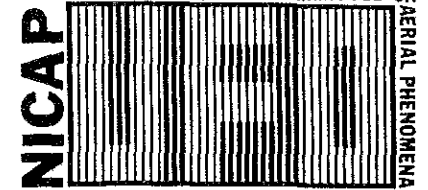


UFO INVESTIGATOR

NATIONAL INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE ON



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UN DEBATES ENCOUNTER WITH ALIENS

The necessity for establishing guidelines and responsibilities for space explorers who encounter vehicles from other worlds became the focus of attention this month during a debate of the UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, November 8.

NICAP was fortunate in obtaining an exclusive "verbatim" copy of the committee proceedings, which include the remarks of Mr. Ibingira of Uganda, a member of the committee, who raised for the first time the need to set forth in treaty form appropriate reactions by UN members if and when alien ships are encountered.

"It is quite self-evident," he said, "that the historic era of man going into outer space portends incalculable consequences for our world... The draft convention now before us, and those others to come, are conceived on the basis exclusively that only States from this planet can explore or use outer space.

"Consequently, we exclude all possibility that we might share outer space with some other space explorers possessed of intelligence and capabilities matching our own, from some undetermined origins.

"If there should be any possibility that there might be other co-users of outer space from other than planet Earth, it becomes imperative that in a convention such as the one before us or others to come, there must be included a clause ensuring that any State engaged in outer space exploration must conduct itself in such a way as not to prejudice the safety of our planet. If, for instance, a State sent out a spaceship on an exploration voyage into outer space, it should be insured that such a spaceship must not conduct itself in a hostile manner should it by any chance encounter other spaceships or objects from undetermined origins. It is not enough to leave this to the good sense of the exploring state. The matter is far too important and fundamental.

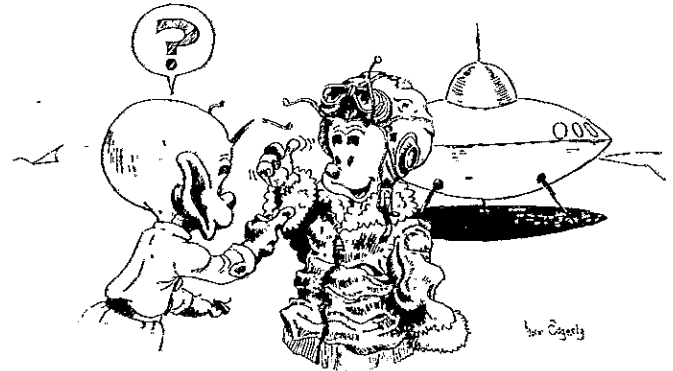
"The liability of one space object causing damage on another State on earth is almost nothing compared with the liability a State has to our whole earth in attracting hostile re-

1967 Efforts by Professor McDonald Led to Recent UN Debate on 'Aliens'

Recent consideration of the UFO question by the United Nations stems, in part, from efforts made in 1967 by the late Dr. James McDonald to get the UN to consider what he termed "an eminently international scientific problem."

McDonald, following correspondence with UN Secretary-General U Thant, was invited to address the UN's Outer Space Group on Jan. 7, 1967.

In his statement to the committee, McDonald called for "serious scientific scrutiny" of the UFO question. "I know of no other current scientific problem that is more intrinsically international in character than this problem... it seems indispensable to secure United Nations involvement in the study of this problem, the global importance of which may be truly enormous," concluded the professor.



"I got them from an airline pilot, but I had to promise not to tell anyone he saw me."

actions from unknown, undetermined origins, but real all the same.

"I know that the problem of whether or not there can be other outer space travellers has involved great controversy over a long period of time. The official position of all the States involved in exploring outer space seems to be that there is no intelligent life comparable with our own in the universe; that, therefore, there are no chances that space explorers from earth would encounter others from other worlds.

"These Governments have consistently discredited any suggestion that the unidentified flying objects which have been repeatedly observed at different times in different parts of the world could not possibly be interplanetary spaceships. They have concluded that all the alleged sightings of UFOs and flying saucers in our skies are balloons, comets, planets or things of that kind. It is true that a lot of these things could not raise serious thought that they were in fact interplanetary spacecraft.

"But there is ample evidence to raise a reasonable doubt that some of them just might conceivably be. There are, in the United States, in the Soviet Union, and in the United Kingdom, in addition to other countries, serious scientists who believe that some of these unidentified flying objects are interplanetary or intergalactic spacecrafts."

Mr. Ibingira cited the opinions of two experts, Dr. Herman Oberth, distinguished space scientist, and the late Dr. James McDonald, and quoted from their writings on the subject of UFOs.

