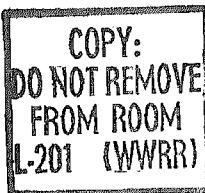


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THIRTY-SECOND SESSION

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SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE

35th meeting

held on

Monday, 28 November 1977

at 3 p.m.

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PARTIAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE 35th MEETING*

Chairman: Mr. NEUGEBAUER (German Democratic Republic)

CONTENTS

AGENDA ITEM 123: 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

STATEMENTS BY:

SIR ERIC M. GAIRY (PRIME MINISTER OF GRENADA)

MR. FRIDAY (GRENADA)

* Circulated pursuant to a decision taken at the 35th meeting.

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ENGLISH

Sir Eric M. GAIRY (Prime Minister, Grenada): I must say that it is a privilege and an honour for me to be given the opportunity to make a few observations in this Committee.

I bear with me very warm greetings from my country to this very cold country. I feel that this is the fulfilment of my very high expectations, because over the last few years I have been discussing the desirability of the United Nations' establishing a department or an agency devoted to research into matters that continue to baffle mankind. Last year, I referred again to the Bermuda Triangle and other phenomena. This year, I have again come to the General Assembly to ask for United Nations involvement in the establishment of some body that would look upon this matter as both urgent and serious.

This draft resolution is non-controversial. It does not tend to impinge or infringe on the sovereignty or territorial integrity of any nation, and I feel confident that it will receive the support of this Committee. Many years ago, if such a draft resolution had come before this Committee, one might have thought that to support it would have aroused the indignation or opposition of the peoples of the world. Today it is a different story. The subject has gathered and developed a great measure of momentum. A film on this particular phenomenon entitled "Close Encounters of the Third Kind", is being shown currently in this country, where we are meeting today.

It is not without some degree of significance that, as we saw in the report, the United States has today decided to ask the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) to look into that particular phenomenon.

I am not going to make the official statement. One of my Cabinet Ministers, Mr. Friday, will be doing that. However, I should like to say that we shall be quite open to any form of constructive suggestion designed to assist in the setting up of a body such as I have mentioned for that study. It is not only the question of unidentified flying objects (UFO) or the question of the Bermuda Triangle; one must face the realities of life today and recognize that there are so many things which continue to baffle mankind, in spite of the advances that are being made in science and technology and in the various skills. The body which is established should be given the right and the privilege to harness all those phenomena within its orbit. The resolution is now placed before the Committee and, as I have said before, we shall be open to suggestions that are constructive. We have the backing of many scientists in documentary attestations, to which you referred, Mr. Chairman.

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I was privileged to be given the opportunity to address the first International Congress on the UFO Phenomenon in Acapulco earlier this year, and that Congress was attended by about 400 scientists, researchers and authors on the subject of ufology and related matters. I look forward with confidence and high expectation to the support of the representatives of the countries of this world in this body. The world is looking on on the subject.

It is my privilege to ask Mr. Friday, one of our Cabinet Ministers, to present our thoughts on this very important subject.

Mr. FRIDAY (Grenada): Mr. Chairman, since this is the first time the Grenada delegation has had the privilege of making a statement before this Committee, I would like to take the opportunity to congratulate you on your election to the high office of Chairman. It is quite clear that your skill as a diplomat and your deep and sympathetic understanding of the issues normally facing this Committee are some of the qualities on which your colleagues have based their decision to elevate you to this high position. Within the short time I have come to know you and to depend on your wisdom and guidance in the work of this Committee, I am able to say with others before me that it would have been extremely difficult to find someone to fill the office of Chairman with greater honour and distinction.

And in this regard, Mr. Chairman, please allow me to take the opportunity also to refer to the other officers of the Committee, whose commitment and dedication to the work of the Committee are well known to, and highly regarded not only by my delegation but, I am sure, by all members of this Special Political Committee.

