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Chairman: Mr. PIZA-ESCALANTE (Costa Rica)

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The meeting was called to order at 11 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 126

ESTABLISHMENT OF AN AGENCY OR A DEPARTMENT OF THE UNITED NATIONS FOR UNDERTAKING, CO-ORDINATING AND DISSEMINATING THE RESULTS OF RESEARCH INTO UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS AND RELATED PHENOMENA (A/33/141, A/33/268)

Sir Eric M. GAIRY (Grenada): Mr. Chairman, I should like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on the excellent manner in which you have been directing the affairs of this Committee since the commencement of the session. My representatives in this Committee have made me fully aware of your invaluable input of experience, wisdom and diplomatic skill, which has permeated the very many discussions that have been taking place in this Committee, and I am satisfied that your leadership here will redound not only to the benefit of this Committee but also to the work of the entire General Assembly. It is a credit to your great country to have someone like your good self fulfilling so adequately the task which the position of Chairman demands.

The fact that I am here today heading my country's delegation and leading discussion of the subject which now lies before us, is proof of my deep personal conviction that the subject of unidentified flying objects is a matter of world-wide importance and significance and, indeed, one which warrants very serious consideration by this Special Political Committee.

The recent report of the abduction of a Cessna aircraft in Australia seems to me to be a compelling reason for the United Nations to come alive to its responsibilities and take a serious look at the UFO phenomenon to which planet earth has been so conspicuously exposed since 1947. But the recent incident in Australia, which has been given world-wide publicity, is only one of tens of thousands of such incidents reported by persons in nearly every corner of our globe who have demonstrated some measure of courage. UFOCAT, a computerized catalogue of reported sightings, has listed over 60,000 cases drawn from virtually all parts of the world. That listing, of course, has undoubtedly excluded many sightings - perhaps an equal number - that people have failed to report for fear of being ridiculed.

(Sir Eric M. Gairy, Grenada)

It is very important for all of us here to bear in mind that we are dealing with a particular phenomenon which is evident everywhere on our planet earth and which causes serious concern not only to national Governments, or even to scientists and experts, but more so, apparently, to ordinary men and women especially younger and better educated people who are yearning, as it were for sensible explanations of the phenomenon from those who are in a position to provide the answers.

In 1975 we raised the matter of UFOs and other related phenomena in the General Assembly of the United Nations with a view to having the United Nations take the necessary action to co-ordinate research in this field. Again in 1976 we raised the subject. In 1977 we emphasized our concern because of the rapidly growing interest manifested in this subject all over the world, the magnitude of which has been gathering tremendous momentum. Earlier this year in the General Assembly we again re-emphasized the need to establish an agency to study the origin, nature and intention of that particular phenomenon and the urgency of such action. However, when the item was first included on the agenda of the General Assembly and discussed in the Special Political Committee, my delegation made it quite clear that Grenada was flexible regarding the mechanism to be established for conducting and co-ordinating the type of research envisaged. We were concerned then, as we are today, about the newness of the item within United Nations circles and also about the high cost of establishing an agency or department.

Many people may wonder about our being preoccupied with a subject such as UFOs instead of concentrating on matters directly affecting the development of our world. The answer to that, as we have taken the trouble to explain before, especially in 1977, is very simple indeed and worthy of repetition. The fact is that the entire world is so preoccupied - and quite understandably so - with international problems affecting individual countries that it often seems to forget or to put very little emphasis on international matters relating to the earth as one planet. As I have said repeatedly - and this has been substantiated by very distinguished persons - it is presumptuous for men to believe that they are God's only intelligent beings and that no other intelligent life exists on

(Sir Eric M. Gairy, Grenada)

other planets. Such a belief is a gross fallacy. Indeed, we are all aware no doubt of the increasing number of attempts being made by the use of high-level technology to confirm the existence of extraterrestrial life.

From documents distributed to this very Committee it is already known that leading scientists, researchers and experts in the field of ufology unanimously signed a resolution at the First International Congress on the UFO Phenomenon in April 1977, endorsing and supporting the initiative that my Government had taken in the matter of UFO research, and offering to join in its thrust to bring this matter to the attention of the United Nations. That is a very happy and encouraging circumstance, because those are the very scientists who, for many years, have been actively involved in UFO research and who have had the courage to bring their findings to the attention of the public. Many of the scientists have been ridiculed and so have been forced to keep a very low profile lest they lose both their minds and their professional reputations. This interlocking relationship between Grenada and the scientific community in a common enterprise has given UFO research in the scientific world a new stature and an entirely new dimension. The fact that several scientists now form part of Grenada's delegation to this session of the General Assembly and have been invited to make statements in support of our position on this item is enough evidence of a commitment to bringing the UFO phenomenon to the attention of this world body and to help to demonstrate to this august body the necessity for its active involvement in conducting and co-ordinating research in this vital field.

Many countries with which my Government has consulted have expressed great interest in this item and have promised their support for the action we are proposing. We are fully aware of the very wide range of concepts regarding the origin, nature and the intent of this particular phenomenon. Indeed, there are many differences in concept among Governments. There are many differences among scientists, researchers and other investigators. There are many differences among mystics and parapsychologists, and certainly among the rank and file.

