

12

SUBJECT:

UFOs IN AUSTRALIA - CAPIO

Exec O Air

As you are aware the RAAF's prime concern in the investigation of UFOs is to ascertain whether any report suggests a possible threat to Australia from the air. Provided we can retain this prerogative we have no objection to the Government giving official and financial backing to some organisation which would like to delve more deeply into the UFO question. However this Directorate obviously cannot decide the Government's policy on this matter.

16 Mar 67

*W Marshall*  
Wg Cdr  
for DAFI



DEPARTMENT OF AIR

MINUTE PAPER

Subject: *CAPIC - Re UFO's in Australia*

*DAFI* *CAS* *Discussed with DAFI*

1. Folio 10 is referred for your comments and advice so that a reply can be prepared ~~for the Minister~~ *Departmentally*.
2. Would you please give this matter priority so that either a full or interim reply can be forwarded from CAS Branch as soon as possible.
3. If you are unable to provide material for a full reply within 7 days would you please return this file so that an interim reply can be prepared.

*15/3/67*

*[Signature]*  
for Exec O Air



569/5/451 10

C A P I O

COMMONWEALTH AERIAL PHENOMENA INVESTIGATION ORGANISATION  
(Affiliating Australian U.F.O. Societies.)  
Under the distinguished Patronage of Air Marshal Sir George Jones, K.B.E., C.B., D.F.C.

President: PETER E. NORRIS, LL.B. Secretary: Mrs. SYLVIA SUTTON P.O. BOX 180, MOORABBIN, VIC., AUSTRALIA. Telephone: 951659

6th March 1967.

Mr Peter Howson, M.H.R.,  
Minister For Air,  
Parliament House,  
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

Dear Sir,

As secretary of the above-mentioned federation, I am writing to you again with reference to unidentified flying objects.

The past 19 years, with so many well-authenticated sighting reports and our own rapid advance in the Space Age technology, have brought a basic change in the general public's thinking. From disbelief and ridicule has come acceptance that UFO's exist but the nature of the phenomenon is still pure speculation. However, it is a matter of vital importance to every living person on this planet.

I would like to draw your attention to the recent grant of \$300,000 (\$A267,857) which the U.S. Air Force made to the University of Colorado for the sole purpose of investigating UFO's. This venture, to be run with complete independence and without military direction, is in line with the recommendations made by Congress earlier last year.

On 5th April 1966 the second session of the 89th Congressional Hearing at Washington, U.S.A. dealt specifically with the subject of UFO's and whilst it was conceded that the Air Force had been diligent in its UFO investigations insofar as it affected national security, the Air Force Scientific Advisory Board recommended that an independent body be set up for more specialized investigations and evaluation, with strong emphasis on scientific analysis. The afore-mentioned \$300,000 grant appears to be the result.

We in Australia would like to see similar assistance given here to some approved official organisation such as the C.S.I.R.O. or perhaps a University. We have it on good authority that already the University of Colorado has approached an Australian scientist with a request for co-operation and suggestions as to the best methods for research. It is obvious that large-scale work cannot be achieved without financial assistance.

The numerous private UFO research groups and societies throughout the world do sterling work with only limited resources of time and money. They could give material assistance to Government sponsored projects by providing the thousands of watching eyes and information from their respective areas. No doubt many private citizens unconnected with societies would be willing to help, if they knew there was a Government backing.

7/3

N/E



The long range plan is for an International Organisation with the mutual benefits it could confer. Already the Sky Scouts Movement which commenced in Japan less than two years ago has developed into the International Sky Scouts. There are also people in other countries who are thinking along similar lines and with whom we have exchanged correspondence.

Thanking you in anticipation that you will give this matter your serious consideration and advise us on your deliberations.

Yours faithfully,

*S. Sutton*

(Mrs.) Sylvia Sutton.  
Hon. Sec.

*A Sec A*  
**SECRETARY,**

For draft reply for  
Minister's Signature, Please

*[Signature]*  
Private Secretary  
**MINISTER FOR AIR**

10/169



89



COMMONWEALTH AERIAL PHENOMENA INVESTIGATION ORGANISATION  
Under the distinguished Patronage of Air Marshal Sir George Jones, K.B.E., C.B., D.F.C.

President: PETER E. NORRIS, LL.B.    Secretary: Mrs. SYLVIA SUTTON    P.O. BOX 180, MOORABBIN, VIC., AUSTRALIA.    Telephone: 95 1659

569/5/451  
pps-PA  
2-11-66.

12th November 1966

Mr A. B. McFarlane,  
Secretary,  
Dept. of Air,  
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your letter of 2nd inst. and for the accompanying synopsis of UFO sightings.

The latter is being duplicated to send to the affiliated societies of C.A.P.I.O. and we do appreciate your co-operation.

Again thanking you for your time and trouble,

Yours faithfully,

(Mrs.) Sylvia Sutton.  
Hon. Sec.

Requies    PA on  
569/5/451  
RF mmo/cns



UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS - AN EVALUATION BASED ON  
AUSTRALIAN, AMERICAN AND BRITISH AIR FORCE REPORTS

A summary of an address given by Mr B.G. Roberts, to the  
Ballarat Astronomical Society at BALLARAT,