The matters which are encompassed by the item on the agenda which we are discussing today - the matters relating to unidentified flying objects, commonly called UFOs, and related phenomena - these matters have been raised by Grenada at the General Assembly of the United Nations consistently since 1975. Indeed, there could be no better authority on Grenada's persistent stand in this urgent matter than the Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs of Grenada himself, Sir Ernest Matthew Gairy, whose words to the thirtieth, thirty-first and thirty-second sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations will echo down the corridors of history for all time and for all generations to come. The presence with us today of the Prime Minister, Sir Eric Gairy, is not only an indication of his own remarkable understanding of the international importance of the item we are discussing, but also an inspiration to this entire Committee to keep this date with history and to come to grips with a problem which has baffled earth-centred man since the Second World War.

I now crave your indulgence to quote from the statement of the Prime Minister made on 7 October 1977, during the general debate of the current session of the General Assembly of the United Nations:

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"I touch now on my fourth area of concern, a matter which I have been raising in this very chamber since 1975. In 1975 I made mention of the various inexplicable phenomena which continue to baffle even the most advanced branches of science, citing the Bermuda Triangle as one example, and calling upon the United Nations to set up an agency or department for psychic research. In 1976, I broadened the scope of my concern to include unidentified flying objects, and called upon the nations of the world to make available to mankind information and other data on this unique phenomenon which lay hidden in national archives. I repeated the call for a United Nations agency or department to be established to study these phenomena.

"On those two occasions the Members of the General Assembly politely took note of my concerns but, in fact, no United Nations action flowed from my presentations. Meanwhile, I have been literally inundated with letters and communications from individuals, groups and organizations from all over the world, some too modest to come into the open, expressing tremendous interest in the matters I had raised in the United Nations and urging me to continue the initiative in seeking involvement by the United Nations in the way I had suggested.

"I have myself seen an unidentified flying object, and have been overwhelmed by what I have seen, but my main interest in this matter is not scientific but essentially political, since I am of the firm belief that this world body should take a legitimate interest in a matter which has aroused general world-wide concern, including that of the leaders of several countries. That concern in unidentified flying objects and related phenomena was more than amply demonstrated and expressed at the First International Congress on the Unidentified Flying Object Phenomenon, held in Acapulco, Mexico, earlier this year and attended by over 400 persons, including some of the leading scientists, researchers and authors in the field of the study of unidentified flying objects, and at which Congress I had the pleasure and the privilege of delivering the key address. That group strongly supported my efforts to bring this important subject within the official knowledge of the United Nations, and unanimously endorsed a resolution to that effect. Right now the communications media are agog with interest in the progress we

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have made in having included on the agenda for this thirty-second session an item calling for establishment of an agency or department devoted specifically to research into unidentified flying objects and related phenomena, which will be discussed in greater detail later in this session by the Special Political Committee. The media are also, understandably, full of excitement and curiosity about the discussion I might have had on this subject with President Jimmy Carter when I had the honour and the pleasure of a 45-minute visit with him on the occasion of the ceremony marking the signature of the Panama Canal Treaties.

"Grenada takes no categorical theoretical stand on the question of unidentified flying objects. Theories as to the nature, origin, and intent of unidentified flying objects are many, and are amply known to civilian and governmental research groups. Irrespective of theory, however, the major research groups are dedicated foremost to achieving the following main objectives in their endeavours: to study all significant reports on unidentified flying objects with a view to making a reasonable and acceptable determination of the nature, origin and intent of unidentified flying objects; to disseminate the substantive results of such study to the public and the news media; to work co-operatively with, or within the framework of, the United Nations to help establish a communications system through which important data can be rapidly exchanged internationally.

"Research groups are aware of the risks of making a premature judgement at this juncture, knowing that the constant input of new data on unidentified flying objects, or any single dramatic incident, may trigger a break-through to support any one theory or show evidence that two theories can be unified.