Our presentation here today is not designed to ask this august and venerable body to decide on concepts or to find an immediate solution for this phenomenal problem and, in spite of the fact that we have already circulated preliminary draft resolutions, we have come to think that, because of the concerns expressed

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by many Governments, justifiably or otherwise, regarding the costs of establishing new agencies, departments or committees - even ad hoc committees - within the structure of the United Nations and because of certain public postures taken by certain friendly and well-respected Governments on this matter of UFOs, our bold and persistent request which has been repeatedly emphasized even as recently as Thursday, 12 October of this year during the course of my address to the General Assembly, might not be expedient at this particular time.

As a consequence of all this and because of what we sense to be the consensus, we have now decided to suggest to the Committee a new course of action and to present a very modest draft resolution, action in support of which could cause absolutely no embarrassment to any Member nation of the United Nations.

(Sir Eric M. Gairy, Grenada)

Our new draft resolution calls for action on the item to be taken under the aegis of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. What we envisage is a three-man Committee set up by the Secretary-General and working within the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. The work of that small committee would coincide with the normal activities of the outer space Committee and its report would be submitted as a report of the latter.

The draft resolution will in due course be officially submitted by the Secretariat and it is my hope that, when it comes up for discussion at a later stage of this debate, it will find the ready support of all Member nations of this Organization.

It is well known that Grenada is a small country, but I want to emphasize the fact that, size notwithstanding, we have a deep interest in the welfare of all nations and all peoples on our earth planet and, as such, we are genuinely concerned about any phenomenon which might detract from or otherwise interfere with the fulfilment of man's aspirations and his striving towards the fostering and maintenance of peaceful coexistence.

I thank the universal God for the privilege given to me to make this presentation and I shall now read out the draft resolution. It reads as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Mindful of its commitment to promote international co-operation in solving international problems,

"Noting the statements made by Grenada at the thirtieth, thirty-first, thirty-second and thirty-third sessions of the General Assembly regarding unidentified flying objects and related phenomena which continue to baffle mankind, and Grenada's appeal to have the United Nations conduct and co-ordinate research into these baffling phenomena, and to disseminate more widely among the nations of the world information and other data gathered and available on the phenomena,

"Aware of the growing interest taken by people of the world in unidentified flying objects and related phenomena, and also interest in strange happenings in various parts of the world, and recognizing the commitment to research into these phenomena demonstrated by certain national Governments, individual scientists, researchers and educational institutions,

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"1. Recommends that, in consultation with the appropriate specialized agencies, the United Nations Organization initiate, conduct and co-ordinate research into the nature and origin of unidentified flying objects and related phenomena;

"2. Requests the Secretary-General to invite Member States, specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations to transmit to him by 31 May 1979 information and proposals which would facilitate the proposed study.

"3. Further requests the Secretary-General to appoint at the earliest possible date a three-member group of experts under the aegis of The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, for the purpose of defining guidelines for the proposed study:

"4. Decides that the group of experts meet during the sessions of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to study information and proposals submitted to the Secretary-General by Member States, specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations:

"5. Also decides that the group of experts report on its work through The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to the thirty-fourth session of the General Assembly;

"6. Decides further to include in the provisional agenda of the thirty-fourth session of the General Assembly an item entitled "Report of the group of experts of The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for the defining of guidelines for the study of unidentified flying objects and related phenomena."

Mr. Chairman, I now request that you permit the honourable Mr. Wellington Friday, my Minister for Education and Deputy Chairman of my delegation, to introduce the other speakers at this time.

Mr. FRIDAY (Grenada): During the course of his statement my Prime Minister referred to a resolution which was adopted and signed by the scientists who attended the First International Congress on the UFO Phenomenon in Acapulco. I should like to begin by reading out that resolution because it provides a background against which the contributions of the scientists here this morning should be viewed.

(Mr. Friday, Grenada)

The resolution was adopted in April 1977, and reads as follows:

"Whereas the Prime Minister of Grenada, the Right Honourable Sir Eric Matthew Gairy, has already raised the question of unidentified flying objects and related phenomena at the United Nations during the thirtieth and thirty-first sessions of the General Assembly, urged that body to establish an agency or a department for research into those matters and requested the more widespread release of accumulated data on unidentified flying objects;

"Whereas there has been world-wide acclaim for the initiative that the Prime Minister has taken on a matter which many nations of the world consider highly sensitive;

"Whereas the Prime Minister, at the First International Congress on the UFO Phenomenon held in Acapulco, Mexico, has declared that it is his irrevocable intention relentlessly to pursue this matter and to secure and harness the support of all Member nations of the United Nations, some of which have already expressed deep interest in and support for the initiative already taken;

(Mr. Friday, Grenada)

"Be it resolved that:

"All participants attending the First International Congress on the UFO Phenomenon at the Convention Centre, Acapulco, Mexico, from 18 to 24 April 1977, organized by the Centre for Information and Investigation of UFO and Parapsychological Phenomena, unanimously recognize the initiative already taken by The Honourable Prime Minister of Grenada on the phenomenon of unidentified flying objects;

"Congratulate him for his forthright stand on the matter of research into unidentified flying objects.

"Stand behind him in his effort to foster United Nations participation in this important matter; and

"Urge him to pursue his diplomatic thrust in seeking co-operation from other nations of the world to bring about the establishment of a United Nations agency or department for research into unidentified flying objects and other related phenomena."

