

'ERASE RIDICULE'

McDonald Asks U.N. To Begin Study Of UFO's

By JOHN RIDDICK
Citizen Staff Writer

University of Arizona physicist James E. McDonald is trying to persuade the United Nations to begin a global study of Unidentified Flying Objects.

At the request of Secretary-General U Thant, McDonald briefed the U.N. Outer Space Affairs Group in New York last week. An appointment with U Thant was canceled at the last minute because the war in the mideast reached a crisis point in the Security Council.

"Apparently U Thant is very much interested in the problem," said McDonald, senior physicist of the UA Institute of Atmospheric Physics.

McDonald began correspondence with U Thant on UFOs following reports that delegates of some smaller nations, particularly African, have become concerned about increased sightings.

A leading atmospheric physicist, McDonald has been studying UFOs the last year and has come to the conclusion that they are the No. 1 scientific problem of the day.

McDonald told the U.N. committee last Wednesday that the most "acceptable hypothesis for the quite astonishing number of creditably reported low-level, close-range sightings of machine-like objects is that they are some form of extraterrestrial probe."

He added: "I know of no other current scientific problem that is more intrinsically international in character than the problem of the nature and origin of UFOs."

Scientists all over the world have been misled by overconfidence in the quality of the

research on UFOs by the U.S. Air Force, he said. First among the jobs is to erase the ridicule which has placed the UFOs on the shelf as a "non-sense problem."

McDonald said: "Because of the current official, journalistic and scientific ridicule, there has been almost no scientific attention given to the problem."

If it should be proved untrue that UFOs represent reconnaissance of the earth from outer space, alternative hypotheses will be "even more bizarre," he said.

As one technique where worldwide cooperation can be effective, McDonald suggested coordinating the search of the skies by radar on the different continents.

McDonald said there have been unexplained radar sightings, as well as a large number of observations, where hovering UFOs have caused electromagnetic disturbances.

Above all, he said, it is necessary to find if there is a global pattern to the sightings which have accelerated greatly in number during the last two decades.

A Russian member of the U.N. group, taking many notes, told McDonald: "We are seriously concerned with the problem." The group is a secretariat organization for the committee on Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

In his efforts to persuade his own countrymen to take UFOs seriously and to begin a large-scale scientific study of them, McDonald has talked to numerous groups, most recently including technical people at the headquarters of the Federal Aviation Agency and a regional meeting of the Civil Air Patrol.

Next week he leaves for Australia to study meteorological problems. During his visit he will interview persons who have reported seeing UFOs. There is considerable interest in the problem in Australia.

Lovers' Hazard Sidelines Stars

LARKHALL, England (UPI) —The Larkhall Lovers soccer team is being disbanded. Four of the stars are pregnant.

The team, composed of the wives of the Larkhall athletic squad, was formed because the women got tired of hearing their husbands talk about sport all the time.

"It looks like we'll go back to doing the Larkhall athletic laundry," said ladies' captain Mrs. Brenda Tiley.