

# UFO INVESTIGATOR



NICAP 5012 Del Ray Avenue, Washington, D.C. 20014 A non-profit corporation since 1956

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## STRANGE NIGHT LIGHTS IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Two observers report the sighting of a cluster of three red lights, and the separate appearance of a strong white light near the town of Carmichael, which is about 10 miles northeast of the State capital of Sacramento, California. The red lights cruised, stopped, drifted, joined and separated. The very bright white light, which was seen by the two observers separately, just hung in the air without noise or motion.

After receiving written reports by the observers, an experienced NICAP Regional Investigator, Mr. George Taylor of Modesto, California, followed up on the sighting. He recontacted the observers to ask clarifying questions and to pin down details. He also checked with local newspapers and police authorities. He could find no discrepancy in the observers' sightings nor any straightforward explanation of the phenomena. He concludes, with the observers, that these were truly unidentifiable flying objects.

The sightings took place on Thursday night, 29 May 1980, at about 9:45 p.m. Pacific Daylight Time. The sky was clear. The moon, a crescent, was visible as were the stars. There was a 10 mph breeze from the southwest, the direction of the sighting. Mrs. Diane Hubbard and Miss Sue Carmenzind had just finished a committee meeting at the Carmichael School. They were standing in the parking lot talking when they noticed a small group of flashing red lights coming from the west. The lights were moving toward the southeast. Each was about the size of a small pea held at arm's length. They were circular in shape with sharply defined edges, that is, they were not fuzzy.

### Not Helicopters

At first the two observers did not pay much attention to the lights. They thought they were probably from helicopters because flights of from one to four helicopters are common in their area. They often travel between Beale Air Force Base in Marysville and Mather Air Force Base just south of Carmichael. On this north-south path, the helicopters usually fly directly over the Carmichael area. But because the red lights did not act in the familiar way of the helicopters they knew, the observers stopped their conversation and turned their full attention to the lights.

Several things made the observers think that the lights were not from helicopters. For one thing, they were far to the west of the usual path between the Beale and Mather Bases. For another, there was none of the characteristic blade "slap" noise associated with helicopters. In fact, there was no noise at all. Unlike helicopters or conventional airplanes, these red lights were not accompanied by lights of another color. There were no green or white lights. But the red lights themselves were the strangest feature of all. They were flashing, as opposed to blinking. That is, the basic red color did not go out. It could still be seen between the brighter flashes of red.

### Slow Drift to West

When first noticed the red lights were moving steadily to the southeast. They were about 20 degrees above the horizon, an altitude which they maintained all during the time they were seen. After several minutes they stopped moving to the southeast and then began to drift slowly to the west. Then, for the next 25 minutes of the half hour during which they were observed, the three red lights drifted around in one small area. While drifting around two of the three lights would merge together so that only two red lights could be seen. Then, the merged pair would separate and three lights could be seen again. This merging and separating occurred repeatedly, about 30 times in all. In the end, the lights slowly faded out without moving from the area where they had been drifting. There were no clouds to obscure them and they did not go down below the horizon.

Later, when Mrs. Hubbard called the Sacramento County Information Office to describe the sighting she was told that she was probably seeing traffic signals. Mrs. Hubbard held her patience to say that she did not think that traffic signals came in groups of three and floated around above the tree tops.

### Separate White Light

After the red lights had faded from view, the observers drove to their respective homes, Mrs. Hubbard to the north and Miss Carmenzind to the west. A couple of blocks after leaving, Miss Carmenzind saw a brilliant white light ahead of her high in the sky, about 80 degrees above the horizon. It was as large as a five cent piece held at arm's length (about 2 cm.). It did not move but just hovered in place. It made no noise. As Mrs. Hubbard stopped at an intersection, she too saw a very large and very bright light high in the sky. She thought it might be the searchlight from the Sherrif Department's helicopter. But it was much stronger and brighter than that. Also, the white light did not cast a characteristic cone shaped beam. There was no noise.

The next day the two observers talked to each other to describe the white light. Their separate sightings agreed on all points: color, size and intensity of the light; absence of a cone shaped beam; lack of noise and lack of movement. Each of them saw the white light for about two minutes. Both looked for it when they got home but it had disappeared. At the time they saw the white light the two observers were about one mile apart. When they got out a map and plotted their positions and triangulated the location of the light, it turned out to have been about three quarters of a mile from Miss Carmenzind and one and one half miles from Mrs. Hubbard.