It is against that background that the Grenada delegation has invited several of those scientists who participated in that Congress in Acapulco to attend here today and to make statements in support of our position on the item on the agenda. With your permission, Mr. Chairman, I should like to read out the biography of the first speaker, Dr. J. Alan Hynek. He is professor emeritus of astronomy at Northwestern University and Director of the Center for UFO Studies, an association of established scientists from various universities in this country and abroad. For over 20 years Professor Hynek served as astronomical consultant to the United States Air Force in its projects Sign and Blue Book, which processed and studied UFO sightings reported to Air Force bases. He came to Northwestern University in 1960 from his position as Associate Director of the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory in Cambridge, Massachusetts, where he was in charge of the United States Optical Satellite Tracking Program. He was responsible for the precise tracking of man's first artificial satellite as well as for some 270 volunteer moon-watch stations in various countries. A native of Chicago, Dr. Hynek has held many illustrious posts in his scientific career. After receiving his doctorate in astronomy from the

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University of Chicago, he was in turn professor of astronomy and Director of the McMillan Observatory at Ohio State University, supervisor of technical reports at the Applied Physics Laboratory of Johns Hopkins University during the Second World War, Assistant Dean of the Graduate School at Ohio State and professor of astronomy after the war and lecturer of astronomy at Harvard during the four years he was Associate Director of the Smithsonian Institute's Observatory in Cambridge.

He then came to Northwestern University as Chairman of the Department of Astronomy and Director of the Dearborn Observatory and held this post for 15 years. During his tenure he was instrumental in the founding of Lindheimer Astronomical Centre and served as its first director.

Dr. Hynek is the author of numerous technical papers in astrophysics and the author of several textbooks. He is the author of The UFO Experience - A Scientific Inquiry - Ragnery, Chicago 1972; Ballantine, New York, 1974 - and co-author with Dr. Jacques Vallee of The Edge of Reality. His latest book is The Hynek UFO Report. Dr. Hynek is also editor-in-chief of The International UFO Reporter, a monthly newsletter which details current sightings and events in the field of ufology.

His work with the UFO problem has continued actively since the Air Force closed its project Blue Book. Working with other scientists, he aims to study the UFO phenomenon, which he and his colleagues recognize as a very real and important scientific problem. To this end, Dr. Hynek established the Centre for UFO Studies in 1973 to provide a public source of reliable and authoritative information on the subject and a scientific clearing-house to which people can report their UFO experiences without fear of ridicule and to apply the methods of science to one of this century's most baffling enigmas, the unidentified flying object.

With your permission, Mr. Chairman, it gives me great pleasure to invite Dr. Hynek to make a statement.

Mr. HYJUK: I am delighted to have been invited by Sir Eric Gairy to join the Grenada mission in speaking before this Committee on behalf of many of my scientific colleagues about the subject of unidentified flying objects.

Many years ago in conversation with His Excellency U Thant I was informed by him that protocol demanded that a Member nation first bring up a subject in the General Assembly before any action on it could be initiated.

Now many year later one of the smallest nations of the earth has courageously introduced the perplexing subject of UFOs to the General Assembly and thus made possible this meeting today. I commend the initiative His Excellency Sir Eric Gairy has taken. He has trodden where mightier nations have feared to tread.

There exists today a world-wide phenomenon. Indeed, if it were not world-wide I should not be addressing representatives from many parts of the world. There exists a global phenomenon the scope and extent of which is not generally recognized. It is a phenomenon so strange and foreign to our daily terrestrial mode of thought that it is frequently met with ridicule and derision by persons and organizations unacquainted with the facts. Yet the phenomenon persists. It has not faded away, as many of us expected it would, when years ago we regarded it as a passing fad or whimsy. Instead, it has touched the lives of an increasing number of people around the world. I refer of course to the phenomenon of UFOs - unidentified flying objects - which I should like to define here simply as "any aerial or surface sighting or instrumental recording" - that is, radar or photography and so forth - "which remains unexplained by conventional methods even after competent examination by qualified persons".

The Committee will note that this definition says nothing at all about "little green men from outer space" or manifestations from spiritual realms or various psychic manifestations. It is simply an operational definition. A cardinal mistake and a source of great confusion has been the almost universal substitution of an interpretation of the UFO phenomenon for the phenomenon itself. This is akin to man's ascription of the aurora borealis to angelic communication before we understood the physics of the solar wind.

None the less, in the popular mind the UFO phenomenon is associated with the concept of extraterrestrial intelligence, and this might yet prove to be correct in some context. Surely, it would be a huge joke on all of us should it develop

(Mr. Hynes)

that evidence for extraterrestrial intelligence was right here under our noses all the time, while great effort was spent searching for it elsewhere.

But I repeat and emphasize that the global phenomenon of UFO reports - reports frequently made by highly responsible persons - is not yet understood. Yet it is a phenomenon that has claimed the interest and attention of millions of people.