"Despite the wording of Grenada's item on the agenda, we are prepared to adopt a very flexible posture in this whole matter regarding the item, because we feel that what is important in this case is not so much to foist another agency upon Member nations, with all the ramifications of cost, etc., that are involved, but rather to provide an opportunity for open discussion on this matter and the adoption of some resolution which will keep it alive in the General Assembly. Mindful of the experience in other situations - for example, in the preliminary study leading up to the Committee on the Law of the Sea - many nations, which now see an agency or department of the United

Nations for the study of unidentified flying objects as being too far-reaching an objective to be introduced by little Grenada, may be more easily inclined to give support to a more modest objective: calling for a small ad hoc committee to study the problem and report back to the General Assembly.

"Many very important United Nations activities grew out of modest beginnings in small ad hoc committees, and somehow I am confident that all nations will lend support to the quest to discover more about UFOs and related phenomena, thus contributing to the unfolding of important scientific information which has so far continued to baffle man.

"It is significant to note that it has been reported that two of the super-Powers, those which earlier initiated a joint space programme, have now launched a new co-operative effort to look into the problems of the Bermuda Triangle as well as to discuss the possibilities of life in outer space, against the backdrop of the experience of the astronauts and cosmonauts. These are very significant developments, and, when coupled with the fact that other countries are now beginning to take official cognizance of UFOs and make public pronouncements about them, it seems quite clear that UFOs might not be such a laughing matter after all."

(A/32/PV.25, pp. 17-21)

The call to concerted world action regarding UFOs which the Prime Minister of Grenada raised at the General Assembly on 7 October 1977, he had raised earlier this year in June both at the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference in London and at the Seventh Regional Session of the Organization of American States in Grenada. The thrust in every case has been the same: a call on the nations of the world to recognize the stark possibility that the planet Earth may not be, after all, the only place inhabited by intelligent beings, and that men should be giving serious thought to all the vast accumulated data on UFOs and related phenomena with a view to working out international strategies for regulating contact and communication between earthlings and other intelligent beings of extraterrestrial origin - contact which some from the world scientific community say has already begun.

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Let me hasten to emphasize, lest the thought that Grenada is a precocious little nation should linger in our minds, that it is gratifying to note that at least one other nation has had the courage to make a bold pitch in support of the study of UFOs and the need to introduce international guidelines to regulate contact between earth and extraterrestrial life. Talking in the First Committee at the twenty-sixth session of the General Assembly of the United Nations on 8 November 1971, the Ambassador of Uganda, Mr. Grace Ibingira, made the following statement, which has tremendous relevance to the discussions initiated here today on unidentified flying objects. He said:

"I wish, before discussing matters of outer space, to congratulate those nations which are carrying out space exploration, in particular the United States of America and the Soviet Union. Beyond our world we must all feel oneness as members of the human race when any of us ventures into the limitless vastness of outer space. It was therefore fitting when the first human being on the moon, the representative of the United States ..., placed the flags of our nations on the lunar surface and declared it a State for all mankind and not just for his country alone. ...

"It is quite self-evident that the historic era of man in outer space portends incalculable consequences for our world, whether on this earth one walks on foot or moves in a Cadillac, whether one lives in grass huts or in skyscrapers, whether one is starving and hungry or having more than enough to eat, and irrespective of our political and social systems. What happens in the heavens, in outer space, is very much a matter for careful and serious attention for all mankind, and it should not be assumed that, simply because some developing States do not have space programmes, they therefore have no interest in outer-space exploration.

"The draft convention now before us, and the others still to come, are conceived exclusively on the basis of the assumption that only States from this planet can explore or use outer space. The rights and obligations concern one State in relation to another on our planet. Consequently, we exclude all possibility that we might share outer space with some other space explorers possessed of intelligence and capabilities matching our own, from some undetermined place of origin.

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"If there is any possibility that there might be other users of outer space than those from the planet earth, it becomes imperative that in a convention such as the one before us or others to come a clause must be included ensuring that any State engaged in outer-space exploration must conduct itself in such a way as not to prejudice the safety of our planet. If, for instance, a State sent out a spaceship on an exploration voyage into outer space, it should ensure that such a spaceship would not conduct itself in a hostile manner should it by any chance encounter other spaceships or objects from undetermined places of origin. It is not enough to leave this to the good sense of the exploring State. The matter is far too important and fundamental. This responsibility to our planet must be appropriately spelled out in a liability convention such as the one before us.