February 1965

The Term UFO and Some Objections to it

1. Unfortunately the term "unidentified flying object", or UFO for short, 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 just such an eventuality, and so overcome the tendency automatically and haphazardly to relegate all unidentified sightings to the category of "flying saucers".
2. Even the term "unidentified flying object" is somewhat of a misnomer, and this probably is the underlying reason for its indiscriminate use. We believe it to be a misnomer on a number of counts. Firstly many sightings are not of material objects but of what the observer, in all good faith, believes to be material objects. Freak weather conditions, electrical storms and unusual light conditions can give rise to misleading impressions, especially when the observer is unused to them and the time of viewing is short. The eye is not alone in this respect. For instance Radar is far from infallible. Radar echoes from dense clouds and pockets of air are quite common and can give the erroneous impression that some material object has been detected.
3. Secondly it is our experience that, except in sightings of aircraft the process of flying is rarely involved. Many sightings are of the planets or of meteors entering the earth's atmosphere, and, in one case, we received an excellent report from some 17 separate observers in the Central NORTHERN TERRITORY of the re-entry of the Russian Satellite Cosmos II into the earth's atmosphere.
4. One might even go a stage further and challenge the word "unidentified" 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 subsequently. It is our experience that more than 90% of all well reported sightings can be identified satisfactorily. The rest cannot be identified specifically, mainly because the observer's report of the sighting does not contain sufficient information to provide an identification, or in cases where it is considered that further investigation is unwarranted. An example of the latter is illustrated by the case of a woman who wrote in 1964, after reading a newspaper report of a UFO sighting, to tell us of sounds she had heard one night more than twelve months previously; she did not know what date it was she had heard the noises and, as she was too frightened to get out of bed, she did not see what was making the noise. Could the "object" be identified? Naturally it could not be.
5. Although it is difficult to conjure up a name which adequately describes these sightings I think a more appropriate term than "unidentified flying objects" would be "unidentified aerial sightings" - the sightings being "unidentified" only insofar as the observer is concerned. It could be defined as an observation which remains unexplained to the viewer at least long enough for him to report it. Although the term may still be inadequate in some respects I think it removes some of the misleading inferences which were apparent previously when using the term "unidentified flying object".

Assessment of Aerial Sightings

6. The assessment of reports of unidentified aerial sightings in AUSTRALIA and the TERRITORIES is the responsibility of the Department of Air at CANBERRA. There is no hidden implication in this allocation of responsibility. The Department is simply the most appropriate authority for the task, which is performed to determine whether or not a threat to the security of the nation is involved.



7. Much effort and time is devoted each year to the assessment of aerial sightings. Reports have been received from as far south as TASMANIA and as far north as NEW GUINEA. Immediately following a report the observer is usually contacted and requested to complete a detailed pro-forma covering all aspects of the sighting. If there is no immediate and obvious explanation for the sighting the observer may then be interviewed by a member of the RAAF so that his creditability may be assessed and in order to obtain useful additional information. The Department of Civil Aviation may then be contacted concerning civil aircraft movements in the area, while military aircraft movements and weather balloon flights are also checked, in case they may have been responsible for the sighting. Satellites are also responsible for a number of reports, basically because of public interest in satellites and the increasing number out into our skies. The movements of satellites and satellite debris are checked through the Department of Supply, which tabulates data on all satellites, regardless of country of origin. Because of the steadily increasing amount of traffic in our skies, and in space for that matter, (more than 500 pieces of satellite hardware are orbiting the earth at this minute), the task of identifying aerial sightings is assuming substantial proportions.

8. Reporting Procedure. The procedure to be adopted when reporting an unidentified aerial sighting is to write a letter to the nearest RAAF base or, alternatively, to the nearest police station giving your name and address and as much of the following information as you may be able to recall :-

- (a) Date and precise time of the sighting;
- (b) Length of time sighting under observation;
- (c) Where the sighting took place;
- (d) Position of the sighting when first observed (e.g., overhead coming from behind a hill, over the horizon etc.);
- (e) What was it that attracted your attention; (e.g. light, noise);
- (f) Did the sighting appear to be a light or a solid object;
- (g) What was its colour;
- (h) What was its apparent shape;
- (j) If more than one sighting was concurrently observed, how many were there and what was their formation;
- (k) Was any detail of the structure of the sighting observed;
- (l) Was any method of propulsion obvious;
- (m) Was there any sound (description, if any); and,
- (n) Your estimate of the object's height, speed and direction of flight.

9. Now this last item is very important and I would venture to say that unless you have some experience in estimating height and speed your impression of any object's height, speed and direction of flight could be completely erroneous. Why this is so becomes clear when one realises that any estimation of speed requires that we have some idea of an object's height and this, in turn, requires that we have some idea of the true size of the object.

10. If a sighting appears as a light or is so far away that we cannot discern any detail about it other than that it appears to be an object, then we have nothing against which to compare its size. Consequently an estimation of its size or an impression of its height and speed are likely to be in error. For example, an aircraft flying overhead at 300 mph at a height of 5,000 ft.



could easily give an observer the erroneous impression that he had sighted an object flying at 3,000 m.p.h., if he thought that the height was about 50,000 ft. Thistledown, less than one inch in diameter, which are blown up to 100 ft or so by the wind during our summer months, can appear as objects flying very high at fantastic speeds and capable of the most amazing manoeuvres, simply because their size is a matter of conjecture at the time. Similarly an aircraft flying directly away from the observer, particularly at night, could appear as a slowly descending or hovering object.

11. Since the size of the sighting, the direction of its flight and its distance from us is normally impossible to estimate accurately, it is better to make an estimate of the sighting's initial angle of elevations above the horizon, the angle through which it subsequently may appear to move and the time taken to do so.

#### The Identification of Aerial Sightings.

12. Identified Sightings. With the information available from the aerial sighting report, an attempt is made to identify the sighting. In 9 out of 10 well reported cases this is usually possible. By far the greatest number of sightings have been attributed to astronomical phenomena, such as falling meteors or the view of a particular planet (such as Venus, Jupiter or Mars) which may have appeared unusual to the observer. Aircraft are responsible for the next highest percentage of sightings, while a variety of other causes, such as rockets of the firecrackers variety, weather balloons, satellite material and so on, combine to form the remainder. It is significant to note that records show, both in 1963 and again in 1964, that the months during which the greatest number of aerial sightings were reported were also the months of greatest meteor activity. The months of July and August consistently bring in more sightings than any other month of the year.

