

# UFO RESEARCH NEWSLETTER

A MONTHLY REPORT ON UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

Vol. I, No. 7

October - November 1971

## AUSTRALIAN OCCUPANT REPORT HEADS SIGHTING LIST

Sighting reports of UFOs that contained occupants; "attacked" a car; caused electro-magnetic (E-M) interference to house lights and a television set; possibly created a power failure; emitted smaller objects, light beams, an odor, and a sound; and frightened witnesses have come from four states, Australia and India in April, June, July and August.

At 7:30 p.m., June 24, Mrs. F and her 10-year-old daughter were riding in a cab in the Greenacre section of Sydney, Australia, when they observed a large UFO that looked like "a Japanese lantern" hovering over a football field. There were some youths practicing in the field, but, apparently due to the intense flood-lights, did not see the grayish object.

"The top was transparent," Mrs. F stated, "but the bottom was metallic with three large holes in it you could see through."

The UFO tilted downward toward the field and the witnesses could see humanoid-like figures through the translucent dome.

"There were three people in it," the daughter said. "One on the left pointed at us and the one in the middle seemed to be sitting down operating some controls. Then on the far side there seemed to be a door with lights around it... The people were slim and taller than six feet."

Mrs. F asked the driver to stop, but the frightened cabbie accelerated and sped from the scene.

The incident was investigated by Martin Drawbridge and Barry French and reported in the June/July, 1971, edition of *U.F.O.I.C. Newsletter* (P.O. Box E170, St. James, Sydney 2000, Australia).

### *UFO "Attacks" Automobile*

Early on the morning of April 13, Mr. and Mrs. Geoff Richards were driving near Brunswick Junction, about 100 miles south of Perth, Australia.

"After we passed through Brunswick," Richards related in the April 14, 1971, edition of the *Sydney Morning Herald*, "I noticed a light in the rear-vision mirror. Suddenly it came racing up to the car and appeared to be going about 500 miles an hour. My wife screamed that it was going to hit us. Then it just stopped."

Richards said there were two lights -- the light in back that "attacked" the car four times and another in front that made three rushes at the vehicle. Both lights changed color at times from red to white.

### *Object Possible Cause of E-M Effects*

Mrs. Josephine Clark and Mrs. Minna Thompson, of Ben Lomond, Calif., noticed that their house lights and television sets began to flicker and dim in a manner "similar to Morse code impulses" at 12:55 a.m., June 18, according to the August, 1971, issue of *Data-Net*. Leonard Clark and Tom Thompson were alerted and the couples saw "the television antenna and the power lines across the street snapping and buzzing..." The lights of the surrounding towns of Scotts Valley, Felton and Boulder Creek appeared to be similarly reacting.

(Continued on page 2)

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 Business Manager: Martha D. Hall  
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## U.S./SOVIETS BACK EXTRATERRESTRIAL LIFE SEARCH

"The promise of contact with... extraterrestrial [ET] civilizations is sufficiently high to justify initiating a variety of well-formulated search programs," was the conclusion of a group of American and Soviet scientists at a conference held in Byurakan, Russia, September 5-11. The prominent scientists added that our present technological state is so advanced that "useful searches can be initiated at a very modest scale," according to a UPI wire story dated September 22, 1971.

Dr. Carl Sagan, an American organizer of the conference, relayed the group's results to the U.S. National Academy of Sciences and indicated that "there is not enough data" to rule out ET civilizations. He added that scientists should launch a serious effort to "listen" for outer space signals from possible ET beings. The Soviet Union, he related, already has such a program on a small scale, but the U.S. has none.

Sagan, a world-famous astronomer, is director of Cornell University's Laboratory for Planetary Studies. He was also one of six scientists to testify before the House Committee on Science and Astronautics UFO hearing on July 29, 1968, and was a member of a small group that revealed some startling facts about the planet Mars (see *UFO Research Newsletter*, Vol. I, No. 6, p. 6).

Joining Sagan in an interim working group to conduct research in a hunt for ET life is Dr. Frank D. Drake, the Center for Radio Physics and Space Research, Cornell University; P. Morrison, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; B.M. Oliver, Stanford University; R. Pesek, Czechoslovakia Academy of Sciences; N.S. Kardashev and I.S. Shklovsky, Institute for Cosmic Research of the Soviet Union; G.M. Tovmasyan, Byurakan Observatory in Soviet Armenia; and V.S. Troitsky, Institute for Radio Physics of the Gorky State University, U.S.S.R.