"The liability incurred when one space object causes damage to another State on earth is almost nothing compared with the liability a State would incur in relation to our whole earth in attracting hostile reactions from origins that are unknown, undetermined, but real all the same.

"I know that the problem of whether or not there can be other space travellers has involved great controversy over a long period of time. The official position of all the States involved in exploring outer space seems to be that there is no intelligent life comparable with our own in the universe; that, therefore, there are no chances that space explorers from earth would encounter others from other worlds.

"These Governments have consistently discredited any suggestion that the unidentified flying objects (UFOs) which have repeatedly been observed at different times in different parts of the world could possibly be interplanetary spaceships. They have concluded that all the alleged sightings of UFOs and flying saucers in our skies are balloons, comets, planets or things of that kind. It is true that a lot of these things could not lead one seriously to believe that they were in fact interplanetary spacecraft. But there is ample evidence to raise a reasonable doubt that some of them just might conceivably be. There are in the United States, in the Soviet Union and in the United Kingdom, in addition to other countries,

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serious scientists who believe that some of these unidentified flying objects are interplanetary or intergalactic spacecraft." (A/C.1/PV.1821, paras. 91-99)

It is perhaps significant to note that, in reply to the points made by the Ambassador from Uganda, the representative of the United States of America, while observing that the points made were probably not relevant to the matter then under discussion in the First Committee, did, however, suggest in his remarks that the matter of extraterrestrial life and, by implication, unidentified flying objects, might well be taken up elsewhere because of its intriguing possibilities. What is really important here is the fact that as far as is known those statements made in 1971 by the representative of Uganda constituted what seems to be the first attempt to bring the subject of the UFO within the orbit of official reference and debate within the General Assembly of the United Nations.

But even before 1971, and indeed, as early as 1966, individual scientists and research groups were calling for joint world action with regard to the unidentified flying object phenomenon. In the competitive world of scientific research, with all the thrusts and counter-thrusts indulged in by scientists and their adherents, it is very difficult to identify any one person or group of persons as being unassailable by others with respect to findings and interpretations, especially in a field as baffling and challenging as UFO research. But this understandable in-fighting is really of little concern to my delegation. The line my delegation has taken in preparing to discuss this item has been to identify a group with a known and provable record of persistence in trying to get the United Nations involved in UFO research. All over the world there are groups of scientists engaged in UFO research, some assisted by their Governments, others labouring entirely on their own, but there is one group which stands tall in its persistence to have the question of UFOs discussed at the international level. I refer to the group known as the Intercontinental UFO Galactic Spacecraft Research and Analytic Network (ICUFON) in the United States, whose director is Major Colmon VonKeviczky, a Hungarian-born United States citizen and a former employee of the United Nations Office of Public Information. There are many aspects of that organization which many researchers may question, but the record shows that from 1 February 1966, that group, ICUFON, has been trying without success to have this question of UFO research brought before the United Nations for co-operative action among all the nations of the world.

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Let me emphasize that my delegation is not now concerned with the research capability of the organization nor even with the scientific integrity of its individual members. What is of greater concern, interest and relevance is the fact that continuously and relentlessly from 1966 onwards that group has been making an effort, obviously against tremendous odds, to persuade the nations of the world and the United Nations to take the sort of joint actions regarding UFOs which my delegation proposes here today in this Committee.