13. Unidentified Sightings. The number of sightings which cannot be identified from the information available has remained fairly consistently at around about two a year. Indeed, given sufficient time and effort, the number of unidentified sightings probably could be reduced further. One has to assess, however, whether the required additional time and effort is warranted. It is generally accepted that there is, and always will be, a small number of sightings (due to high altitude phenomena, which are strange to the untrained eye) for which the available information will never be sufficient to enable an identification to be made. In other words it is just not possible to achieve a 100% record of successful identification. The ideal can be approached but not achieved, simply because the inaccuracies inherent in this type of work militate against its achievement. So much for experience in AUSTRALIA; what of the experience of overseas Air Forces such as for instance the USAF.

14. Experience in USA. Experience in the UNITED STATES runs parallel to Australian experience. The Americans, however, handle many more reported sightings, averaging from 400 to 600 each year. The analysis of all reported sightings in the USA has been the responsibility of the USAF Air Technical Intelligence Centre since investigations started in 1947. Since that time they have investigated some 9,000 reports.

15. In their effort to identify reported aerial sightings the Americans use automatic sorting and computing techniques, because these methods provide the best way to handle such great amounts of data. The written reports are reduced to IBM punch-card abstracts by means of logically developed forms and standardised evaluation procedures. The evaluation of the reports, a crucial step in the preparation of the data for statistical treatment, consists of an appraisal of the reports, the subsequent classification of the sighting, with the emphasis on complete consistency and objectivity. This consistency and objectivity can be maintained right through the analysis since the computer is a machine and not a man.



16. A typical breakdown of American identification, before improved reporting and investigating procedures were introduced, would have been as follows :-

Astronomical phenomena:	25%	of total sightings
Aircraft:	20%	"
Balloons:	15%	"
Other causes (lights, birds, hoaxes):	13%	"
Reports with insufficient information:	17%	"
Unidentified reports:	9%	"

17. Reports classified under the heading of "insufficient information" are those for which an essential piece of information is missing. For example the omission of sighting time or location.

18. After the new procedure had been in operation for some 6 months, the percentage of sightings remaining unidentified was reduced to one third of the previous figures. The figures for this period then became:-

Astronomical phenomena:	23%	of total sightings
Aircraft:	21%	"
Balloons:	26%	"
Other causes:	20%	"
Reports with insufficient information	7%	"
Unidentified reports:	3%	"

19. The effect of the new reporting and investigating procedures has continued to be marked, reducing the percentage of those unidentified to 1.6% and, on one occasion, to as low as 0.7%. The Americans, in fact, believe the percentage can be reduced even further.

20. Experience in UK. In the UNITED KINGDOM a somewhat similar picture presents itself. There, all reports of unidentified aerial sightings are processed through Defence Ministry Air Intelligence, and an average of 9 out of 10 sightings have been identified. Astronomical phenomena and aircraft are once again the main reasons for sightings. The Defence Ministry is confident that with more reliable information and improved reporting procedures, the number unidentified could be substantially reduced. The Ministry shares the opinion with the Americans that the impossibility of devoting more time and money is the main factor preventing the achievement of a rational identification for every report.

#### Conclusions

21. I would like to repeat the main points I have made as I think they are important. Reports of unidentified aerial sightings have been assessed by the Department of Air for the past ten years or so. Nearly all of these sightings have been identified as either astronomical phenomena, aircraft, fireworks, balloons or satellite material re-entering the earth's atmosphere. Astronomical phenomena is responsible for the greatest number of sightings and it is significant that there is a noticeable relationship between the time of year when the greatest number of sightings are reported and the time when the greatest meteor activity is experienced. There tends to be an increase of reported sightings each year around about the main meteor stream dates, which it is hard to believe is purely coincidental, and conversely there are few reports during the principal gaps between dates of meteor activity.



22. Both in the UK and USA, analyses of reported sightings have resulted in similar conclusions to our own. In the UNITED STATES, where some 9,000 sightings have been investigated over the past 18 years, scientific methods of data reduction have consistently demonstrated that there are no significant similarities between sightings which have not been identified. In fact improved reporting and evaluating procedures have markedly reduced the number of sightings falling into the "unidentified" category. Only the impossibility of providing an intensive effort and immense expense prohibits the expectation of a complete reduction of sightings, which currently remain unidentified and which now stands at around 2-3%.

23. The number of unidentified sightings each year in AUSTRALIA does not warrant such great effort or expense. Only where there is evidence that a threat to the security of the nation is involved (e.g. the possibility of foreign aircraft infringing our air space) would this attitude be reversed. The Department of Air believes that there always will be aerial sightings of high altitude phenomena which are strange to the untrained eye and that of these some will not be identified.



569/5/451

Dear Mrs Sutton,

*folio 6*

2 NOV '66

The Minister for Air has asked me to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 21st October, 1966, and to forward to you a copy of the synopsis of UFO sightings which you requested.

I attach a copy of the synopsis, which includes a brief assessment of the probable cause of the reported sightings.

Yours faithfully,

*A. B. McFarlane*

(A. B. McFarlane)  
SECRETARY *B/1*

Mrs Sylvia Sutton,  
Hon. Secretary,  
Commonwealth Aerial Phenomena  
Investigation Organisation,  
P.O. Box 180,  
MOORABBIN, VIC.

*R. and O.K.*

*Note. The method of replying to Mrs Sutton was discussed and so Mr. McFarlane also agreed to the reply, going out of the signature of the Secretary B/1.*