"These people are not charlatans. These people are not abnormal people. They are responsible people who have got enquiring and serious minds. Not all Governments have been silent about this matter. I would like to quote the Argentinian Secretary of the Navy who issued a press release on the sighting of a UFO on 7 July 1965:

(See UN DEBATES, page 2)

UN Debates Encounter With Aliens

(Continued from page 1)

"The Naval garrison in the Argentine Antarctica, Deception Island, observed on 3 July at 1940 hours local time, a giant, lens-shaped flying object, solid in appearance, mostly red and green in colour, changing occasionally with yellow, blue, white and orange shades. The object was moving on a zig-zag trajectory toward the east but several times it changed course to the west and north with varied speeds and without sound.

"It passed at an elevation of forty-five degrees over the horizon at a distance estimated to be about ten to fifteen kilometers from the base. During the manoeuvres performed by the object, the witnesses were able to register its tremendous speeds and also the fact that it hovered motionless for about fifteen minutes at an altitude of about three miles. The meteorological conditions for the area of the sighting can be considered as very good.

"The object was witnessed by the meteorologist together with thirteen members of the garrison and three Chilean non-commissioned officers visiting the base. The observation lasted for twenty minutes and photographs of the object were taken."

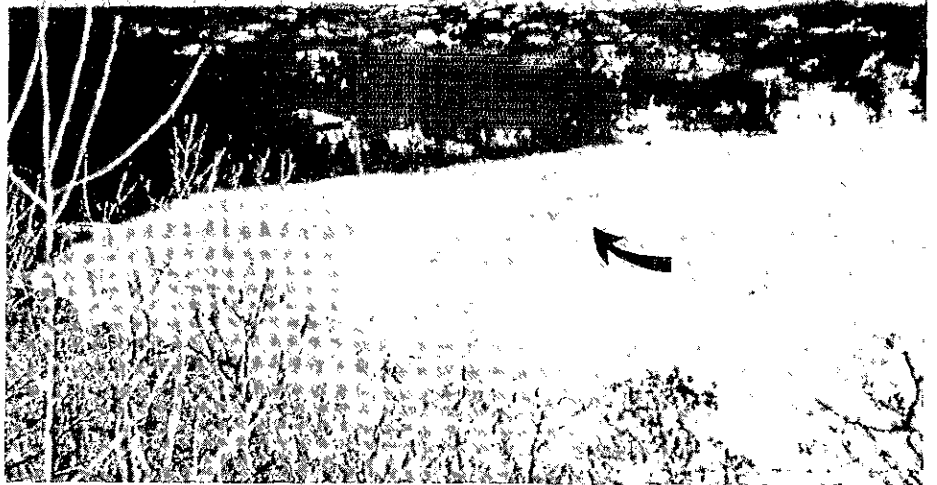
Mr. Ibgingira concluded, "I think we cannot completely ignore what these people have had to say. They do not state—neither am I trying to tell this Committee to accept—that actually there are outer space travellers, that actually there is intelligent life in the universe comparable to our own; but it is my submission that there is a reasonable doubt raised that there might be and that therefore in the event of our friends, to whom we would give every possible encouragement to explore outer space, going out into outer space, launching these ships or other equipment, care must be taken to ensure that no one should unwittingly antagonize anything which he may come in contact with that may appear to him by reasonable judgement to be intelligently controlled.

"I would suggest that this Committee should consider the possibility of including a clause or a preambular paragraph in the draft liability convention urging those nations that are engaged in outer space exploration to conduct their space ships and objects, in so far as it is possible and practicable, should they come into contact with any other objects that might seem to be intelligently controlled in such a way as not to antagonize or provoke them.

"I have already stated that this is not an acknowledgement of another life. It is just, I think, a question of prudence. I should like to conclude with the words of Mr. Oberth:

"Science should regard anything as pos-

Mystery of Scargo Lake Persists



The frozen surface of Scargo Lake as it appeared a few days after the UFO sighting. Arrow indicates location of hole that was discovered minutes after the sighting. Fresh snow and winter winds had already partially covered the hole when this photo was taken.

Despite repeated attempts at underwater exploration and 11 months of investigation by NICAP personnel, the mystery of Scargo Lake, Massachusetts, remains unsolved.

Unless some startling new evidence is uncovered, the incident, which occurred on Jan. 7, 1971, over the small town of Dennis, Mass. (*UFO Investigator*, February 1971), appears destined to go unresolved.