Permit me to recite, for the benefit of the Committee, because of their relevance, the seven main proposals already presented by this group to the United Nations and Member nations and to make reference to official reaction to those proposals. The first was in February 1966, directed to the then Secretary-General, U Thant. The proposal was for United Nations Project Unidentified Forces and Flying Space Objects (UN-UFFSO), for the purpose of establishing a global research and analytical system to keep, under permanent United Nations control, the following matters: first, unidentified flying space objects and phenomena; secondly, unidentified space beings; thirdly, unidentified outer forces; fourthly, earth/space and space/earth relations. Its purpose was to serve as an information service for Member nations and the public. That proposal of 1 February 1966 was followed by two related addenda, dated 24 February and 9 May 1966, addressed to the Secretary-General. Together they evoked a mild response from the Secretariat, thanking the director of ICUFON for his voluntary efforts and his interest in the matter of unidentified flying objects.

Two letters from the United Nations Secretariat to the director of ICUFON - and brought to the attention of my delegation - testified to that initiative. The first reads as follows: "On behalf of the Secretary-General I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 1 February 1966 concerning your special interest in 'ufology'." It was signed Robin Miller, Principal Officer. The second, dated 12 May 1966, reads as follows:

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"On behalf of the Secretary-General, I acknowledge the folder you sent, entitled 'Addenda to the UFO Memorandum, dated February 1, 1966 and to the project UN-UFFSO submitted on 24 February 1966 to the Secretary-General's office'. The Secretary-General has asked me to thank you for your voluntary efforts and your interest in the matter of unidentified flying objects."

It was signed C.V. Narasimhan, Chef de Cabinet.

ICUFON's proposal, made through its director, was immediately given fairly wide press coverage. An Associated Press report was carried in the New York World-Telegram and Sun of Monday, 7 February 1966. A report by Peter Wallenberg, Chief of the News United Nations Bureau, was carried in the Daily News of Tuesday, 8 February 1966, and the same story on the same day was carried in the Milwaukee Journal captioned: "UN URGED TO LEAD CHASE FOR FLYING SAUCER REPORTS". Those reports confirmed ICUFON's initiative in impressing upon the Secretary-General, U Thant, that only the United Nations could be expected to have sufficient authority to establish contact or represent mankind in a face-to-face meeting with extraterrestrial visitors.

ICUFON's second proposal was made on 10 May 1966, in the form of a draft international space security pact, directed to the Secretary-General even before the United Nations adopted, on 17 December 1966, the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies.

That proposal was also forwarded in June 1966 to Member nations and agencies of the United Nations, and replies were received from the following: the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and the Governments of Australia, Canada, Cambodia, Federal Republic of Germany, Ghana, the Holy See, Iran, Italy, Jamaica, New Zealand, Nicaragua and Singapore. Letters of acknowledgement were received from the International Air Transport Association (IATA).

What ICUFON had begun to do then was not just to communicate with the United Nations Secretary-General, whose interest in the UFO phenomenon was well known, and with other United Nations agencies, but also to arouse the interest of the nations of the world in the whole question of UFO research and extraterrestrial life.

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ICUFON's third proposal was contained in a letter to the Secretary-General suggesting that the Secretariat, the Outer Space Affairs Committee and the General Assembly invite a representative body of the world's leading scientists pioneering in UFO studies to the United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to be held in Vienna, Austria, in September 1967. A very impressive group of scientists, researchers and writers drawn from the entire world was suggested. That meeting was actually postponed to 14-27 August 1968. The reply, dated 28 June 1967 from Mr. Kurt Waldheim, then Chairman of the Outer Space Affairs Committee, and now our Secretary-General, again attests to the initiative of ICUFON and is a document of some historical significance. It reads in part:

"I have discussed this question with the Secretariat of the United Nations and have been advised that the General Assembly, in its resolution 2221 (XXI) of December 19, 1966, has decided to invite, as participants, the States Members of the United Nations, States members of the specialized agencies, States parties of the Statute of the International Court of Justice, and States that the General Assembly might decide specially to invite to participate in the Conference and furthermore to invite the specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Committee on Space Research of the International Council of Scientific Unions, and international space organizations to attend the Conference as Observers.

"Individual persons desiring to participate in the Conference would therefore have to be included in the official delegations of the States and agencies mentioned above."

