

"There are objects coming into our atmosphere at very high speeds. The way they change position in formations and override each other would indicate that their motion is directed." Adm. Delmer Fahrney, U.S.N. Ret.

Dear Member:

Is there life on Mars--or Earth? The seemingly barren surface revealed by Mariner 4's remarkable photographs last July dashed the hopes of many scientists and ufologists that some form of life may exist on Mars. But their pessimism may be premature. At the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in Berkeley, Calif., last week, Harvard Astronomer Carl Sagan suggested that a Martian version of Mariner 4 would have transmitted equally discouraging pictures of the Earth. "Had the Mariner 4 vehicle passed the same distance from the Earth that it did from Mars (6,000 miles) and obtained 22 comparable photographs," Sagan declared, "no sign of life on our planet would have been uncovered." Sagan's assumption is based on a study of photographs transmitted by NASA's weather-watching Nimbus and Tiros satellites. Those pictures were taken from as close as several hundred miles above the Earth and are somewhat clearer than the Mariner shots, which could not distinguish objects smaller than three miles in diameter. Though Sagan examined hundreds of them for signs of life on Earth, he could find none at all. No sign of the vast highway network, bridges, dams, or even cities could be found on the photos, Sagan said. Even differences in shading caused by seasonal changes in vegetation were difficult to detect, although many of the pictures were taken months apart. Concluded Sagan: the Mariner 4 pictures neither prove nor disprove the possibility of life on Mars. Happily joining the debate, another scientist at the A.A.A.S. meeting declared that the Mariner pictures do suggest the possibility of Martian life. New Mexico State University Astronomer Clyde Tombaugh, who discovered Pluto in 1930, said that the faint markings on seven of Mariner's 22 photographs coincide with the controversial and elusive "canals" and "oasis" that he and others have mapped in telescopic observations of Mars.

Also, scientists lately have been proclaiming the glad tidings that the planet Venus may not be dead after all. On December 14, 1962, a man-made planet, the Mariner 2 spacecraft, flew past Venus at a distance of 21,000 miles and sent back a pretty grim report. The gist of the report was that Venus, though lovely, undoubtedly was lifeless. Mariner's radio sensors said the planet's surface temperature was around 800 degrees Fahrenheit, which is higher than the melting point of zinc. In the years since Mariner 2's flyby scientists have gradually lowered the apparent temperature of the Venusian surface to around 600 or 700 degrees. Having done that, many of them have gone further and cast serious doubt on the credibility of the radio measurements. Dr. Gordon J.F. Macdonald, planetary physicist of the University of California at Los Angeles, told the Senate space committee that the high temperature findings could have been false readings of electronic emissions generated in the planet's

atmosphere. He and Dr. Lloyd V. Berkner of the Southwest Center for Advanced Studies, Dallas, Texas, and Dr. Harry H. Hess of Princeton University agreed in testimony before the committee that Venus may well be the abode of some kind of life. Last November, writing in *Astronautics and Aeronautics* magazine, Dr. Herbert Friedman of the Naval Research Laboratory added his voice to those recently raised in defense of the proposition that Venus may be as lively as she is beautiful. A high ranking scientist of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) told United Press International he does not believe using radio techniques can be depended upon to provide credible answers. "We'll never know the temperature of Venus," he said, "until we go there and stick a thermometer on it."

The radiotelescope observatory at Jordell Bank, England, announced on February 3 it had been intercepting some of the pictures taken on the Moon by the Russian Luna 9 rocket, and that they were sensational. A spokesman said they showed rocks, a flat surface and the shadow of a space ship. Question: Whose space ship? Radio reports also said the cameras had photographed blisters or dome-like objects on the surface of the moon.

