

UA Physicist Says Official Probe Of UFOs Cloaked In Incompetence

By JOHN RIDDICK
Citizen Staff Writer

The annual report of the Air Force on unidentified flying objects, just released, indicates it is still "blissfully unaware of the serious problem it has on its hands." University of Arizona physicist Dr. James E. McDonald said today.

"Once again, the public has been given the impression that the Air Force is carefully investigating the UFOs and can explain all but a negligible fraction of the reports," said McDonald.

"Nothing could be further from the truth. The public, the Congress and the scientists are being misled.

"In 1966, I made three visits to the Air Force UFO investigating office, Project Blue Book at Wright-Patterson AFB. I have never seen such superficiality and incompetence in an area of such potentially enormous scientific importance."

After 10 months of intensive study of UFOs, McDonald says he is increasingly convinced that they are "real" and they are probably from outer space — "however shocking that sounds."

In the annual report, Maj. Hector Quintanilla, Project Blue Book director, said just the reverse.

Only 30 of the cases reported to the Air Force last year are

"unexplained," said Quintanilla, and only 676 of the 11,107 sightings since 1947 are in this category.

Moreover, says Quintanilla, there is no evidence that the still "unexplained" UFOs "represent technological development or principles beyond the range of present-day scientific knowledge."

He also says that the UFOs show no signs of hostility nor of having come from outer space.

McDonald says in disagreement, "I'd advise the public to view these Blue Book statistics as meaningless.

"My review of the Blue Book files left me with the impression that there are five to 10 times as many unexplained cases as they indicate.

"Furthermore, anyone who has studied the problem closely knows that the Air Force gets only a small fraction of the sightings because of the public fear of ridicule."

McDonald said there are an "astounding" number of credibly reported UFOs which defy explanation in terms of contemporary technology or scientific knowledge.

Commonly, UFOs are explained as misunderstanding of man-made vehicles such as aircraft or of natural events such as lightning and mirages or as hallucinations.

McDonald agrees that these

all occur. But he says there are hundreds, perhaps thousands that can't be so explained.

The national UFO study is now "mired in incompetence," said McDonald. He called for an investigation by Congress and suggested that the study be taken from the Air Force and given to the National Aeronautics

AMA Against Restrictions On Doctors

WASHINGTON (AP) — The American Medical Association today opposed a bill that would prevent doctors from selling the medicine they prescribe.

The AMA statement was prepared for the Senate antitrust and monopoly subcommittee.

Dr. James Z. Appel, former AMA president, said some doctors sell drugs, eyeglasses and other medical supplies "in order that they may best serve the public interest."

Sen. Philip A. Hart, D-Mich., subcommittee chairman, has contended the dual role can represent a conflict of interest.

Appel said physicians, with few exceptions, consider it their duty to make sure the patient is fairly treated.

He said the Hart bill would not stop unscrupulous doctors from exploiting their patients.

and Space Administration (NASA).

"The new program sponsored by the Air Force at the University of Colorado is a good beginning but much too small," he said.

"I have the impression that the Air Force with its primary concern of national security would like to get rid of this problem. This is reflected in the superficial way it is handling the investigation.

"A large body of evidence from the past 20 years leads many investigators to the conviction that the UFOs are extra-terrestrial and that they are engaged in what might be loosely described as reconnaissance.

"After examining hundreds of cases and talking with dozens of witnesses, I am forced to conclude that the UFOs are real objects whose precise nature the Air Force nor anyone else understands yet.

"But whether you suspect they are extra-terrestrial as I do or that they are some unprecedented psychological disturbance, I am convinced that the world will come to accept them as the No. 1 scientific problem of the day."

Last year had the highest number of UFO sightings of any except 1952. The number that are reliably reported is increasing as are the serious books which reached the rate of one a month last year, said McDonald.