## Occupants Highlight Reports (Continued from page 1)

Thompson, walking onto the porch, saw a tremendous, orange ball hovering low.

"It seemed to sparkle, scintillate, or twinkle steadily," the witness related. "The edges of the disc were very round like a hoop."

Thompson said the object was at least as large as the full moon. It was hovering between two pine trees and was "all sparkling, like a fish eye." Then it suddenly disappeared, leaving an odor of ozone in the air.

A power failure occurred exactly one hour after the initial observation, affecting Scotts Valley and the San Lorenzo Valley area from Felton to Boulder Creek. The local power company said some 10,000 customers were affected.

### *Indians Spot Object Over Tea Plantation*

Par Abeywickrema, a planter and superintendent of the Rockwood tea estate, was traveling with his two assistants and chauffeur near Hewaheta, India, when they saw a brilliant round object larger than the full moon at 10:45 p.m., July 17.

Approaching the Rockwood plantation, the witnesses saw the UFO approach them "at lightning speed." It stopped 90 meters from the automobile and descended to about 30 meters from the ground, stated the August 1, 1971, edition of the *Calcutta Hindusthan Standard*. The planters said the UFO was approximately eight meters in diameter and had "two tapering wings on either side."

An estimated 200 people reportedly saw the object.

*Light Beam Emitted from UFO*

At 10:20 p.m., July 15, Duane Stewart was visiting friends, Danny and David Arnold, in Bowie, Maryland.

"We were just talking about nothing in particular when I saw what appeared to be a circular metal object outlined with about 20 small white lights," Duane, 12, stated in the July 29, 1971, edition of the *Bowie Blade and Post-Times*, "and it was coming in our direction. When it got straight overhead, it hovered at a height I was not able to determine because it was dark... But the craft made a whirring sound -- a different kind that I had never heard before."

There were statements that the boys saw a helicopter, but Duane was not convinced.

"This craft was round and when it moved about, it did so in quick left and right movements that no helicopter I've ever seen could duplicate," he countered. "Also, the sound was different. Most importantly, as it circled us I could see the top of the saucer and it had a dome with a red light on it... As we were watching the saucer moved about, a beam of light about five or six feet wide flashed from the bottom of the craft and shone on the ground below, near us, in a sort of searching way, as if it were inspecting a landing place..."

*Erratic-Moving Craft Seen in Illinois and Ohio*

David Krause, of Decatur, Illinois, was walking his dog when he saw a large, orange, bell-shaped UFO hovering just above the TV antenna on the house across the street at about 8:25 a.m., June 22.

As the witness watched, the object moved to the left, then back to its original spot, Leonard Strum of the Midwest UFO Network (MUFON), reported in the September, 1971, edition of *SkyLook*. It then changed its color to red and "just disappeared." According to the report, the dog did not react.

At about 1:30 a.m., August 12, two men camping in Braceville Township, Ohio, saw "a large shiny object, round with blinking light," stated the August 26, 1971, edition of the Fort Worth, Texas, *Cross Country News*. The UFO flew at a high velocity, erratically moving from side to side and up and down. It also reportedly dropped "silver objects similar to shooting stars."

SIGHTING CAPSULES

The following reports from six states since June have also come to UFOR's attention:

- September 7, 1971. 11:30 p.m. Near Decatur, Illinois. Robert T. Dillow observed a UFO with a flashing "series of colored lights rotating in a clockwise direction." The object, as large as an orange held at arm's length, climbed slowly to the northeast and was seen for 35 or 40 minutes. (Possible explanations: weather balloon or planetary illusion).

- August 25, 1971. Evening. Beckemeyer, Illinois. Gerald Skiver saw a small light going from southwest to northeast. It disappeared and reappeared 30 minutes later. It descended, hovered and changed color "from white to a red blinking light."

- August 24, 1971. 9:45 p.m. South St. Louis County, Missouri. John Schuessler, director of the UFO Study Group of Greater St. Louis, and others. Witnesses saw three "round blobs of bright red light, apparently not connected because you could see sky between them." The UFOs traveled fast from north to south.