Early that morning two boys, ages 12 and 13—observing independently from two different locations—reported sighting a strange metallic object moving horizontally over their community. The object soon changed its flight path, according to the youthful observers, and disappeared behind a line of trees, apparently headed into Scargo Lake.

One of the boys, unaware that anyone else had seen the object, raced towards the lake and onto a nearby dock. Scanning the lake, he observed a large hole in the ice with what appeared to be steam rising from the water.

The other witness was located about a mile away when he first observed the object, and he made no attempt to follow the UFO after it disappeared from his view (See *UFO Investigator*, March and June 1971 for further details).

Despite the fact that neither witness actually observed the UFO disappear into the lake, the large hole in the ice and the triangulation of the lines of observation

possible so long as it cannot be proven impossible by facts based upon observation."

"In this way, in my view and the view of my delegation, we shall outgrow the outlook of our forefathers when they argued vehemently that the earth was flat, that man could never fly, that no one could ever reach the moon, or go beyond it to the stars."

by each of the two witnesses provides strong circumstantial evidence that there is a connection.

That the hole in the ice, measuring 25 by 100 feet, was freshly made and had not been there the day before has been substantiated by a number of witnesses, according to NICAP investigator Walter Webb.

The latest investigation of the incident occurred September 26 when an exploration dive into the lake was conducted under the direction of Webb.

"My diving friends were Edward Jameson of Natick and Paul Valleli of Burlington. Upon arriving in Dennis, we discovered we would have to do without the services of Mr. Buck (another diver), who failed to appear. I would have to determine as best I could where the site was from my sketches, photos, a few compass bearings, and from memory.

"I stood on the dock nearest the site and attempted to guide Ed and Paul to the spot, using fixed landmarks on the opposite shore. It quickly became obvious in the first few minutes that an underwater reconnaissance was just about hopeless. Visibility was very poor above the lake bottom. The water became dark and murky...

"Even so, they continued their underwater search for about three-quarters of an hour, moving out from the dock twice and sweeping across a wide area. However, Buck's cement marker (placed earlier at the location of the hole) was not found and the site of the ice hole could not be fixed with any certainty.

"Two interesting new facts emerged: (1) The lake bottom sloped off at a much steeper angle than Buck had indicated, and (2) Paul said he swam into two or three pockets of colder temperature, indicating to him the presence of springs

(See SCARGO LAKE, page 4)

UFO Photo Proves Questionable



Man who took this picture says he saw saucer-shaped object rising from cluster of trees beyond edge of snowscape in foreground. Analysts doubt his story, noting that triple image could not have been produced by object stopping three times in 1/100 of second as man claims.

Oregon Photo Fails Validation Test

A photograph submitted to NICAP by a Ph.D. biochemist has proven under expert examination to be inconsistent with the sighting reportedly made by the photographer when he took the picture.

According to the witness, who requested that his name not be used, the sighting occurred five years ago in the Cascade Mountains of Oregon, when he spotted a strange object rising from the floor of a heavily wooded valley.

The background of the chemist, and his present status as a consultant to a major American corporation, had led NICAP investigators to believe the picture was one of the few UFO photographs whose reliability could be established. Analysis has shown, however, that the picture could not have been taken as claimed, and that the object photographed does not match the chemist's description of what he saw.

The case was first reported to NICAP in June of this year after the witness approached a member of NICAP's Bay Area Subcommittee at a lecture. The man had submitted the picture to the Air Force in 1967, approximately three months after it was taken, and had been told the picture was a 'trick.' He later sent the snapshot to Dr. William Hartmann, photo-analyst for the Colorado Project, but it was received too late to be included in the cases Hartmann evaluated.

The man reported he was driving with his wife on the morning of November 22, 1966, through Willamette Pass, Oregon, when the sighting occurred. Stopping to photograph the scenery from a roadside lookout, he got out of the car and made two pictures. While looking through the camera to take a third shot, he said he saw a disc-shaped object with a domed top rise into his field of view and stop for a split second. Instinctively he snapped the shutter and looked up, catching a glimpse of the object as it continued to rise and move rapidly away. The entire sighting happened so fast, he said he did not have time to get more than one shot or call his wife to look.

To account for the unusual triple image on the film, the 50-year-old man said he thought the UFO emitted two brief "power pulses" during the time the shutter was open. This caused the object to be in three different locations, one after the other, before the shutter closed. He said he did not see the wispy "trail" beneath the object, but assumed it is an "exhaust column."

When NICAP's photographic consultants studied the picture, they were skeptical that an object could have deployed itself three different times in the one one-hundredth (1/100)

SIGHTING ADVISORY

Preliminary information on new reports. Details and evaluations will be published when available.

