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HOW UFO REPORTS ARE RECEIVED

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SCIENTIFIC OPINIONS

Basic Life Forms

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WHAT IS A UFO AND HOW DO WE RECEIVE UFO REPORTS

- A. A UFO is any aerial object which the observer can not identify.
- B. UFO reports are received from local AFB's. They are transmitted in accordance to AFR 80-17. There are 3 different categories.
- (1) IDENTIFIED
 - (2) INSUFFICIENT DATA
 - (3) UNIDENTIFIED

SAFOI makes all news releases on UFO sightings.

Rob Mercer

There are several scientific opinions as to the nature of unidentified flying objects. In this discussion, perhaps the most common questions that arise are:

- 1) Do Basic Life Forms exist on planets other than the Earth?
- 2) Do Intelligent Life Forms exist on planets other than the Earth?
- 3) If a technically advanced civilization did exist somewhere in our galaxie, is it likely that the Earth is being visited by this civilization or civilizations?

The presence of basic life forms in meteorites would prove the existence of life outside the Earth. Extensive study has been done on carbonaceous meteorites. It is felt that if these basic life forms exist that they would probably be present in the carbonaceous meteorites. This is a rare meteorite that contains large amounts of carbon similar to that of organic decay. Although several unusual single cell specimens have been found in this type meteorite, no conclusive proof has been established because of the possibility that the specimen was the result of contamination from an earth source. The possibility of contamination combined with the rarity of carbonaceous meteorites (as of 1964 only 20 have been recovered since 1800) has hindered much of the research along these lines. At present there is inconclusive evidence to establish the presence of extraterrestrial life forms in meteorites.

One way to establish if an intelligent life exists elsewhere is the establishment of contact with another civilization.

The earliest U.S. attempt to establish such contact was initiated with Project Ozma. The project was established in 1959 and consisted of an 85 foot steerable antenna, which was located at the National Radio

Astronomy Observatory at Green Bank, West Virginia. As the first step in a systematic search, the astronomers began to listen for possible radio signals from the neighborhood of certain stars. Tau Ceti and Epsilon Eridani were chosen as the first targets because they lie within the range of our radio telescopes, ten to eleven light years distant, and because they resemble our own sun in age and type and therefore might have planetary systems like our own.

It was calculated that signals from planets near the selected stars should be observable with the 85 foot dish if they were generated by a million watt transmitter operating through a 600 foot antenna. To be detected under these circumstances, the signals would have to be concentrated within a very narrow band of frequencies.

Signals to the target stars were sent in the hydrogen line from the observatory in May-July 1960. But if these signals are received, analyzed, and re-transmitted the results, if any, will not be known until 1982.

No information about any operational programs can be found in the Soviet literature; however, the Soviets do possess several radio telescopes which could be utilized by the Soviets to search for radio emissions from intelligent civilizations.

Dr. Carl Sagan says:

"It now seems probable that the earth is not the only inhabited planet in the universe. There is evidence that many of the stars in the sky have planetary systems. Furthermore, research concerning the origin of life on earth suggests that the physical and chemical processes leading to the origin of life occur rapidly in the early history of the majority of planets. From the point of view of natural selection, the advantages of intelligence and technical civilization are obvious, and some scientists believe that a large number of planets within our Milky Way galaxy - perhaps as many as a million - are inhabited by technical civilizations in advance of our own.

Interstellar space flight is far beyond our present technical capabilities, but there seem to be no fundamental physical objections to it. It would be rash to preclude, from our present vantage point, the possibility of its development by other civilizations. But if each if, say, a million advanced technical civilizations in our galaxy launched at random an interstellar spacecraft each year (and even for an advanced civilization such a launching would not be a trivial undertaking), and even if all of them could reach our solar system with equal facility, our solar system would, on the average, be visited only once every 100,000 years."

Dr. Charles Smiley tried to determine if UFO sightings could be the result of interplanetary vehicles from either Mars or Venus. Using the concept of minimum-energy orbits favorable periods for arrival would occur every 584 days for Venus and every 780 days for Mars. Using an interval of 20 days, ten days on either side of a favorable arrival date, Dr. Smiley tried to determine if there was any significant increase in UFO sightings compared to the average number outside the favorable periods. Dr. Smiley found that the average number of UFO per 20 day interval outside the favorable periods to be 1.88 and the average number during the 20 day favorable period as 1.11. This difference is not statistically significant. When one goes back to examine the direction from which the UFO's arrived, we find not a single case of the UFO coming from the proper direction to indicate that it had originated on Mars or Venus.

Other facts that indicate that UFO's are not extraterrestrial craft is that of all the astronomical observatories both U.S. and foreign there has never been a "spaceship" photo, despite the fact that observatories such as the Smithsonian use the Baker-Nunn Camera which can reputedly photograph a shiny basketball at the distance of the moon.

Of all the members of moonwatch, a program under the direction of the Smithsonian to observe satellite decay, not one has ever reported sighting a "spaceship".

The Space Detection Center has never tracked an interloper among the orbiting objects in space and Project Ozma was unsuccessful.

Therefore, there is absolutely no evidence to support the hypothesis that UFO's represent extraterrestrial vehicles of any kind.

Rob Mercer

24 June 1947

Large Marine transport went
down near Mt Kanier. Using
a Teufelstener est. size at $2/3$
that of DC-4. Mt Kanier to
Mt Adams in $1'' 42$ seconds.
eq to 1656 mph. 2 objects
in all.

Cause } Mirage (Atmospheric
inversions)

Project Sign began Feb 11, 1948
 ended Dec 16, 1948

Project Gudge began Dec 16, 1948
 ended Mar., 1952

Industrial Firm began 1951
 ended May 5, 1954 with
 Special Report #14

Robertson Panel Jan 14, 1953

Ad Hoc Committee of USAF Scientific Advisory Board
July 1966

- 1) Strengthen project staff
- 2) contracting selected univ. to help
in investigations