- August 17, 1971. About 8:40 p.m. Rochester, N.Y. A "basket-type," cylindrical object with what looked like bright headlights was observed by several witnesses, according to the *Rochester Times Union*, August 18, 1971. The object was traveling about 35 m.p.h. One man said he saw it over a lake. One "piece" fell from it, he reported, then another, which "burst into flames." (Editor's note: the Irondequoit Seaplane Flying Club said it had two planes, which were on floats and which might look like a basket, in the area at the time of the sighting. The report is also reminiscent of a hoax balloon).

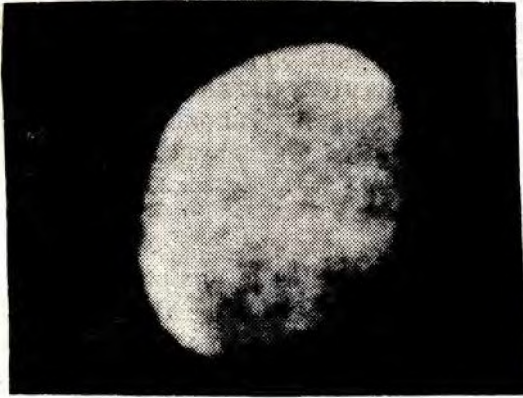
- August 13, 1971. About 9:45 p.m. Near Carlyle, Illinois. Beulah W. Herman saw a "bright, round orange ball coming from the north." (Possible explanations: meteor or weather balloon).
- August 8, 1971. About 12:40 a.m. Springfield, Oregon. Ollie Williams said he saw "an object resembling a comet without a tail..." that disappeared behind some hills, according to the August 9, 1971, edition of the *Springfield News*. Others reported seeing the object and, at 2:40 a.m., a pilot said he saw three meteorites in the area. (Possible explanation: meteorite).
- July 19 and 22, 1971. Evening and early morning. Fulton, Mercer and Adams Counties, Illinois. Numerous witnesses, including police officers, saw objects with multi-colored, blinking lights. One of the objects "stayed there all night," stated the *Canton Daily Ledger*, July 20 and 22, 1971. (Probable explanations: aircraft and planets).
- July 15, 1971. Approximately 8:45 p.m. Fayetteville, Arkansas. Mrs. Dick Dyer and others. Observers saw a "large streak of fire in the sky," stated the July 16, 1971, edition of the *Northwest Arkansas Times*. The object was large at the front, tapered off toward the back, and emitted sparks. It was seen for six or seven minutes at a high altitude and "just disappeared." (Editor's note: this report has all the characteristics of a meteor with one exception -- the duration of the sighting; meteors are usually seen for only a few seconds at a time and very rarely for as long as 30 seconds).
- July 12, 1971. Dusk. Sweet Springs, Missouri. A man and his mother said they saw "a saucer with streamers of multi-colored fire" flying slowly south. A similar "disc with colored streamers" was seen several moments later. (Possible explanation: meteors).
- July 10, 1971. Approximately 9:30 p.m. Near Centralia, Illinois. A group of teen-agers saw an object with "a cluster of gold-colored lights" that "shot across the sky..." (Possible explanation: meteor).
- July 6, 1971. Evening. Near Boulder, Illinois. Duane Bright and sister saw a round UFO approximately four feet in diameter at a high altitude. It appeared to change color and moved back and forth. (Possible explanation: planetary illusion).
- July 1, 1971. 9-10:45 p.m. Carlyle Lake, Illinois. Rosetta Holmes and Terry S. Turner, MUFON investigators, saw brilliant yellowish-orange objects "approximately twice the size of Venus..." on five different occasions during their one and three-quarter hour observation. One of the objects "went out like a light bulb."
- June 18, 1971. About 10:30 p.m. Beckemeyer, Illinois. Terry S. Turner and Jerrel Garner witnessed a bright orange light hovering over the southwest section of the town at an altitude of approximately 150-200 feet. It remained motionless. (Possible explanation: planet).
- June 17, 1971. About 10 p.m. Near Carlyle, Illinois. A housewife saw a white comet-like object that appeared to make a revolution every 15 seconds.
- June 16, 1971. About 8:45 p.m. Beckemeyer, Illinois. Gerald Skiver, 14, observed some white lights, then "a few round, dark-colored discs... flying in an oval formation." After about 20 seconds they changed formation and disappeared to the west. (The above sightings from September 9, August 13, 24, and 25, July 6 and 10, and June 16-18, were reported in the October, 1971, edition of *Skylook*, and those of July 1 and 12, in the September, 1971, *Skylook*, Box 129, Stover, Missouri).