ICUFON followed up this United Nations response by writing individual foreign missions in New York suggesting inclusion of UFO scientists on their delegations to Vienna. Only a few countries replied to that suggestion. But the call for international co-operation under United Nations auspices in the field of UFO research was becoming increasingly insistent.

The fourth proposal came in November 1967 in the form of a resolution passed by the 7th International UFO Congress in Mainz, Germany, 3-6 November, under the chairmanship of Herman Oberth. That Congress recognized the UFO question

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as a global problem and called upon all nations of the world to unite in mutual research and scientific co-operation to investigate and solve the problem for the common cause and for the mutual advancement of our peaceful relationship in outer space. The Congress also called for establishment of an international UFO research institute. Again that proposal was submitted to Member nations of the world body and replies were received from the following: Austria, Australia, Afghanistan, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Cyprus, Israel, Liechtenstein, Trinidad and Tobago, the United Kingdom, the United States and the Holy See, as well as from the Outer Space Affairs Group. The point is that these suggestions about UFO research under United Nations sponsorship were making the international rounds but continued to remain outside the active concern of that world body.

But the constant rejection did not deter the members of that organization because on 29 July 1967 it issued what it called a petition to the nations, asking the nations of the world, first, to place the unidentified flying objects question, as a global problem, on the emergency agenda of the United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, to be held in Vienna, 14-27 August 1968, or, if necessary, before the Security Council; and, secondly, to make available a restricted area, State or privately owned, in each country for use by the United Nations for the purpose of establishing an international UFO research institute which, it was hoped, would solve, once and for all, the problems of the individual nations regarding the UFO phenomenon.

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The reasons given for seeking such emergency action are interesting: (a) factual evidence over the past 25 years of the activity on and around our globe by unknown aerial vehicles; (b) official governmental investigation by many nations; (c) the lack of an authorized international research body as a result of which Governments were facing an increasingly serious situation brought about by the terrific impact on the public of irresponsible publications and uninformed news media.

Again, very interesting but serious replies were received from many of the countries and organizations petitioned. They came from the Outer Space Affairs Division; they came from Cambodia, offering broad strips of land for the construction of the headquarters of the institute and other observation buildings, together with all the guarantees of non-nationalization as well as the privileges and immunities of persons sent out by the United Nations; from Canada; from Cyprus, whose Ambassador, Mr. Zenon Rossides, wrote:

"I realize that something should be done in connexion with this matter in order that there may be a scientific and systematic study through the United Nations.";

from Jamaica; and from Kenya, a letter from which, dated 5 August 1968 and signed by Mr. B. E. Mwangi, reads in part:

"Please be advised that if the United States delegation to this forthcoming General Assembly proposes the subject of the UFO to be discussed either by the Security Council or by the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, we will automatically be involved in the debate ..."

- a most significant letter in the light of the "big-Power" syndrome which continues to hang over our deliberations within the United Nations and which seems almost to warn small nations like Grenada against taking initiatives in areas where angels fear to tread.

Replies to that petition were also received from the Maldive Islands from Pakistan, which asked for more copies of the petition, and from the National Academy of Sciences in Washington, D.C.

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It is interesting to note that The Sun Herald of Sydney, Australia, which carried an Associated Press/Reuters news item on 8 August 1968 on ICUFON's call for a global study of UFOs carried the following additional information:

"Another group of scientists has urged the United States and other nations to co-operate in investigating the utterly baffling phenomenon of UFOs. They made their plea during testimony at a recent one-day symposium held by the United States House of Representatives Committee on Science and Astronautics in Washington."

My delegation did not personally investigate that press report but we are satisfied that it constituted some further evidence that from the late 1960s an increasing number of scientists were seeing the need for international collaboration in the matter of UFO research in co-ordination with the United Nations and under its sponsorship.

ICUFON's sixth proposal to the United Nations for global action on UFO research was submitted in a letter dated 9 December 1969 addressed to the Secretary-General, U Thant, to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and to all 139 Member nations of the United Nations. That proposal asked for a world congress for international consideration of the activities of non-terrestrial space objects.