Meanwhile, back on planet Earth, United Nations Secretary General U Thant was told on February 7 by one of his staff members that the United Nations is the only agency that can establish contact and represent mankind in face-to-face meetings with visitors from outer space. Colman VonKeviczky, a technician in the UN public information office, said in a press release that he was also a researcher in unidentified flying objects. VonKeviczky, 56, is a Hungarian-born U.S. citizen who has worked for the UN for nine years. The release contained a letter to Thant asking him to establish an observer network among member nations of the UN to keep extraterrestrial UFOs under permanent control. VonKeviczky apologized to Thant for making his "odd proposal." He had written him only after discovering that the UN had no UFO information in its files. But he surmised that perhaps the UN had a confidential file on UFO activities. As for himself, he said that his data was based on 11 years of scientific research activities in "ufology." He explained to Thant that UFOs "are manned and piloted by intelligent beings from the solar system, horrifying by their dangerous radiations and frequent landings our peoples, air and ground security organs, military installations, air-rocket-guided missile and atom bases. VonKeviczky said that UFOs were currently experimenting with test landings on the earth's surface and their next logical step might hold dangers to the world. Who but the UN was best qualified to investigate "this strange and unknown activity around us?" he said. The letter was received by Thant's office, a UN spokesman confirmed. But Thant was too busy with earthly affairs to read it. It probably will be referred to the UN's outer space affairs section.

The UFOs continue their visitations to our planet. On January 7, Gary Finch, 18, saw a large object that looked like a silver ball with a trap door underneath. Finch said his encounter with the object occurred at 3:27 p.m. near Georgetown, Alabama while he was enroute home from school, but he held off reporting it for fear "no one would believe me." Finch said he was certain of the time because his watch stopped at that precise moment--and so did his car. "It was a large silver ball about 15 to 20 feet in diameter. About 10 inches outside the ball there was a ring encircling it, about eight inches in diameter. On top of the ball was a cone sticking up about 10 inches with a green light the size of a softball. I was about 15 feet away from it. It was hovering about five feet over the highway. Underneath I could see a large handle on a

doorlike opening." Finch said he was driving down a dirt road perpendicular to the highway and approaching the object. At first, he said, he saw it as it was descending toward the ground. It hovered as it got nearer, he said. "Then my car went dead, like I had a dead battery. The thing was making a whining sound, increasing in intensity. Then it moved around and over the car and was gone. My car would start then."

Finch said two girl students at Semmes High School were riding a bus home later that afternoon and reported sighting an object similar to the one he allegedly viewed. Finch said he found burn marks on the ground after returning to the site. Michael French, 11, of Sarland, had told his friends and parents of seeing "a funny looking thing in the sky" early that night. When they refused to believe him, Mike drew a picture of a round object which had lights on it and bore two cross-like protrusions from its side--something like antennae. Mike also reported the object to be "glowing." Residents of Satsuma reported that they had witnessed a strange glowing object in the sky at the same time. Mrs. C. C. Butler said she witnessed the strange object in the sky--"bigger than a star and brighter and moving very fast when not standing still,"--on other occasions. The Satsuma housewife said a number of other residents of the area have also seen the orange-hued object in the sky.

A number of very responsible people observed a mysterious aerial visitor at Wanaque, New Jersey on January 11. The UFO arrived about 7:30 p.m., stayed around for an hour or so, then flew away. Some of the best viewing was by Wanaque Reservoir Patrolman George Dyckman, who said: "It was weird. A bright white object, about 2 feet in diameter, moving up and down and around. It hung in the air for about an hour." "No doubt about it," Councilman John Shutte said. It was there. I saw it, a brilliant white object, 2 to 3 feet across and it's color--no, not color, shade--it kept changing." A large group of people in Pompton Lakes said they saw the UFO, too. Patrolman Ed Boyd saw it, about 30 hysterical people called Police Radio to ask: "What was it?" Another UFO was said to have circled the Totowa vicinity but with nothing like the response elicited by the Wanaque sighting. "It wasn't a plane, I'll tell you that," Patrolman Dyckman said. "If I were a drinking man," commented Wanaque's Civil Defense Director Bentleye Spencer, "I don't think I'd have another one."