(Mr. Hynek)

In the United States alone, the Gallup poll has not only shown a remarkably high awareness among the public of the subject of UFOs, but indicates that 57 per cent of the United States population - that is, well over 100 million persons - believe that UFOs are real and not a figment of the imagination. The terms "flying saucers" and "UFOs" now appear in the dictionaries of many countries, which is itself a sure sign of the popular awareness of the subject. Thus there is the term OVNI objetos voladores no identificados, in the Latin American countries and Spain; in France the term is soucoupes volantes; in Germany, fliegende untertassen; and, in Czechoslovakia, letařici talíře - and so on in a host of other languages. The subject is truly in the minds of many peoples. Indeed, according to our records from UFOCAT, UFO reports have been assembled from 133 different countries, as members have probably already noted from the material furnished to them.

I must also emphasize here that, were it that these reports - despite their global nature - were generated solely by irresponsible and ignorant persons, I should not be here this morning. The facts are quite otherwise. UFO reports in significant numbers have been made by highly responsible persons, to wit, astronauts, radar experts, military and commercial pilots - many, many of those - officials of governments and scientists, even including astronomers. We have on record many tens of thousands of UFO reports. Even granting that by no means all of these are of high quality, they include extremely intriguing and provocative accounts of strange events experienced by highly reputable persons, events which challenge our present conception of the world about us and which may indeed signal a need for a change in some of our concepts - a point brought out some time ago in a radio broadcast to the French nation by the then Minister of Defence Mr. Robert Galley, stressing the importance of investigating the truly unknown. In that radio interview on 21 February 1974, Mr. Galley stated:

"I must say that if your listeners could see for themselves the massive reports coming in from the airborne gendarmerie, from the mobile gendarmerie and from the gendarmerie charged with the job of conducting investigations, all of which reports are being forwarded by us to CNES - the National Centre for Space Studies - then they would see that it is all pretty disturbing. My view about the gendarmerie is that they are serious people. When they draw up a report they do not do it haphazardly. But I must tell you

(Mr. Hynek)

that in fact the number of these gendarmerie reports is very great, and they are greatly varied. The whole thing is, of course, still very fragmentary. But I must emphasize that in this UFO business it is essential to preserve an extremely open mind."

Now, much of the UFO data are hard - not necessarily as that term would be used by the physicist, but certainly harder than much of the data used in the social sciences and in the practice of law, for instance. Perhaps the hardest data we possess so far are the so-called close encounters of the second kind, otherwise known as the physical trace cases. These are the cases in which it is reported that with the occurrence of a UFO event concomitantly and simultaneously there appears physical evidence of the immediate presence of the UFO. This can take the form of immediate physical effects on either animate or inanimate matter, or on both. Thus physiological effects on humans and animals and plants have been very reliably reported, as have interference with electrical systems in the immediate vicinity and the appearance of disturbed regions on the ground, also in the immediate vicinity of the reported event. We now have over 1,300 physical trace cases on record.

Any phenomenon which touches the lives of so many people and which engenders puzzlement and even fear among them is therefore not only of potential scientific interest and significance but also of sociological and political significance, especially since it carries with it many implications of the existence of intelligences other than our own. I will confine my remarks, however, to the scientific aspects of the subject. Dr. Vallee will, I believe, address himself more directly to the sociological and political aspects of the phenomenon.

I speak, then, for myself as an astronomer, and I believe for many of my colleagues as well, when I say that there is no longer any question, in my mind at least, of the importance of this subject. It is my considered opinion, based on many years of study both as scientific consultant to the United States Air Force and in recent years as an involved scientist, that the UFO phenomenon, whatever its origin may turn out to be, is eminently worthy of study. And I am by no means alone in this opinion. There is today a growing community of scientists from many countries who have either privately or openly declared an interest in pursuing the challenge presented by the UFO problem and who are gathering and analysing the relevant data.

(Mr. Hynek)

This appears to be especially the case in France and in the United States, though this conclusion may arise simply because I know more about the situation in those two countries. I do have knowledge that France has assumed a leading role in the scientific approach to UFOs. Acting under instruction, the French gendarmerie diligently undertook the investigation of many UFO reports. Their investigations in turn provided material for further study by a scientific group called GEPAN, headed by Dr. Claude Poher of CNES. This group comprised specialists from many disciplines, not only those of the physical sciences but of psychology, the social sciences and law and medicine as well. The work of that group was reviewed by an independent scientific board from the parent organization, and the group was given instructions to proceed on an expanded and well-funded basis. This further work has, I understand, now materially advanced and it is my further understanding from reliable sources that its initial results comprise work done on cases of great strangeness and high credibility. I have been told that only one of the cases studied was found to have a conventional explanation. The others were "close encounter" cases -- that is, UFOs reportedly occurring within approximately 200 metres of the witness. And two of these were reported to be close encounters of the third kind -- that is, those in which the presence of intelligent beings is reported.

It has also been reported that the care with which the measurement of directions, distances and manoeuvres, as well as the evaluation of the psychological factors involved, was carried out was exemplary and far superior to the previous studies in other countries. From most of the cases that were carefully studied it was concluded that the UFO report involved a material phenomenon that could not be explained as a natural phenomenon or a human device. If my information is correct, then the implications for science and the public at large of this French investigation are profound. The history of science abounds with unlooked-for benefits resulting from the investigation of the unknown. Who can tell what benefits might accrue from the study of UFOs? It might well lead to the solution of many pressing problems facing mankind today.