SUMMARY OF UNIDENTIFIED AERIAL SIGHTINGS REPORTED TO DEPARTMENT  
OF AIR, CANBERRA, ACT, FROM 1960

Date of Sighting	Brief Description of Aerial Sighting	Possible Cause
23 Jan 60	Twin Yellow Lights over Launceston, Tasmania. Elevation 20° - 30°	Refraction of light
1 Feb 60	Bright object emitting flashes, moving W to E over Melbourne, Victoria.	Astronomical
26 Mar 60	Spherical, silvery object, elevation 80° - 65°, over Canberra, ACT.	Astronomical
13 Jun 60	Flashing red light and fixed white light over Mangalore, Victoria.	Aircraft
26 Jun 60	Explosion of light with spark showers, elevation 40° en route Melbourne, Victoria, to Launceston, Tasmania	Astronomical
18 Aug 60	Bright flashing object travelling E to W, 160 miles N of Mullewa, WA.	Astronomical
2 Oct 60	Crescent shaped object, horns lighted, 5° above southern horizon, Launceston, Tasmania.	Astronomical
4 Oct 60	"5 flying saucers and a mother ship" cigar shaped, 4 vertical bands, over Cressy, Tasmania.	Astronomical
13 Oct 60	White light, angle of elevation 45°, Mackunda Downs, Queensland.	Astronomical
25 Oct 60	Downs, Queensland.	Astronomical
15 Oct 60	UAS traversing sky, W to E over Launceston, Tasmania	Met balloon with light attached.
18 Oct 60	Slow moving cigar-shaped object similar to aircraft - bright orange rear portion, rest dull grey.	Probably TAA aircraft Viscount VH-TVG
27 Oct 60	Mysterious explosions, Cressy Area, Longford, Tasmania - orange coloured ball hovering in sky, also described as cigar-shaped.	Astronomical
27 Oct 60	Orange/blue/red round object, trailing cloud of sparks, exploded at Poatina, Tasmania.	Astronomical
15 Nov 60	Orange translucent ball, approx 70 ft in diameter at altitude 35,000 ft heading 140° at high speed.	Astronomical
27 Nov 60	Light in sky over Poatina/Cressy, Tasmania	Astronomical
29 Nov 60	Point of blue/green/red light, just above horizon, rising slowly over Trevallyn, Tasmania.	Astronomical

The foregoing summary of information prepared in the public interest, includes the final assessment of each sighting reached by Department of Air, CANBERRA, and it is regretted that no further correspondence can be undertaken on this subject.



Date of Sighting	Brief Description of Aerial Sighting	Possible Cause
7 Dec 60	Silvery, disc-shaped formation of 30/40 objects over Launceston, Tasmania, flying southwards.	Flight of pigeons
21 Dec 60	24 grey/blue objects, moving southwards over Great Lakes, Tasmania.	Reflection of light
25 Dec 60	Star like object, 20 minutes to pass over $\frac{1}{4}$ sky over Campbell Town, Tasmania, west to east.	Satellite
5 Jan 61	Bright light in sky, Oatlands, Tasmania	Astronomical
Early Jan 61	Bright, white sphere, $45^{\circ}$ from vertical, over Campbell Town, Tasmania.	Astronomical
18 Jan 61	Apparently controlled light, no sound, several sightings around Kerang, Victoria.	Astronomical
12 Mar 61	Bright light, with tail of orange sparks over Indooroopilly Queensland, from N to S.	Astronomical
9 Apr 61	Flashes of light west of Beaconsfield, Victoria, similar to lightning.	Astronomical
23 May 61	Large object like a meteor - position 32305 15240E object broken up.	Astronomical
25 May 61	Dull silvery thermometer-shaped object - Devonport, Tasmania - seen through binoculars.	Aircraft
5 Jun 61	Conical shaped object falling to earth - Darwin, NT.	Astronomical
7 Jun 61	Oval shaped, red-glowing object, Cairns, Queensland, photographed through 4 in telescope	Temperature inversion, sighting of an aircraft.
31 Jul 61	Long white glowing object, flaming tail buzzed train on railway, 285 miles south of Darwin, NT	Astronomical
8 Aug 61	12 objects flying high, in pairs, dropping white substance - Meekatharra, WA.	Probably migrating "balloon spiders"
24 Aug 61	Red light, elevation $3.5^{\circ}$ at Hobart airport.	Astronomical
Nov/Dec 61	Golden sphere with silver protuberances on either side - like motor armature, moving and rising in westerly direction, Koorda, WA.	Astronomical
28 Dec 61	Spherical object, emitting flashes of green and orange light - slow moving - Collaroy, NSW.	Astronomical
16 Jan 62	Piery, rocket-like object across Caulfield, Vic.	Astronomical
23 Jan 62	Green fading to yellow object over East Sale, Vic	Probably private aircraft.

The foregoing summary of information prepared in the public interest, includes the final assessment of each sighting reached by Department of Air, CANBERRA, and it is regretted that no further correspondence can be undertaken on this subject.



Date of Sighting	Brief Description of Aerial Sighting	Possible Cause
30 Jan 62	White spherical object, Manly, NSW	Astronomical
25 Jan 62 } 2 Feb 62 } 13 Feb 62 }	Bright white, planet-like object, sometimes orange and occasionally zig-zagging or changing direction, Fremantle, WA.	Astronomical
3 Mar 62	White spherical object with metal lustre, Manly, NSW	Astronomical
11 Mar 62	Star-like object, 75% elevation to SSW of Flinders Island, Tasmania	Astronomical
13 Apr 62	3 objects, 2 with firey trails, moving from NW direction over Tennant Creek, NT.	Astronomical
5 May 62	White object, zig-zagging, Redcliffe, WA.	Astronomical
5 May 62	Contrail and metallic glint preceding contrail, over Richmond, NSW	Aircraft
7 May 62	Dark glinting object leaving 4 condensation trails - climbing vertically over Holbrook, Victoria	Aircraft
25 May 62	Light, travelling across sky, stops, changes course and gradually disappears, Lucinda Point, Queensland.	Astronomical
25 Jun 62	Glowing red object, great size and speed at Kurrajong, NSW.	Astronomical
22/23 Aug 62	Silver-coloured object over Yass, NSW	Astronomical
16 Aug 62	Star-like object, red/green/blue - slowly moving up/down/right/left over Kimberley, Tasmania.	Astronomical
31 Aug 62	Bright star-like object moving across sky over Denmark, WA.	Aircraft
Aug 62	Starlike object, stationary in sky over Cressy, Tasmania	Astronomical
Aug 62	Moving, star-like object Launceston, Tasmania.	Astronomical
23 Sep 62	Bright cluster of lights moving from S to N - Aircraft en route Christchurch, NZ, to Sydney, NSW.	Astronomical
13 Oct 62	Aircraft like object high over sky, leaving yellowish trail - Canberra, ACT.	Aircraft
30 Oct 62	Large object with red front emitting thick orange coloured exhaust - over Goulburn, NSW	Astronomical
3 Nov 62	Bright metallic glinting needle shaped object flying in straight-vertical path over Cressy, Tasmania.	Aircraft
8 Dec	Yellow, star-like object from S to N in straight path, over Cressy, Tasmania.	Probably Satellite
17 Dec 62	Cylindrical object, with 2 vertical projections travelling NNE/SSW over Norfolk Island.	Aircraft

The foregoing summary of information prepared in the public interest, includes the final assessment of each sighting reached by Department of Air, CANBERRA, and it is regretted that no further correspondence can be undertaken on this subject.