The UFO re-appeared over the Wanaque Reservoir on January 13. "It came from nowhere about 4:10 a.m.--and later it disappeared the same way," Tom Garrison, 39, a treatment plant operator said. Garrison and a co-worker, Mike Pezutti, 36, watched it for nearly an hour. The mysterious "disc of light" was sighted earlier by two Clifton, New Jersey men. "This time it came down to tree-top level," Garrison recounted. "The bright white light coming from it seemed to dim...and then brighten, like it was turning or rotating. It was bigger and brighter than any star I've ever seen, and it made no noise all the time Mike and I watched it. I don't know what it was...but it wasn't any star, I can tell you that." Pezutti described his view of the UFO: "It was much, much brighter than a star and it kept moving around. Back and forth, up and down, if you can picture it." It moved out at increasing speed about 5:15 a.m. and disappeared. The two Clifton men who saw the UFO were Peter Hreno, 36, and Dennis Reynicks, 26. They saw the weird light "hover" a few feet above the reservoir's surface, casting a reflection that "lit up the whole surface of the ice." There was an unconfirmed report that a "beam" of light from the UFO burned a hole 40 feet wide in the reservoir's ice. Later the same day, an unnamed spokesman for the Air Force said that the witnesses

were seeing the planets Venus and Jupiter, and an Air Force helicopter equipped with a powerful light. The sighting of a fast-moving planet Venus or planet Jupiter high over Route 22 in the Whitehouse area of Central Jersey was reported on the afternoon of January 13 by a motorist who asked that his name not be published. He said the "disc" was moving at amazing speed across the sky with no vapor trail.

During the early hours of January 14, Thomas Sheridan, a Staff Writer for the Paterson Call sighted a UFO. He gave this account: "It was a flickering light, about a mile away across the reservoir, and it wasn't what I'd expected it to be. There's one thing I'm sure of though: I saw it. My wife Kathy saw it and so did an acquaintance, Augie Roberts of Wayne. The thing was dancing like a ballerina, bobbing up and down and then right and left, dropping and rising hundreds of feet at a time. It didn't have anything to do with the planets or stars because you could see it was clearly below the level of the mountains, well below the horizon. It wasn't a car and it wasn't a plane. It bobbed and weaved for a minute or so and then disappeared for 10 minutes at a stretch. We were at the top of the dam and we could see it, twice as large as a star and bobbing in the west. There was no noise to indicate that it was a plane and the nearest house, according to police, is across the mountains at Glenwild Lake. Off-duty Reservoir Patrolman Roy Thompson was up there too and he says he saw it in the same spot. We used a pair of binoculars --which magnified the UFO 7 times as large as it was--but we couldn't see anything more than we'd seen with the naked eye." The Air Force said the object was probably a weather balloon. The same morning, Sonny Ammecher and George Beth, spotted what they said was a fat cigar-shaped object 30 to 40 feet long hovering near St. Catherine School. The object was sighted at 1:25 a.m. The two men reported the UFO to be grey or black in color with two amber lights, one at either end. Ammecher said their two-way radio reception was disrupted when near the object. "We weren't more than 150 feet from it," Ammecher said.

N.I.C.A.P. REPORTER BOWS OUT--Because of an ever increasing work load and worn out printing equipment which cannot be replaced for lack of funds, N.I.C.A.P. will phase out its monthly newsletter. N.I.C.A.P. members will continue to receive the newsletter until their membership expires. No new memberships will be accepted and, present memberships will not be renewed or extended. N.I.C.A.P. activities in the Seattle area will not be disrupted by this regrettable cut back in operations.

The regular N.I.C.A.P. monthly meeting will be held at 8 p.m., Friday, March 4, on the 7th floor of the Fischer Studio Building--1519 3rd Avenue, Seattle. Admission: 25¢. The program will include the motion picture "X-15 Documentary;" plus a special report of a night of terror, of confrontation and abduction by occupants of a space ship from another planet, as related by a New Hampshire couple under clinical hypnosis. Also, there will be reports on recent landings in Australia; Recent UFO activity in South America including near collisions of UFOs and airliners over Chile and Argentina. Audience participation will follow the scheduled program. These meetings are open to the public. Free coffee, tea and goodies. Last months meeting had standing room only when the meeting started. Just a word to the wise. See you there.

Bob Gribble,
National Director, N.I.C.A.P.