#### INVESTIGATION NETS NEGATIVE RESULTS IN BRITISH PHOTO CASE

A thorough investigation by three prominent UFO investigators of the case in which a British constable snapped photographs of a "disc" has netted negative results. (See *UFO Research Newsletter*, Vol. I, No. 6, p. 1).

According to the October 17, 1971, edition of *The National Enquirer*, 10 police constables and a number of other witnesses saw a UFO over Aldridge, Staffordshire, England, at about 2:30 a.m., August 16. Constable Leslie Leek snapped a dozen photographs. The Chief Constable and the Ministry of Defence released one of the pictures

and suppressed the rest. The Staffordshire Chief Constable remarked that "it was not in the public interest to release the photos" and sent them to the Ministry.



"Object" Photographed by Constable Leek on August 16, 1971

Constable Leek said he received a call from someone who claimed a UFO was hovering over his garage.

"I thought it was just a nut calling and didn't believe him, but he kept insisting," the policeman related. "I finally drove over in a patrol car. There I saw it. Hanging over the garage about 1,000 feet up was an egg-shaped object. It seemed to be very big indeed. It was a bright, silvery yellow and just seemed to hang in the sky. Suddenly it started to move, and continued moving very slowly. This convinced me that it was quite near and I was not mistaking it for a star."

Leek said he got a camera from the station house and returned to the scene with the station telephone operator, Mrs. Joyce Smith. The UFO "was still there, moving slightly from side to side." It also changed color from yellow to orange. Leek then took the photographs. Mrs. Smith said the object, at times, changed its shape to that "of an inverted saucer."

#### *Other Constables Sight the Object*

Mrs. Smith added that approximately 10 policemen saw the UFO.

"We all drove down with Les Leek and saw this bright, silvery yellow object in the sky," stated Constable Robert Smart. "To make sure we were not 'seeing things,' I drove a couple of miles away and observed it from that angle. The shape seemed to change slightly..."

Constable David Hopkins said that "it was weird and seemed to glow. I had never seen anything like it before..."

Leek said the UFO began to move away after he and the other officers had been watching it for about two hours.

"We chased it in a car, going southeast, until we were moving too fast for safety," he added. "We stopped. It seemed to race away eastward at high speed, its color changing to bright orange, and it disappeared. It was too big to be the planet Mars and it moved back and forth as we watched it. I am mystified why the Chief Constable ordered the pictures to be withheld."

Dr. J. Allen Hynek, long-time chief UFO scientific consultant for the Air Force, Julian J.A. Hennessey, and Roger Stanway investigated the incident. Hennessey sent a report to UFOR.

#### *Officers Sighted Planets, Investigators Say*

The thorough report, written by Hennessey, discounts the sighting of a UFO:

"From accurate prismatic compass bearings of the reported position of the object when seen from (a) Aldridge Police Station, (b) 'The Pantry' in Walsall Road and (c) Sutton Road, we were able to pinpoint the object's exact position in the sky. Having done this, we contacted Keel University and obtained data concerning the ascension, sidereal time, etc., of the planet Mars. With this information, a little calculation determined, beyond all reasonable doubt, that the object viewed by the Sergeant and Constables from positions a, b, and c was the planet Mars. We also believe that when Constables Leek and Hopkins viewed an object directly above them in Longwood Lane, they were... looking at... Vega..."

"Concerning the photographs, examination of the negatives, from which the prints distributed are many time enlargements of but a small section of the 35 mm negatives, revealed a number of interesting points, the most notable of which was... that the

image did not appear in sequence, there being blank negatives between those bearing the image. Our discussion with Constable Leek revealed four important points: (1) in taking the photos, he noticed that the light meter needle rose to the '9' mark; (2) he did not remain in one position when taking the photos, but moved around; (3) he at all time tried to center the object in his viewfinder, and (4) he did not observe the apparent change of the size of the objects as shown on the prints. Having already established that he had been viewing and attempting to photograph Mars, which although exceptionally bright had insufficient intensity to register so strongly on the film, it was only necessary to determine what other light source was in the area."