Date of Sighting	Brief Description of Aerial Sighting	Possible Cause
Jan 63	Apparently spherical object, white vapour emitted. Moved downwards in sky over Penna, Tasmania.	Astronomical
15 Feb 63	Grey, rotating object descending and then moving over to West - gave off swishing sound, Moe Victoria.	Tornado like meteorological manifestation
Feb 63	White, spherical object, illuminated, in level flight over Maitland, NSW.	Satellite
27 Feb 63	Two bluish/green lights, oval in shape, oscillating in sky in tandem, Braybrook, Victoria.	Refraction of light.
4 Apr 63	Two bright objects, star-like, side by side, stationary, Tasmania.	Refraction of light.
7 Apr 63	Long slender, silvery-white pencil-like object - soundless, Forster, NSW	Aircraft
19 May 63	Bright red/white object, rising vertically, looked like bulldozer, Mt Gambier, SA.	Astronomical
1 Jul 63	Explosion of light in sky over Melbourne, Victoria.	Astronomical
3 Jul 63	Bright greenish/blue light over Iron Range, Queensland.	Astronomical
19 Jul 63	Bright star-like object, red, stationary over Deloraine, Tasmania.	Astronomical
25 Jul 63	Light grey, circular object, noise like jet engine heard, hovering above Warragul, Victoria.	Tornado
8 Aug 63	Shower of lights over Darwin area, NT, making swishing noise	Astronomical
20 Aug 63	Explosion in sky Turner Station/Ord River Station, SA. Silver spot or streak sighted before explosion.	Re-entry of Cosmos 2.
23 Oct 63	White starlike object, bulbous front and elongated tail - Mt Dandenong area, Victoria	Astronomical
19 Nov 63	Bright orange light, jet engine noise - from W to NW, Moorabin, Victoria.	Astronomical
26 Nov 63	Pinkish/brown starlike object oscillating over Beaumaris, Victoria. Rotating in circular manner towards south.	Astronomical
24 Dec 63	Marks on negative of photo taken at RAAF, Darwin.	Static charge on photo paper during loading of camera

The foregoing summary of information prepared in the public interest, includes the final assessment of each sighting reached by Department of Air, CANBERRA, and it is regretted that no further correspondence can be undertaken on this subject.



Date of Sighting	Brief Description of Aerial Sighting	Possible Cause
23 Jan 64	Seen at sea by crew of a vessel NE Point of Groote Eylandt, WA. Large lights in water, made compass go "Haywire". Shadow in centre of lights rotated clockwise, causing lights to pulsate.	Unknown
24 Feb 64 2 Mar 64 8 Mar 64	Bright light like bushfire, Balladonia, WA, Eyre Highway (178 mile peg).	Astronomical
3 Mar 64	White, planet like object, bright light, Bridport, Tasmania.	Astronomical
22 Mar 64	Cigar shaped, travelling sideways, brown colour, at Armidale, NSW	Astronomical
9 May 64	Two moving lights, yellowish, Pascoe Vale, Victoria oscillating in sky.	Refraction of light.
24 Jul 64	Formation of whitish objects over Longreach, Queensland.	Astronomical
1 and 2 Aug 64	Bright headed object, glowing tail over Onslow, WA.	Astronomical
2 Aug 64	Rocket like object, with windows in side, yellow/orange, above Wittenoom Gorge, Hammersley Ranges, WA.	Astronomical
12 Aug 64	White light moving across sky over Kavieng, Papua and New Guinea - like bright star.	Satellite
17 Aug 64	Bluish star like object, moving in circles over Launceston, Tasmania.	Astronomical
2 Sep 64	Two silvery solid oval objects seen on flight Melbourne/Canberra	Refraction of light
22 Sep 64	Object like exploding meteorite - lit up surface of sea, Cambridge Gulf, WA.	Astronomical
8 Nov 64	Light at horizon, Lowhead Lighthouse, Tasmania.	Astronomical
8 Nov 64	Long and narrow, red/orange object - travelling fast over Point Sorrell, Victoria.	Astronomical
4 Dec 64	Strip of scrub 600 yds wide, 4½ miles long subjected to extreme heat, Queensland.	Bushfire
13 Jan 65	Apparent aerial objects, with vapour trails, flying in formation over Tasman Sea.	Astronomical
17 Jan 65	Elongated light with tail- oscillating in sky over Trevallyn, Tasmania.	Astronomical
17 Jan 65	Two red lights and line of apparent cabin lights - stationary over Mentone, Victoria.	Refraction of light
23 Feb 65 30 Mar 65 1 Apr 65	Orange lights in sky over South Cottesloe, WA.	Probably Vampire aircraft from RAAF Pearce.

The foregoing summary of information prepared in the public interest, includes the final assessment of each sighting reached by Department of Air, CANBERRA, and it is regretted that no further correspondence can be undertaken on this subject.



