

## McDonald Hits UFO Report

### Says Study Ignores Facts

Dr. James E. McDonald, senior physicist at the University of Arizona's Institute of Atmospheric Physics, today called for scientists to challenge the just-released Condon Report on unidentified flying objects (UFOs).

"This report must be vigorously challenged lest it succeed in cutting off serious scientific attention to a matter of extremely great importance," he said.

McDonald was in Washington last week for release of the report and made today's statement after studying 1,000-page document.

Dr. Edward U. Condon, professor of physics at the University of Colorado, working on a half-million-dollar Air Force contract, did a scientific study of UFOs and concluded that "nothing has come from the study of UFOs in the past 21 years that has added to scientific knowledge."

Condon also concluded that "further extensive study of UFOs probably cannot be justified in the expectation that science will be advanced." His report was released last Thursday.

"It should be challenged by those of us who have been conducting independent studies," McDonald said.

"Condon evidently didn't realize that the report he has submitted runs about 15 to 20 per cent unexplained cases, whereas the Air Force Project Blue Book has been putting out percentages close to 3 or 4 per cent for years," McDonald said.

"He has almost completely avoided confrontation with the past 25 years of Air Force handling of the problem; and he has given only superficial attention to the hundreds of classic unexplained cases of those 20 years."

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'GIANT STEP BACKWARDS'

# UFO Investigator Derides Condon Report Findings

By MARGARET KUEHLTHAU  
Citizen Staff Writer

"If Dr. Edward C. Condon, some 20 years ago, had headed a committee investigating the possibility of a trip around the moon and a lunar landing, would he have recommended that teachers quit giving credit to students for reading books and articles on the subject?"

The question was asked by L. J. Lorenzen, international director of the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization (APRO), in an interview Saturday. Lorenzen said the question was legitimate because, only a few years ago, articles on interterrestrial travel were considered "science fiction."

The scientist was referring to a statement in the recently released Condon Report that some school children are being "educationally harmed by absorbing unsound and erroneous accounts about UFOs." It recommended that teachers quit giving credit to students for reading books and articles on the subject.

Declaring that "Dr. Condon has bravely taken a giant step backwards," Lorenzen said that Condon's committee "hasn't yet suggested the burning of books, articles and other scientific data on Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs) — and that is reassuring."

Condon headed a group of scientists who, after a two-year study that cost \$50,000, has concluded that "further study of UFOs cannot be justified scientifically."

Lorenzen, is a former engineer with the Space Division of Kitt Peak National Observatory who spent six years in the Electronics Maintenance Division of Telecomputing Corp. at Holloman Air Force Base.

He said that APRO, a nonprofit scientific and educational corporation, "has not made the claim that little men from other planets are visiting this earth."

"We ask only that scientists keep an open mind on the subject and continue to investigate unexplained sightings," he said.

"That the Condon Committee failed to find evidence of extraterrestrial intelligence should come as no surprise. Their contract with the Air Force did not require them to investigate this possibility and they decided not to do so."

"A Dr. David Saunders, a Condon Committee member, insisted that the committee take an objective view of UFOs and says this was the chief factor in his being fired from the project," Lorenzen said.

A book by Saunders, "UFOs — Yes!" will, Lorenzen said, be available next month. He added that Saunders of the University of Colorado "has disclosed that a neutron activation analysis of a metal fragment recovered from a flying disc which exploded over a beach in Brazil, verified earlier APRO findings of Dr. Olavo T. Fontes."

"Both Saunders and Olavo proved that the metal was magnesium of a purity that could not

be duplicated by earth technology in 1957 when the incident took place," Lorenzen said.

Predicting a "scientific backlash" to the report by the Condon Committee, Lorenzen said Rep. Jerry Pettis, congressman from California, has announced that he will ask for an ad hoc committee to look into the UFO problem, early in the next session of Congress.

Pettis' decision came after examining a UFO case at Redlands, Calif., documented by an APRO investigator and adviser, Dr. Philip Seff, at the time,

was acting as a member of the University of Colorado Early Warning Network.

Lorenzen said he believes the Air Force, as "a result of persistent 'overkill' techniques, applied to its UFO public information efforts, has lost control of the situation."

"I believe we have reached a milestone, or turning point, in UFO research," Lorenzen said. "If the Air Force really believes the Condon Report, they will close 'Project Bluebook' and get out of the flying saucer business."

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