But we need not base our opinions or actions solely on the French investigations, competent as they may have been. Similar conclusions have already been drawn independently by scientists with whom I have been associated, many of whom, however, have been reluctant to express their opinions openly.

(Mr. Hynek)

A surprisingly large number of individual scientists have privately and personally expressed to me their involved concern with the challenge of the UFO phenomenon, and they entertain opinions consistent with those of the French reports. These scientists are in many cases associated with large and prestigious scientific organizations, both governmental and private, which, as organizations, are silent or even officially derisive about the UFO phenomenon. The individuals within these organizations who have intimate knowledge of the UFO phenomenon are constrained by organizational policy to remain officially silent about their interest and private work in UFO matters. And there are many others, not so constrained, who are independently or in small groups quietly studying the subject with whatever means they have at hand.

Now, it is the scientists and specialists in both these categories that are the main concern of my address to this Committee today. These persons have no means by which they can share the results of their researches with other workers or pool them for the benefit of others, as is the standard practice in scientific matters.

(Mr. Hynek)

There is for them nothing remotely resembling the World Health Organization (WHO) or the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) through which they can pool and share the results of their research and learn what their colleagues are doing in this field; nor is there any non-governmental agency that serves this purpose. Collectively, these scientists possess information and findings which, in my opinion, are important and should be shared with their colleagues elsewhere. I stress that all that is needed is a mechanism whereby such interchange can be accomplished. The actual investigative and analytical processes remain the responsibility of the scientists in their respective countries. Therefore, I am not -- and I emphasize the word "not" -- asking that the United Nations create its own commission to conduct research into the UFO field but merely that it create the means by which work and investigations already carried out and completed by scientists in their own countries can be expeditiously disseminated to their colleagues in other countries. Specifically, then, I ask on behalf of my colleagues in this country and in other countries that you, Mr. Chairman, recommend, through appropriate channels, that there be devised a mechanism within the Organization whereby scientists and other specialists in Member nations can bring together and exchange their ideas and investigative work with colleagues in other Member States.

Mr. Chairman, I seek your advice and help on how such a procedure might be brought into being without creating a financial burden for the United Nations and without disrupting the many other vital activities of this Organization. Such a mechanism would also facilitate the immediate exchange of information about current UFO activity in Member nations. Thus, for instance -- and I mention this solely as an example -- there appeared a short while ago a brief news item about the sighting of a UFO in Kuwait by a number of highly qualified engineers. It is obviously important that concerned scientists in all parts of the world be informed as to whether there is any merit whatsoever in such a report and, if so that they assist in the investigation and analysis of the reported event.

Enormous amounts of UFO data at present still have the status of news clippings and data of potentially great significance to science and to the world are continually being lost for lack of a means to prevent such loss.

(Mr. Hynek)

The creation of such a mechanism would also provide means whereby concerned scientists in Member nations could become known to each other and could therefore furnish each other with their already completed research work or with progress reports thereof.

We are dealing here with an unexplained phenomenon which has been reported so far from 133 nations and which has aroused the concern, and often the fear, of significant segments of their populations. Virtually every one of these 133 countries are States Members of the United Nations. It is therefore a phenomenon that has great possible sociological and political implications as well as scientific potential. It is surely within the purview of the United Nations to consider seriously this request that I am making on behalf of my scientific colleagues everywhere.

In conclusion, let me once again clearly state that it is my considered opinion as a scientist who has devoted many years to its study that the UFO phenomenon is real and not the creation of disturbed minds and that it has both grave and important implications for science and for the political and social well-being of the peoples of this earth. In my opinion, therefore, it is worthy of cognizance by the United Nations and worthy of study as a phenomenon. I distinguish sharply here, as do my colleagues, between any given theory of UFO's - such as, for example, that they originate in some specific solar system - and the phenomenon itself, since not to do so would be putting the cart before the horse.

I have not always held the opinion that UFOs were worthy of scientific study. I began my work as a scientific consultant to the United States Air Force as an open sceptic, in the firm belief that we were dealing with a mental aberration and a public nuisance. Only in the face of stubborn facts and data similar to those studied by the French commission have I been forced to change my opinion. I recognize that an opinion, no matter on what insights or experience it may be based, still does not constitute positive proof. The creation of a mechanism within the United Nations to facilitate the exchange and translation of UFO reports and studies made in various Member nations would, I firmly believe, hasten the day when this opinion will be transformed into firm scientific knowledge. The UFO phenomenon as studied by my colleagues and by me bespeaks the action of some form of intelligence, but whence this intelligence springs

(Mr. Hynek)

and whether it is truly extraterrestrial or bespeaks a higher reality not yet recognized by science, or even if it is in some way or another a strange psychic manifestation of our own intelligence, is much the question. We seek your help, Mr. Chairman, in assisting scientists, and in particular those already associated with the many formal and informal investigative organizations around the world by providing a clearing house procedure whereby the work already going on globally can be brought together in a serious and concentrated approach to this most outstanding challenge to current science.

Mr. FRIDAY (Grenada): It now gives me great pleasure to introduce the other scientist who will make a statement on behalf of our delegation. He is Dr. Jacques Vallee, and I should like to read a biographical note on Dr. Vallee.

Jacques Vallee was born and educated in France. He received a B.S. degree in mathematics from the Sorbonne and an M.S. degree in astrophysics from Lille University.