Date of Sighting	Brief Description of Aerial Sighting	Possible cause.
19 Mar 65	Yellow spherical object moved from overhead to horizon in SE direction - Lakes Entrance, Victoria.	Astronomical
19 Mar 65	Orange spherical object, West Tamar, Tasmania.	Astronomical
21 Mar 65	Sphere with red dome on top; 3 illuminated tails - moving Southwards over Malvern, Victoria.	Weather balloon
22 Mar 65	Yellow steady light from spherical body moved about the sky	Astronomical
24 May 65	2 objects, one above the other, silvery, moved from SSW over Geelong area, Victoria.	Refraction of Light
21 Apr 65	Dark grey/black amorphous object over Pakenham East Victoria - moving erratically up and down	Tornado
5 May 65	Banana shaped, white/orange object over Mowbray, Tasmania	Astronomical
5 May 65	Green changing to orange to green light over Youngtown, Tasmania	Astronomical
13 May 65	Slightly elongated, brightly lit, broke into several pieces, over Griffith, NSW.	Astronomical
13 May 65	Greenish/yellow light travelling fast over Queanbeyan, NSW	Astronomical
25 May 65	Blue light emanating from object coloured red - through to green - wavered in sky. Emanated light sufficient to illuminate beach - Sehulea Papua and New Guinea	Unknown
3 Jun 65	Bright starlike object, increasing in size, Bowen/Proserpine area, Queensland.	Astronomical
13 Jun 65	Yellowish ball with tail. Emitted brilliant bluish-white flash on disappearing over horizon, Mudginberri Station NT.	Astronomical
17 Jun 65	Bright object, emitting red light directed to earth Passed over Sewataitai, Papua and New Guinea	Astronomical
24 Jun 65	Star shaped object, yellowish/white, moving over Youngtown, Tasmania.	Echo 2 Satellite
24 Jun 65	Saucer shape- cone top and rows of lights across front and along side - bluish white, red trail, Daminia Station, via Nebo, NT	Astronomical
24 Jun 65	Bright light, oscillating from L to R - Bwaruada, Papua and New Guinea	Astronomical
29 Jun 65	Blue to green, cigar shaped object, red glow at rear Lindisfarne, Tasmania.	Astronomical
29 Jun 65	Bright object with short tail, moving E to W over Launceston, Tasmania	Astronomical

The foregoing summary of information prepared in the public interest, includes the final assessment of each sighting reached by Department of Air, CANBERRA, and it is regretted that no further correspondence can be undertaken on this subject.



Date of Sighting	Brief Description of Aerial Sighting	Possible Cause
29 Jun 65	Vivid light blue, circular shape, travelling NS, Longford, Tasmania.	Astronomical
3 Jul 65	Loud humming, glowing object, yellow/white light emanating from object illuminated herd of cattle, Kimberly, Tasmania.	Astronomical
5 Jul 65	Bright white light, near Elliot, Queensland	Satellite
5 Jul 65	Bright light over sea, Tewetewa, Papua and New Guinea	Satellite
12 Jul 65	Bright light oscillating from L to R, Bwaruada, Papua and New Guinea	Astronomical
15 Jul 65	Brilliant white light in sky at moon rise over Murella Park, NT	Astronomical
15 Jul 65	White spherical object, Canberra, ACT	Astronomical
17 Jul 65	Red glowing cylindrical object, moving from L to R (oscillating) emitting "diesel-engine" sound, Nivani Plantation, Samarai, Papua and New Guinea	Astronomical
18 Jul 65		
19 Jul 65		
22 Jul 65	Bright light turning from red, through white to green and red, Dalby, Queensland.	Astronomical
30 Jul 65	Silver coloured object - disappeared with flash, 70 miles west of Cook, SA	Astronomical
Aug 65	Saucer shaped object with bluish green glow at rim, grey in colour, Vaucluse Beach, Sydney, NSW.	Tornado
1 Aug 65	Bright green/red/white light, Woodstock, NSW	Astronomical
3 Aug 65	Two starlike objects over Frankston, Victoria	Met Balloons
4 Aug 65	Silvery sphere with aerial on top, Orange, NSW	Met Balloon
24 Aug 65	Red/orange body, leaving trail of white, came from SW Lat 1048 south long 13315 East, Western Australia	Astronomical
26 Aug 65	Flashing light travelling NS, Goomalling, WA	Astronomical
26 Aug 65	Spherical, starlike objects, Launceston, Tasmania	Astronomical
14 Sep 65	Flashing red, green, white, flying object, Ganawe, Papua and New Guinea	Astronomical
19 Sep 65	Streak of light, Dubbo, NSW	Astronomical
15 Sep 65	White object sighted west of Port Moresby, Papua and New Guinea. Moved westwards, slowed then sped northwards.	Unknown
27 Sep 65	Bright light in sky WSW of Goroka, Papua and New Guinea. Intensity of light fluctuated. Later disappeared below horizon.	Satellite

The foregoing summary of information prepared in the public interest, includes the final assessment of each sighting reached by Department of Air, CANBERRA, and it is regretted that no further correspondence can be undertaken on this subject.



Date of Sighting	Brief Description of Aerial Sighting	Possible Cause
2 Nov 65	Dull vertical narrow beam ascending from sea offshore Bunama Point, Papua and New Guinea	Water spout
27 Nov 65	White, apparently triangular in shape, stationary in sky, under noon, Launceston, Tasmania.	Astronomical
2 Dec 65	Bluish-through-to-reddish light, larger than star, 20° above horizon. Disappeared below horizon after about 10 minutes. Popondetta, Northern Territory.	Satellite

The foregoing summary of information prepared in the public interest, includes the final assessment of each sighting reached by Department of Air, CANBERRA, and it is regretted that no further correspondence can be undertaken on this subject.



569/5/451 e

**C A P I O**

COMMONWEALTH AERIAL PHENOMENA INVESTIGATION ORGANISATION  
Under the distinguished Patronage of Air Marshal Sir George Jones, K.B.E., C.B., D.F.C.

President: PETER E. NORRIS, LL.B.

Secretary: Mrs. SYLVIA SUTTON

P.O. BOX 48, MOORABBIN, VIC., AUSTRALIA.