October 12, 1971—Mattawan, Mich. A teenager, four friends, and at least one adult reported observing "a bright white cloud flying in circles but traveling in a west to easterly direction" over Mattawan. Witnesses estimated the object was several hundred feet wide. At one point the object seemed to direct a thin beam of light into the sky above. After being in sight for a short time, the object appeared to land in a heavily wooded area. Three additional UFOs were later observed in the same vicinity where the first one appeared to go down.

October 11, 1971—Brookfield, Wis. A college freshman driving home from a visit with his girl friend reported seeing a large, dull green object "much larger and brighter than any star" for a few brief seconds and then disappear behind some trees about 100 yards away. According to the witness, no aircraft were visible in the area. The object appeared under control and was observed to negotiate a curve and level off before disappearing.

October 9, 1971—Baltimore County, Md. A father and son report seeing something "very unusual" in the sky over the western part of the county around 9 p.m. The object was flying south at a low altitude beneath some low clouds. It first attracted their attention because of a ring of extremely bright lights around the periphery and its slow movement. "The lights numbered perhaps sixteen to twenty on the side visible to us, were all white with the exception of one green light, and appeared to be rotating or possibly to be blinking in synchronization, thus giving the illusion of moving around the periphery." The UFO was observed for a number of minutes and appeared to be moving at a rate of 20 to 30 miles per hour before disappearing behind a distant treeline.

of a second the camera was set to fire. Even if the shutter speed was actually slower, it was almost inconceivable that three distinct images could be obtained, with no evidence of motion.

The consultants point out that if the UFO were bright on top and dark on bottom as reported, it would have photographed as a white vertical streak or track on the film, regardless of whether it moved and stopped or continued moving during the time the film was exposed. The reason, they explain, is that the light-colored top (yellow, according to the witness) would have exposed the film ahead of the black bottom, preventing the bottom from registering on the film when it moved into the space previously occupied by the top. In other words, the dark bottom could not have created an image where the light top had already done so (black will not photograph on white).

On the basis of these findings, the only tenable explanation of the picture is that one object with three sections was photographed, apparently in a fixed position. This view is supported by measurements of each section, which show the upper tier is wider than the lower tiers. This would not be so if the three images were of the same object. What the object actually is was not determined, but among the possibilities considered were bird feeder, roadside landmark, and outdoor light fixture.

No explanation was apparent for why a man with the education and professional experience of the photographer would choose to contrive a UFO sighting or misrepresent a picture he had made. Asked to provide supporting information on the picture, he cooperated fully with the Bay Area Subcommittee, and even visited NICAP headquarters to turn over the original negative of the picture for analysis.



MEMOS
FOR
MEMBERS

REMEMBER OUR NEW ADDRESS

A word to our correspondents: Don't forget our address changed last April from Connecticut Avenue to Rhode Island Avenue. The new address appears on the front and back pages of each issue, in case you want to check it. If you send us a publication or other material on a regular basis, please be sure your mailing label shows the new address. Thank you.

THERE IS ALWAYS SOMEBODY

We've said it before, but a few people still haven't gotten the word. When you change addresses and don't tell anybody, your newsletters pile up in our office marked "Moved, Left No Address." This costs you money, because you pay for something you don't receive, and it costs us money, because we pay for the wasted postage and processing the returned mail. So do us both a favor: remember to let us know when you change addresses.

THE IMPOSSIBLE DREAM

NICAP has always had an improbable hope: to catch up on all its correspondence. We do our best, though, even if it means sending a form reply. Part of our strategy is to answer as many questions as possible in the "Q/A" column on this page. If you want to know something about NICAP or UFOs, your chances for getting an answer are a lot better if you keep your questions simple and put them on a postcard addressed to Q/A in care of NICAP. We enjoy hearing from our members, and hope you will excuse us when we can't reply personally to a letter.

RENEWAL FORM IS A WINNER

Our computerized renewal form (which you receive with the newsletter when your membership is due to expire) is one of the best ideas we've had. When you return it with your dues payment, it enables us to process your renewal quickly, cheaply, and with little chance of error. So when it's time for you to renew, please be sure to use it. We always include a self-addressed envelope, and you don't have to worry about renewing until you receive the form, even if it comes after your expiration date has passed. All we ask is that you renew promptly as soon as you receive the form. If we have to send one or two more, our costs start climbing.