Coming to the United States in 1962 as a researcher associated with the University of Texas, he later moved to Chicago and received a Ph. D. in computer science from Northwestern University.

A specialist in information systems, Dr. Vallee has been a pioneer in the development of new concepts for data-based management and the first conferencing system based on a computer network. He has made numerous contributions to information systems in astronomy, medicine and geology. His articles on computers and on applications of information science have appeared in Datamation, Technological Forecasting, Archives of Pathology, The Astrophysical Journal, and The Futurist.

Prior to founding his own company, Dr. Vallee was associated with several research institutions - notably Stanford University, where he served as manager of information systems.

He is a member of the International Editorial Board of Telecommunications Policy.

While working in the field of computer science, Dr. Vallee has maintained an active interest in science-fiction and in the social impact of new belief systems, notably those related to extraterrestrial visitation and unidentified

(Mr. Friday, Grenada)

flying objects. His first two books in French were science-fiction novels. His first work was awarded the Jules Verne Prize in 1961, while his later studies dealt with the scientific examination of the belief in UFOs. Anatomy of a Phenomenon, published in 1965, was responsible for an re-awakening interest in the unexplained cases which were accumulating in the files of the French and the United States air forces which Vallee has consulted in compiling the first computer catalogue on the UFO problem.

His later books, Challenge to Science, written with his wife as co-author, and Passport to Magonia explored the relationship of the UFO mystery to scientific methodology and to human folklore. More recently, Dr. Vallee has turned his attention to the study of the impact of the UFO phenomenon on human consciousness. His book, The Edge of Reality, published in 1975, with Dr. Hynek as co-author, and his most recent work, The Invisible College, published in 1976, proposed what Dr. John Lilly has called "the first reasonable hypothesis about these phenomena that I have read".

When he is not investigating UFO sightings or having an argument with his computer, Jacques Vallee enjoys quiet walks along the ocean in north-western California where he lives with his wife and two children.

It is with very great pleasure that I invite Dr. Vallee to make a statement.

Mr. VALLEE: In the process of science it is common for all human ideas to be challenged by new facts. New knowledge is born of that challenge. In the process of social development it is common for new knowledge to trigger emotional reactions with far-reaching cultural and political effects. New beliefs are born of that confrontation. The frequent reporting of unexplained phenomena in the skies of many countries over the last 30 years presents an opportunity to observe both of those processes. In the documents circulated prior to this meeting and in our preliminary discussions with Mr. Kurt Waldheim and representatives of the Outer Space Affairs group, the essential facts of the phenomenon have been stated by Dr. Hynek, by Dr. Claude Poher and by myself. Accordingly, I shall limit my remarks to one aspect of the phenomenon which touches directly on the role of your Committee.

To be specific, I should like to call your attention to a new social movement based on the expectation of contact with beings from outer space. That expectation arises out of a belief that in many ways is an emotional one. Although the UFO phenomenon is real and appears to be caused by an unknown physical stimulus, I have so far failed to discover any evidence that it represents the arrival of visitors from outer space. Instead, it is my conclusion that this phenomenon has three aspects.

The first aspect is a physical manifestation that can and should be investigated through already available scientific equipment. Dr. Claude Poher in his recently concluded study sponsored by an agency of the French Government, has now shown the way in this direction. This year the Spanish armed forces have also released their files on cases that had resisted analysis by their experts. There is no lack of physical data and there is no lack of competent scientists who are willing to examine them with an open mind.

The second aspect of the UFO phenomenon is psychophysiological. Witnesses at the scene exhibit disorientation symptoms, a loss of the sense of time, partial paralysis or loss of voluntary muscle control, auditory and visual hallucinations, eye complaints ranging from conjunctivitis to temporary blindness, massive psychic reactions and longer term effects, such as disturbance of sleep and dream patterns and radical behaviour changes. I do not believe it is within the province or the budget of the United Nations to deal with such effects directly, except where the United Nations can play its traditional role in disseminating scientific information and facilitating exchanges among scholars.

(Mr. Vallee)

It is the third aspect of the UFO phenomenon which deserves full attention here. The third aspect is the social belief system which has been generated in all the nations represented in this Committee by the expectation of space visitors. That belief has been nurtured by the lack of serious attention given to genuine reports of UFOs and it is creating new religious, cultural and political concepts of which social science has taken little notice.

I have spent over 15 years conducting studies of the reports made through official and unofficial channels in France and in the United States. Those analyses have been supported by extensive computer statistics. In addition, I have been in frequent communication with scientists in other parts of the world. The conclusions I have reached regarding the social effects of the UFO phenomena in the cultures I have studied are as follows.

First, the belief in space visitors is independent of the physical reality of the UFO phenomenon. In terms of social science we might say that something is real if enough people believe in it. The UFO phenomenon has now reached that point. The question of knowing whether or not UFOs are physically real is becoming secondary in the mind of the public.

Secondly, the belief in the imminence of contact with UFOs is an indication of a widening gap between the public and science which is beginning to pay the price for the negative and prejudiced attitude with which our scientific institutions have treated sincere witnesses of UFO phenomena. Lack of serious, open-minded research in this field has encouraged those witnesses to think that science is incapable of dealing with the phenomena. That attitude has lead many people to seek answers outside the rational pursuit of knowledge to which science is dedicated. Only an open exchange of information on the subject could now correct that dangerous trend.