*Tests Reveal Constable Probably Photographed Street Lamp Image*

"Returning to Walsall Road in the evening," Hennessey continued in his report, "we positioned ourselves in the center of the road and, using the same camera Constable Leek took the photographs with, noted that the meter readings from the mercury street lights were exactly '9'. In addition, when observed through the viewfinder, the lamps threw out a ghost image which appeared on our test photographs... We concluded... that the image on the negatives is a street light.

"In our experience we have found that... it is definitely not uncommon for people to mistake Mars or Venus for an unusual object... Undoubtedly, the atmosphere was somewhat charged by the telephone call of Mr. Wilcox, who was convinced the object was only 120' above the garage opposite 'The Pantry,' and this, combined with the fact that Mars was in close opposition and therefore very bright, set the scene."

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND UFOs

By Dr. James E. McDonald

*[Part 4 of a series. Before his death earlier this year, Dr. McDonald was senior physicist, Institute of Atmospheric Physics, University of Arizona. Following are excerpts from a prepared statement of a talk given January 26, 1968, at a General Seminar of the United Aircraft Research Laboratories, East Hartford, Connecticut]*

Science has, over the past few centuries, erected a strong framework of fact and theory that successfully encompasses much of our experience. On this impressive and steadily rising framework are supported our ever-broadening technologies...

A truism about science that has strong bearing on what I shall be saying to you concerning the UFO problem is this: Proud as we can be of today's cumulative record of scientific exploration of the world about us, we certainly do not yet know all that deserves the name of fundamental scientific knowledge. Indeed, do we not all subscribe to the spirit of the closing lines of Alfred Noyes' moving trilogy about science, "The Torchbearers":

"Who that has once seen how truth leads on to truth  
Shall ever dare to set a bound to knowledge?"

A truism about technology that has strong bearing on what I shall be saying about UFOs today is this: Given time, an edifice of expanding technology far more impressive than that which we see about us [now] could be erected simply on the basis of the *present* stock of fundamental scientific knowledge. The magnitude of the technological edifice that will grow with the seemingly exponential increase of *future* scientific discoveries is vastly greater, unforeseeably greater than our current technology.

A truism about modern man's outlook on nature and on his place therein that has strong bearing on the present status of the UFO problem is this: In his centuries-long struggle out of slavery to superstition and fear of the supernatural, modern science-oriented man has developed subtle but well-ingrained dispositions to reject observations and reports of the anomalous and the inexplicable; and that rejection is the more vehement the farther the observations seem to lie beyond the pale of present-day science.

Finally, a truism about UFOs themselves: Today, as for the past 20 years of "the UFO era," a majority of scientists tend to view UFOs as a nonsense problem, one deserving only scorn or silent disdain. Throughout the entire world, only a small handful of scientists have taken the trouble to attempt direct checks on the puzzling and recurrent reports of UFO phenomena...

*Air Force Study a "Whitewash"*

I conclude that only abysmally limited scientific competence has been brought to the study of UFOs within Air Force circles in the past 15 years. Unfortunately, during all this time, the scientific community and the public were repeatedly assured that substantial scientific talent was being used in Air Force UFO studies. This was untrue, and I believe that it has been scientifically disastrous to UFO studies that this image was steadfastly built up... To me, the record reveals only a rather low-powered, low-priority whitewash job by a very tiny project... We confront here no grand conspiracy, but rather an incompetently handled operation devoid of scientific talent...

The ETH [extraterrestrial hypothesis] seems, of course, absurdly improbable on both first and second inspection... Scientists aware of the growing body of knowledge concerning conditions on the other planets of the solar system find it difficult to imagine that a high technology could possibly exist on any other planet of our solar system...

That's too bad, since it crowds into a tight corner the supporter of the ETH. He is, quite properly, confronted with the challenge to come up with some answer as to how the UFOs cross the vast reaches of interstellar space in reasonable intervals of time. In that challenge lies the heart, I believe, of most present scientific rejection of the ETH -- a seemingly insuperable propulsion problem...