Telephone: 95 1659

21st October 1966

Mr Peter Howson, M.H.R.,  
Minister for Air,  
Parliament House,  
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

Dear Mr Howson,

Thank you for your letter of 17th May last. This was circularized to the member groups of C.A.P.I.O. but further reference was made to it at the recent C.A.P.I.O. Conference held in Adelaide.

It was noted that a synopsis of UFO sightings and a brief assessment of same could be made available and accordingly I have been instructed to request that a copy be sent to us at your early convenience.

Thanking you in anticipation,

I remain,

Yours Sincerely,

*S. Sutton*

(Mrs.) Sylvia Sutton.  
Hon. Sec.

*AS (A)  
26-10-66  
AS*

No INTERIM  
**SECRETARY,**

For draft reply for  
SDA ~~Minister's~~ Signature, Please

*John Macmillan*

Private Secretary  
MINISTER FOR AIR  
26 OCT 1966

*John*

*160/3*



**C A P I O**

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Mr Peter Howson, M.H.R.,  
Minister for Air,  
Parliament House, Canberra. A.C.T.

LIST OF C.A.P.I.O. OFFICE-BEARERS October 1966-67

President	Mr Peter Norris, LL.B.	Melbourne, Victoria.
Vice-Pres.	Mr Les Locke.	Perth, Western Australia.
Vice-Pres.	Mrs. M.L. Roberts.	Brisbane, Queensland.
Secretary	Mrs. Sylvia Sutton.	Moorabbin. Victoria.
Treasurer	Mr S.J. Czynski	Ballarat. Victoria.

Signed:

*S. Sutton*



5  
Parliament House,  
Canberra, A.C.T.

17 MAY 1966

Dear Mrs Sutton,

Your letter of 23rd April raises a number of points to which I would like to refer for the benefit of your organization.

As you say the Commonwealth Government has been receiving and evaluating reports on sightings of unidentified flying objects for a number of years, as have the Governments of the United Kingdom and the United States of America. The first point I would like to make is that during the course of the investigations in these three countries no information has come to light which indicates the existence of extra-terrestrial vehicles, or that we are being observed by beings from outer space.

Your letter infers that the Government is anxious to keep secret the results of inquiries into reports of U.F.O.s. I would be the first to agree with you that such a policy would be likely to cause misunderstanding among the public, and I therefore hasten to advise you that such is not the case at all. Anyone who is interested in sightings of U.F.O.s can apply to the Department of Air for information on this subject, and is welcome to a synopsis of U.F.O. sightings which includes a very brief assessment of the probable cause of the report. Furthermore, in response to public demand for information on a particular U.F.O. sighting, statements have been made on behalf of the Government in the press and on the radio. However I consider that too much publicity on U.F.O. reports would be likely to cause concern and even alarm in the minds of those members of the public who are not so well informed on these matters as the members of your organization.

The Government believes the appropriate authority to investigate U.F.O.'s in Australia is the R.A.A.F. and I assure you that scientific advice is sought from appropriate authorities whenever necessary. Your members should be re-assured that if and when an investigation reveals any suspicious circumstances relating to the origin of an "unidentified flying object" the Government will immediately release the facts to the public.

Any requests for information by your organization will be readily handled by the Department of Air and I again assure you that no facts will be withheld.

My best wishes to the members of your organization who I am sure must find much to interest them in the study of aerial phenomena.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd) PETER HOWSON

Peter Howson

Mrs Sylvia Sutton,  
Secretary,  
Commonwealth Aerial Phenomena,  
Investigation Organization,  
P.O. Box 43,  
MOORABBIN, VIC.

*Defence 11/5/66*



DEPARTMENT OF AIR  
MINUTE PAPER

(This side only to be written on)

Subject:

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

BAO/CAS (Through DAPP, DFR)

Herewith a suggested draft reply to the letter on this subject  
at Folio 2A.

*Boag*

6 May 66

Gp Capt  
DAFI



DRAFT

John 3

Parliament House,  
Canberra, A.C.T.

Mrs Sylvia Sutton  
Secretary  
Commonwealth Aerial Phenomena  
Investigation Organization  
P.O. Box 43  
MOORABBIN VIC

Dear Mrs Sutton,

X Your letter of 23rd April raises a number of points <sup>to</sup> which I would like to refer to for the benefit of your organization.

Z. As you say the Commonwealth Government has been receiving and evaluating reports on sightings of unidentified flying objects for a number of years, as have the Governments of the United Kingdom and the United States of America. The first point I would like to make is that during the course of the investigations in these three countries no information has come to light which indicates the existence of extra-terrestrial vehicles, or that we are being observed by beings from outer space.

X. Your letter infers that the Government is anxious to keep secret the results of inquiries into reports of UFOs. I would be the first to agree with you that such a policy would be likely to cause misunderstanding among the public, and I therefore hasten to advise you that such is not the case at all. Anyone who is interested in sightings of UFOs can apply to the Department of Air for information on this subject, and is welcome to <sup>a</sup> ~~the~~ synopsis of UFO sightings which includes a very brief assessment of the probable cause of the report. Furthermore, in response to public demand for information on a particular UFO sighting, statements have been made on behalf of the <sup>the</sup> Government in the press and on the radio. However I consider that too much publicity on UFO reports would be likely to cause concern and even alarm in the minds of those members of the public who are not so well informed on these matters as the members of your organization.

A. <sup>the</sup> My Government believes the appropriate authority to investigate UFO's in Australia is the RAAF and I assure you that scientific advice is sought from appropriate authorities whenever necessary. Your members should be re-assured that if and when an investigation reveals any suspicious circumstances relating to the origin of an "unidentified flying object" <sup>the</sup> ~~my~~ Government will immediately release the facts to the public.

B. Any requests for information by your organization will be readily handled by the Department of Air and I again assure you that no facts will be withheld.

X. My best wishes to the members of your organization who I am sure must find much to interest them in the study of aerial phenomena.

Yours sincerely,

Patric Houston



Parliament House,  
Canberra, A.C.T.