Thirdly, in the absence of serious, unbiased research on the subject the belief in the imminence of UFO contact undermines the image of man as the master of his own destiny. In recent years we have seen many books arguing that the earth was visited by space travellers in prehistoric times. Although that theory deserves serious study, it is leading many people to suggest that the great achievements of mankind would have been impossible without celestial intervention. The development of agriculture, the mastery of fire and the bases

(Mr. Vallee)

of civilization are credited to so-called "higher beings". Not only does that idea contradict many archaeological facts, it encourages passive expectation of another visit by friendly space creatures to solve current human problems.

Fourthly, the expectation of contact with space visitors promotes a concept of political unification of our planet. Through the belief in space entities a strong and beautiful yearning for global peace is expressing itself. The UFO phenomenon is providing an outside focus for human emotions. Whether that becomes a factor for positive or negative social change will depend on the way in which those emotions are treated and on the seriousness with which the underlying physical phenomena are investigated. Such is the challenge before this Committee.

It is not my role to suggest a specific approach to this complex problem. The scientists with whom I am in contact would welcome an opportunity to share their data and their ideas within any structure that could be made available for that purpose. All the great nations of the world are represented in this Committee. Let us keep in mind that the UFO phenomenon may represent an even greater reality. It is our choice to treat it as a threat or as an opportunity for human knowledge.

Mr. FRIDAY (Grenada): The next person whom we shall ask to make a statement is Lieutenant-Colonel Larry Coyne. Although Colonel Coyne is a member of the United States military, he is here in a private capacity and I want to stress that fact. I should like, if I may, to give a short biographical sketch of Colonel Coyne. He was first thrust into the UFO subject as a result of a terrifying close encounter he and his army helicopter crew had with a UFO in 1973 near Columbus, Ohio. His background includes a B.A. in management. He was then with the United States Army Commanding General's Staff College in Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. He qualified in three branches of the Army - infantry, armour and medical service. He did parachute training at Fort Benning, Georgia, and also special-forces training at Fort Bragg in North Carolina. He attended an army flight school in Alabama where he qualified in helicopter fixed-wing aircraft, single-engined and multi-engined aircraft, seaplanes and helicopters. He

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has accumulated over 3,000 hours of flying time. In 23 years of military service he spent 13 in a command status. He is currently Battalion Commander and supervises the flight facility in Cleveland, Ohio.

Lieutenant-Colonel Coyne is preparing the manuscript for a book documenting his UFO experience and outlining procedures for commercial and military pilots who encounter unidentified flying objects around the world. It gives me great pleasure to invite Lieutenant-Colonel Larry Coyne to make a statement.

Lt. Col. COYNE: I have been asked here to present to this Committee an incident that occurred on 18 October 1973 involving a United States army utility helicopter, with a crew of four men, of which I was pilot-in-command, and an unidentified flying object. What separates this incident from many other UFO encounters is that this particular incident almost resulted in a mid-air collision between the helicopter and a UFO.

(Lt. Col. Coyne)

Our helicopter departed from Columbus, Ohio at 22.30 hours on Thursday, 18 October 1973, for Cleveland, Ohio. The weather that particular night was clear, with visibility for 15 miles or better. There were no clouds and winds were less than 10 knots. The crew of the helicopter consisted of four men: one crew chief, one flight medic, a co-pilot and myself as pilot-in-command. With the flight plan filed with the flight service people, we departed from Columbus without incident on what seemed to be a routine flight, one that I had made many times before.

We climbed and levelled off at an altitude of 2,500 feet mean sea level, on a heading of 0.3.0 degrees, maintaining an air speed of 90 knots. Once we cleared the terminal control area of Columbus, Ohio, I turned the controls over to the aircraft co-pilot, Lt. Jutsey and relaxed to enjoy the flight to Cleveland.

Thirty minutes into the flight our helicopter approached the vicinity of Mansfield, Ohio. The helicopter would pass to the east of the city. I then tuned and identified the non-directional beacon located south-east of the city for position identification. It was at that time that the flight medic, Sergeant Healy, noticed an aircraft with a bright red light moving south, positioned west of our helicopter. The sergeant commented on the craft, its direction and position, over the intercom system. There was no threat nor were any unusual circumstances noted at that time.

Minutes later, the crew chief, Staff Sergeant Janesek noted a bright red light on the horizon, east of the helicopter, and reported the position over the intercom. I advised him further to observe the movements of the red light. Several minutes later Sergeant Janesek reported that the red light on the east horizon was parallel in direction and speed with our helicopter. I again advised further observation to Sergeant Janesek on the movement of the red light.

Several minutes after that Sergeant Janesek reported that the red-lighted aircraft had now changed its heading and was approaching our helicopter on a perpendicular course and at a very high speed, estimated in excess of 600 knots. At that moment I looked to my right on the east horizon and observed a steady bright red light converging at a high speed perpendicularly to the helicopter. I immediately contacted Mansfield Airport, the approach control, on the VHF radio, giving our aircraft

(Lt. Col. Coyne)

identification, and asked whether any high-performance aircraft were in the area. The Mansfield approach control people acknowledged our aircraft call sign and asked the question: "Go ahead", requiring me to repeat the question on the high-performance aircraft location. At that point no further acknowledgement was received. The aircraft radio still keyed when depressed and channel tones were heard when frequency changes were made.