### No Operations From Air Base

The day after the sighting Mrs. Hubbard phoned the Public Information Officer at Mather AFB. She was told that the Base had had no calls about the lights nor did the Base have any operations at that time which would account for either the red lights or the white one. Neither did the local newspapers or the police authorities have any such reports.

After returning home from the sightings Mrs. Hubbard saw two private airplanes fly through the area. She saw their lights and clearly heard the sound of their engines. Mrs. Hubbard discounts the possibility that this was a hoax. She knows the prank of sending lighted objects aloft in small weather balloons.

## NICAP FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 1979

The following figures give the story of NICAP's financial activities for the calendar year 1979. These are the same figures we reported to the Internal Revenue Service for 1979. As a non-profit organization, NICAP does not pay federal income taxes. But we are required to file a tax return which is due by 15 May of each year. In accordance with standard accounting procedures the accounting given below is on a cash basis for the year.

In comparison with the financial report for 1978, the most obvious changes for 1979 are the reduction in income and the very large reduction in expenses. The largest factor in the reduced expenses was the elimination of the charge for "contracting services." This management and service contract provided for such things as the management of all NICAP activities, the production and distribution of the newsletter, the research and answering of inquiries from NICAP members as well as from the general public, rent for office and file space, and the partial salaries of those persons who performed this work.

In 1979 all such work which had previously been done by and charged to the contracting services was performed by volunteers. Thus, no money at all was spent under this heading. Nor did NICAP pay any salaries or partial salaries in 1979. Other savings have been made by streamlining the work of printing, handling and mailing the newsletter. (In any bulk mailing operation the "handling" involves folding the sheets, applying the labels, bundling by ZIP code, envelopes for foreign addressees, making out postal forms, and transporting to the post office.)

During 1979 all current bills were paid on time. As a result, NICAP entered 1980 with a modest bank balance.

INCOME

Membership dues: new and renewals	\$ 8,530.00
Gifts and contributions	300.00
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TOTAL INCOME	\$ 8,830.00

EXPENSES

Newsletter: printing, handling, postage	\$ 4,271.18
Form letters to lapsed members, publishers, libraries, interested persons. Printing and postage	174.53
Computer time: maintaining and updating membership and master mailing lists	401.13
Individual letters to members and prospectives	45.00
Phones and cables	353.00
Stationary and office supplies	173.16
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TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 5,418.00
NET	\$ 3,412.00

## SAUDIS ASK NICAP HELP IN UFO STUDIES

A group of prominent Saudi Arabian scientists, government officials and military officers are establishing a UFO investigating and reporting organization in their country. This effort is being led by Dr. Mohammed Abdu Yamani, the Minister of Information of the Royal Saudi Government. It is to be a non-profit organization whose purpose will be to gather information about aerial phenomena, to do research and make studies, to keep records and evaluate sightings, and to publish its findings for the Arab speaking world. The new Saudi organization will seek a cooperative exchange of information with other UFO groups throughout the world. Excerpts of their publications, in English, will be sent to private UFO groups and government organizations in many countries.

During his trip to the United States in late May, Dr. Yamani asked NICAP officials to give him recommendations, based on their experience, on how to go about establishing a UFO organization in his country.

The NICAP presentation discussed the following matters, among others: The need for the work of the organization to be rigorously scientific; It must not be affiliated with any political faction or partisan cause; The cooperation of classical astronomers, policemen, the weather service, radio and TV stations and the press; The help of the people of villages and the desert as observers, who may be illiterate but who have a long tradition of watching the skies; The prohibition of giving money or gifts to those who make sightings so as to discourage hoaxes; The requirement for a central office with rapid communications with all parts of the country; Standardized reporting and filing systems; And, the importance of a bulletin or newsletter to keep other national UFO groups up to date about what the Saudi organization is doing.

Dr. Yamani is himself a scientist. He received a PhD degree in Geology from Cornell University. His interest in space matters and UFOs began some 11 years ago when he was called by the Saudi Royal Family to explain the technicalities of the American landings on the moon. As a result of his briefings in 1969 and 1970 he became interested in UFO phenomena and read widely in the available literature. He has published a book, in Arabic, on the question of UFOs, with particular emphasis on the testimony of the Koran and the Islamic World's long tradition of scientific observation of the sky.

### REPRINTS AVAILABLE

Reprints are available of the article on UFOs, CIA and the Freedom of Information Act. The article first appeared in the September 1979 issue and, because of its length, was continued in the next four issues. The reprint, containing all of the original text, is available without charge to members. Address requests to the editorial office of the UFO Investigator. Please enclose a stamped, self-addressed, business size envelope.

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