TO BE ON THE SAFE SIDE

Just to make sure we know exactly what you want, it's a good idea when you send us money to mark checks or money orders with your NICAP registration number (shown on your address label) and the purpose of your payment. Sometimes, a problem develops that we can quickly solve if this information is on the payment.

TWO BOOKS OUT OF PRINT

Remember, NICAP has exhausted its supply of two books: *UFOs: A New Look and Projects Grudge and Blue Book*. Members will be advised when they again become available. Please do not order them.

newsnotes

"OUR HAUNTED PLANET"

Readers of the South Bend *Tribune* came across the following item in the paper's Action Line column on November 1, 1971, concerning John Keel's latest book on UFO's and other strange happenings:

Q. "Our Haunted Planet," a book I read recently, has a chapter about strange disappearances. Among them is the story of a South Bend youth named Oliver Lerch. It took place around Christmas in 1889. Oliver was going out for a pail of water when his family heard him scream, "Help, they've got me." His footsteps in the snow ended abruptly. I assumed he was never heard from again. Can you tell me how much truth there is in this story?

A. South Bend's own version of "Oliver" is as much fiction as Dickens' "Oliver." It was dreamed up about 1943 by some writer out of air thinner than the air Oliver supposedly disappeared into. The tale's been used several times in books and articles as evidence of flying saucers, the supernatural, or whatever. Researchers have failed to find one subdivided shred of truth in it. No family named Lerch lived near South Bend around 1889. Footprints in the snow? Impossible. The highly unusual weather was the big story in local newspapers for Christmas week of both 1889 and 1890.

Temperatures were in the 60's and not one flake of snow fell on the still green grass. Some writers even give the name of the non-existent Oliver's fiance who attended the tragic Christmas Eve party in the Lerch farmhouse. According to a 1956 version in "The Case for the Unidentified Flying Objects," the Lerches were left in the lurch when Oliver was kidnapped by little green men from another planet. It's enough to make you doubt flying saucers.

UPI DOES FEATURE ON NICAP

Worldwide interest in UFOs was rekindled recently when UPI released a feature story on NICAP by reporter Elizabeth Wharton titled, "Saucer Buffs Still Watching."

The story, featuring an interview with Stuart Nixon, executive director of NICAP, noted that reports of UFO sightings continue, despite efforts by the U.S. Air Force and others to disprove their existence.

Distributed by the wire service as a Sunday feature, the story appeared in numerous papers across the country, including the *Savannah Evening Press*, the *Baltimore News-American*, the *Albuquerque Journal*, the *Long Beach Press-Telegram*, the *South Bend Tribune*, the *San Francisco Examiner*, the *Paterson, New Jersey News* and the *San Jose Mercury-News*.

Scargo Lake

(Continued from page 2)

(no current flow was detected). It seems quite likely that the steeper slope could have carried the alleged object farther out into the lake, making a search even more difficult. The divers recommended towing a metal detector below the surface as the next step in additional exploration is pursued.

"Concerning Paul's discovery of 'cold pockets' in the lake, this observation does not in any way negate either the UFO sighting or the ice hole itself which formed under very sudden and mysterious circumstances...It is difficult to see how underwater springs could have produced the hole in the ice under the conditions noted," reported Webb.

The probabilities that the UFO and the subsequent hole in the lake are related to a daytime fireball, bright planets, a jettisoned wing tank or a USAF tow target have been investigated and are considered slight.

One hypothesis recently considered for the Scargo Lake incident recognizes the close correlation between the observation of the UFO and the subsequent hole in the ice and yet explains the inability, so far, to discover the object on the bottom of the lake. This hypothesis—which assumes the UFO was a guided vehicle—states that the object did in fact

appear over Dennis and make an approach toward the surface of the lake, possibly with the intention of landing. But as it neared the frozen surface, the ice collapsed (possibly the result of intense heat). The object then either hovered momentarily or resumed its flight (possibly at a low angle skimming the surface of the lake), disappearing somewhere over the Cape.

This theory would explain the following observations and questions that have been raised during investigation of the incident:

(1) The smoothness of the fracture around the hole and the lack of ice fragments in its vicinity.

(2) The failure of anyone to hear any loud noises that might have been associated with a large object crashing through the surface of the frozen lake.

(3) The absence of any exit holes.

(4) The failure of repeated searches of the lake bottom to turn up any indications that an object had indeed crashed and sunk to the floor of the lake.

(5) The failure of anyone observing the departure of the UFO.

Only a thorough search of the entire lake bottom, utilizing metal detectors, could help to shed more light on this incident. The lack of funds, equipment and personnel (in addition to the length of time that has elapsed since the incident was first reported) probably precludes such an effort at this time.