I notified the co-pilot that I was assuming command of the aircraft controls and asked him to try to reach Mansfield approach on the other radios. With the aircraft under my control I observed the red-lighted object closing upon my helicopter at the same altitude and at the same high speed. It became apparent that a mid-air collision was about to happen unless evasive action was taken.

I initiated a descent from 2,500 feet, with a 500-foot-per-minute descent, however noticing that the red-lighted object also descended with the helicopter, while maintaining its collision course. I then increased the helicopter descent to 1,000 feet per minute to avoid collision. Again, however, the red-lighted object also descended on the collision course. I finally increased the descent to 2,000 feet per minute and increased the air speed of the helicopter from 90 to 100 knots. Since visibility was clear that night, I selected a field site for an emergency landing if needed.

The evasive action proved futile because the object was just upon the helicopter on its collision course. I then cursed to myself and told the crew on the intercom to brace for impact. The anticipated moment of impact never came. I closed my eyes momentarily, but was interrupted by the flight medic, Sergeant Healy, stating over the intercom, "Look at that".

At that statement I looked out ahead of the helicopter and observed an aircraft that I had never seen before. That craft positioned itself directly in front of the moving helicopter. That craft was approximately 50 to 60 feet long with a grey metallic structure. On the front of the craft was a large, steady, bright red light. I could delineate where the red light on the structure of that aircraft stopped because red was reflecting off the grey structure. The design of the craft was symmetrical in shape with a prominent aft indentation under the undercarriage.

(Lt. Col. Coyne)

From that position of the undercarriage a green light, pyramid shaped, emerged, the light being initially in the trail position. The green light then swung 90 degrees coming directly into the front windshield and lighting up the entire cockpit of the aircraft. All colours inside the cabin of the helicopter were absorbed by that green light, and that includes the instrument panel lights on the aircraft.

I should like to inject one point at this time, that is, that at the time I increased the helicopter descent to 2,000 feet per minute and while I was selecting a field site for an emergency landing, I noticed the altimeter reading was passing down through 1,700 feet and the ground was coming up fast. Trying to recall time in terms of minutes or seconds at that point of interception with that object was ridiculous at that portion of the incident. With the green light inside the cabin of the aircraft still coming directly from the object positioned in front of my moving helicopter, I noticed the magnetic compass on the aircraft instrument panel was slowly but steadily spinning. It no longer held a constant heading but instead continued to spin slowly.

Lt. Jutsey, the co-pilot, related to me that the radios were no longer functioning. However, I told him key tones and channel tones were still audible, and that he should go to the emergency frequency. He followed my orders. However, there still was no communication established.

I then looked at the altimeter on the instrument panel and was surprised to see that the helicopter's altitude now was 3,000 feet and climbing 1,000 feet per minute, as indicated on the vertical velocity indicator. I had not during any time, to my recollection, increased power from a 2,000-foot-per-minute descent to a 1,000-foot-per-minute climb. I looked outside to the ground and could see that the helicopter was in fact climbing, and rechecked myself to see if I had moved any of the controls. There was no change in the controls or in the power setting. They were still set for a 2,000-foot-per-minute descent, even though the helicopter was climbing 1,000 feet per minute, with the object still positioned in front of the aircraft and the green light still on the helicopter.

(Lt. Col. Coyne)

I did not apply any power changes to the helicopter until the altimeter read 3,500 feet. At 3,800 feet, a bump was felt. At no other time during this incident was any noise heard other than from the helicopter nor any turbulence felt by any members of this crew. The unidentified flying object then moved away to the west slowly from the helicopter. The green light from the UFO retracted, with the helicopter settling into a descent. The object momentarily was over the helicopter and could be observed through the top plexiglass, which is green in colour.

It was at this point that a bright white light from the object was noticed. Again, the co-pilot, Lt. Jutsey, commented that the light was brighter than that of the landing light on a commercial airliner. As the distance of the object from the helicopter increased, the light from the object became even brighter and the object was now visible through the plexiglass of the co-pilot's left door. As the light grew brighter, a noticeable increase in speed was observed. The object flew westward between the city of Mansfield and Mansfield airport, then turning north-west, increasing to an even higher speed and disappearing.

At this point, the radios in the aircraft became alive again with chatter and communication was established over the city of Ashland, Ohio, with a position fix from the Akron approach control tower.

I should inject another point here to finalize the description of the object. No noticeable wings or landing gear were observed. No vertical or horizontal stabilizers were observed. This object demonstrated its ability to change or maintain altitude, headings and speed control.

As a result of my experience, I am convinced that this object was real and that these types of incident require a thorough investigation. It is my own personal opinion that world-wide procedures need to be established effectively to study this phenomena through an international co-operative effort. The establishment of a transponder code for aircraft flying world wide is needed to identify to ground controllers that a pilot is indeed experiencing a UFO phenomenon so that pilot anxiety can be reduced to provide safe, effective flying, once he knows that he is under radar control.

I wish to thank you, Mr. Chairman, and the delegation from the country of Grenada for allowing me to present my report to this Committee.

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