*An Example of Lack of Scientific Foresight*

My own inclination (supported by months of study of the UFO evidence) is to appeal to the implications of that boundless future of science and technology that we seem to be able to discern as an extrapolation of our own present-day progress. What seemed absurdly impossible a century ago, we do today and take for granted. A few weeks before the Wrights flew, noted astronomer Simon Newcomb published an article showing why heavier-than-air flight by man was out of the question... When one... recalls that, months *after* the first success at Kitty Hawk, Dayton newspapers refused to run any stories about all those silly rumors that two brothers were actually flying a machine along the interurban line on the outskirts of the town (it just didn't make sense), then one is disinclined to be overpowered by arguments of those who... would reject the ETH on grounds that nothing in our existing propulsion technology and nothing in our currently foreseeable technology makes "sense" out of the notion of interstellar travel. To be sure, we don't yet have any red hot ideas for getting out to Tau Ceti; but the pace and tempo of our own technology ought to give pause to those who insist that there are no Tau Cetians who can do that which *we* still regard impossible...

Not only would science move ahead enormously, once it got over what can now only be predicted as a dreadful shock of recognition, if the ETH is correct, but also the technological gains that could accrue from contact with and study of a technological society far beyond ours could be enormous...

What a closer look at the UFO evidence... suggest[s] is this: Current scientific attitudes towards the UFO problem must be radically altered. We must stop smugly laughing at "all those nuts" who see UFOs, stop accepting hollow assurances from the official agency that has so long and so incredibly mishandled the UFO problem, and stop assuming that the very idea of our being under extraterrestrial surveillance is so amusingly absurd.

In past months, I have been at most of the Washington agencies one might expect to take a new, hard look at UFOs. To sum up briefly my results -- zero-point-zero.

Despite NASA's claim that it has keyed its whole space program to the "search for Life in space," NASA seems not to be even slightly interested in looking into the UFO problem. Other science-oriented agencies may see subtle political hazards in moving into the UFO problem. Congress seems indisposed to initiate any action. And at every turn one hears, "Wait till [the University of] Colorado [UFO Project] makes its report"...

After about 18 months of study and direct interviewing of about 300 witnesses in important UFO cases, I can say to you that I see the UFO problem as one of extraordinary scientific importance.

#### POLICEMEN SEE LOW-FLYING UFO

Two police officers saw a UFO that descended to "less than 100 feet off the ground" in the vicinity of New Ulm, Minnesota, just after 2 a.m., November 12, 1969, according to the March, 1971, issue of *Sentinel*, published by F.M. Castator, of Banning, Calif. (P.O. Box 715, Banning, Calif.).

Deputy Sheriff Ernest Tande saw a large flashing red light low to the ground, the report, which was recounted in the September 19, 1971, edition of the *Riverside, Calif. Press*, stated.

"At first it didn't move," Tande related. "Then it began to travel over the TV tower at Godahl. It stopped again, then started in a southwest direction. When it was directly west of me, I called Stephen Benson of the St. James Police and asked if he could see it.

"He couldn't see it at first, but he called back a little while later and said he had spotted the object. Then it went northeast towards New Ulm less than 100 feet off the ground. It stopped at the west edge of Hanska real close to the ground and I could see it real good from where I was sitting on the county line road near LaSalle.

"The wind was from the northwest, but I couldn't hear any motor noise or anything. At first, I thought it was a lost airplane because it didn't travel in any definite direction. I got within a couple miles of the object and I'm sure it wasn't an airplane.

"I just don't know what it was. It's got me buffaloed."

#### SCIENTIST PROCLAIMS POSSIBILITY OF LIFE ON OR NEAR JUPITER

There is a possibility of life on or near the planet Jupiter, stated astronomer Karl G. Henize at the 50th anniversary convention of the Ohio Vocational Association, according to a UPI wire story dated October 9, 1971.

Henize stated that the far-out planet's temperature is about 100 degrees below zero, but it is warmer in certain layers of the atmosphere, which contains methane and ammonia, believed the bases for life.

"It is possible certain life forms are floating between layers of atmosphere," the scientist said. "There is not strong evidence, but we should not discount the possibility."

The astronomer, a member of the Apollo 15 support crew, could become the first scientist to take a trip into outer space. He hopes to take a Skylab flight in 1973 or 1974.

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Vol. I, No. 8, of *UFO Research Newsletter*, will be ready for mailing on or about November 15. Included will be excerpts from a prepared statement of a speech by Dr. James McDonald before the Canadian Astronautics and Space Institute Astronautics Symposium, Montreal, Canada, on March 12, 1968.