26th April, 1966.

Dear Mrs Sutton,

I have received your letter of  
23rd April 1966 on behalf of your Association  
concerning unidentified flying objects in Australia.

I shall write to you again on this  
matter in the near future.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd) PETER HOWSON

Peter Howson

Mrs Sylvia Sutton,  
Secretary,  
C.A.P.I.O.,  
P.O. Box 43,  
MOORABBIN. VIC.

*Handwritten:* A bc (V)  
27.4.66  
RA

DAFI

*For advice on which to base  
a reply to folio 2A, please.*

*Handwritten:* Rantam  
Bnd/cos  
28/4/66

ARY.  
For draft reply for  
Minister's Signature, Please

*Handwritten signature:* [Signature]  
Private Secretary  
MINISTER FOR AIR

*Handwritten:* N/F

*Handwritten:* 14/8



23rd April 1966

Mr Peter Howson, M.H.R.,  
The Honourable Minister for Air,  
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

Dear Sir,

My association is an amalgamation of Australian UFO research societies. I have been instructed by my members to place before you the following comments pertaining to the subject of unidentified flying objects:--

1. My association is aware that the Commonwealth Government has for some time been receiving and evaluating information concerning the existence of unidentified flying objects, (UFO's) and believes that this fact, together with a detailed analysis of all sightings investigated, should be published, with the object of removing the obstacle of public ignorance from this research. There is considerable misapprehension among the public at large concerning UFO's and a policy of secrecy can engender only further misapprehension. On the other hand a frank and open discussion of the subject would enlist the full co-operation of the Australian public.

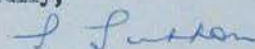
2. My association is convinced that much information is withheld by persons who have made sightings of UFO's but who decline to report their information for fear of ridicule. A favorable government statement on UFO's would therefore result in much valuable information on UFO's being received from members of the public.

3. As there is considerable evidence indicating that some UFO's are manned, instructions should be given to defence forces and all police, not to commit unprovoked acts of hostility against UFO's.

4. There has been a marked increase in reports of UFO's during 1965 (maintained in 1966) resulting in obvious need for further investigation into the UFO phenomenon. Since the RAAF is primarily concerned with questions of defence, my association submits that responsibility for scientific investigation of UFO's should be vested in the CSIRO. Any project inaugurated by your government along the lines indicated would receive the full support of my association.

*Handwritten: I am pleased to hear of this*

Yours respectfully,



(Mrs. ) Sylvia Sutton.  
Hon. Sec.



# REGISTRY CLASSIFICATION PARTICULARS

## CLASSIFIER

1	Original/Copy <u>Original</u>
2	Duplicate Copy made <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3	Date opened <u>28 APR '66</u>

## REGISTRATION

1	Security Classification
2	Title <u>Reps <del>by Mrs Sutton</del>, on behalf of Commonwealth Aerial Phenomena Investigation Organisation re unidentified flying objects in Australia.</u>
3	Registration Number <u>569/5/451</u>
4	Mark to <u>A Sec (A)</u>
5	Cancel File No _____ vide this File and inform Movements Section of cancellation and new File No
6	Close File No _____
7	Cross Reference this File with File(s) _____

## SUBJECT INDEX

Posting	Precis
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	

## NAME INDEX

1	Heading <u>Mrs S. Sutton</u>	Precis
2	<u>Commonwealth Aerial Phenomena Investigation Organisation.</u>	
	Alter File No on Logging Card for _____	
	Letter dated _____	Reference No _____



569 5 451 1

## DEPARTMENT OF AIR

UNIT

ARCHIVAL ACTION

TITLE ~~REPS BY MRS. GUTTON~~, ON  
BEHALF OF COMMONWEALTH AERIAL  
PHENOMENA INVESTIGATION ORGANIZATION  
RE UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS IN AUSTRALIA

REFERRED TO	FOLIO FOR ATTENTION	DATE REFERRED	ACTIONED BY INITIALS	REFERRED TO	FOLIO FOR ATTENTION	DATE REFERRED	ACTIONED BY INITIALS
A Sec (A)	file	28/4/66	R	SDA	14	14 APR 67	A
BAO/CAS	file	28/4/66	R	Minister	14	24/4/67	MS
D/DAFI (ors)	2	28/4/66	R	ASec A	file	26/4/67	MS
DAFI	3	4/5/66	DP	BAO/CAS	15	27/4/67	MS
DAPP	4	4/5/66		<b>P/A FILE</b>		11/5/67	
DPR	4	11/5/66		BAO/CAS	file	5/7/67	MS
BAO/CAS	4	6/5/66		<b>P/A FILE</b>		5/7/67	
Exec O An	4	12/5/66		A Sec A	16	2/11/67	MS
A Sec	4	12/5/66		AD SEC	16	2/11/67	MS
SDA	5	13/5/66		Exec (An)	16	2/11/67	MS
Minister	5	16/5/66		DPR	17	6/11/67	MS
ASec A	file	18/5/66		DAFI	17	7/11/67	MS
DAFI	file	20/5/66		EXEC. (An)	18	9/11/67	MS
PA	file	20/5/66		AD SEC	19	17/11/67	MS
PR	file	23/5/66		SDA	19	17/11/67	MS
BAO/CAS	file	4/6/66		Minister	19	2/12/67	MS
DAFI	file	12/6/66		BAO/CAS	file	22/11/67	MS
FA	file	19/10/66		DAFI	file	14/12/67	MS
A Sec A	6	27/10/66		<b>P/A FILE</b>		14/12/67	
DPR	7	2/12/66		<b>P/A FILE</b>		22/2/68	
PA	file	2 NOV 1966		PA	file	22/2/68	
A Sec A	8	13/11/66					
DPR	9	16/11/66					
PA	FILE	16/11/66					
A Sec A	10	15/3/67					
DAFI	10	16/3/67					
Exec O An	12	16/3/67					
Exec O An	14	5/4/67					
A Sec	14	1/5/67					