The replies to that communication which came from the undermentioned, are of historical significance. Acknowledgements came, first, from the Outer Space Affairs Division emphasizing the fact that the United Nations was not engaged in investigating the UFO phenomena; from Australia, Ceylon and Cambodia; from Cyprus expressing appreciation for the untiring efforts of leading scientists and researchers in helping to solve the perplexing problem of UFOs in a letter from the Presidential Palace, Nicosia, dated 12 February 1970 and signed by M.E. Constantinides, Secretary; from France, Greece and India; from Libya, agreeing to send a representative in an observer status; from the Maldives Republic, Mauritius, Morocco, Pakistan, Panama, Portugal, Singapore, Spain, Sweden,

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Uruguay, Yugoslavia; and from the United States of America. The letter from the United States, emanating from the Department of the Air Force dated 7 January 1970 is highly significant and I crave indulgence to read it in its entirety.

"On behalf of President Nixon, I am replying to your letter regarding Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs).

"The Secretary of the Air Force announced the termination of Project Blue Book, the Air Force Program for the Investigation of UFOs on December 17 1969.

"This decision was based on an evaluation of a report prepared by the University of Colorado, entitled, 'Scientific Study of Unidentified Flying Objects', a review of the University of Colorado's report by the National Academy of Sciences; past UFO studies, and Air Force experience investigating UFO reports during the past two decades.

"As a result of these Investigations and Studies, and experience gained from investigating UFO reports since 1948, the conclusions of Project Blue Book are: (a) no UFO reported, investigated, and evaluated by the Air Force has ever given any indication of threat to our national security; (b) there has been no evidence submitted to, or discovered by, the Air Force that sightings categorized as unidentified represent technological developments or principles beyond the range of present-day scientific knowledge; (c) there has been no evidence indicating that sightings categorized as unidentified are extraterrestrial vehicles."

That letter was signed by "C. W. Hammond, Colonel, USAF".

Later during this statement I shall return to the Condon Report of 1969 which has been the subject of heated criticism and has now been widely discredited. But let me give you just one more instance of the effort made by ICUFON to stimulate United Nations action in the area of UFO research because, in a way, all these efforts are an important prelude to and constitute an important link with Grenada's own thrust in this matter from 1975, and underline the indomitable spirit of those who were guiding ICUFON towards this date with world history.

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On 17 April 1974 in the midst of discussion on the establishment of the United Nations University, ICUFON proposed the setting up of a joint international research study as a project for the United Nations and the United Nations University - the University to undertake the research and the United Nations Secretariat to collect and collate the results of that research for the benefit of mankind. Unfortunately, neither the United Nations Secretariat nor the United Nations University considered UFO research to be a matter of high research priority for the University.

My delegation considered it important to take one research organization and to follow chronologically over a period of time its efforts to bring about, both within the United Nations and within individual nations, a greater awareness of the UFO phenomenon and the need for international action in the area of UFO research. We are aware, through literature and through our international contacts made in places like Acapulco, that several other private research groups exist - some perhaps more highly respected than the one we have selected - which are dedicated to similar objectives. Some of those with international dimensions which quickly come to mind are: the Centre for UFO Studies, Mutual UFO Network, the National Investigations Committee of Aerial Phenomena, and the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization.

Our intention is not to exacerbate the competition among such groups of highly respected scientists nor to criticize the highly respected nations of the world but rather to show the following: first, that the question of UFO research has been kept alive before the United Nations Secretariat and before the nations of the world continuously since 1966; secondly, that at least one nation - Uganda - had raised the question of UFOs in the United Nations before Grenada, notwithstanding the fact that this was done in another Committee, the First Committee, and at a time which some regarded as inappropriate; thirdly, that the desirability has been expressed for the United Nations to play more of a leading role in the whole area of UFO research.

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It seems clear from the information that is available to my delegation, that those who wanted the United Nations to participate more actively in UFO research had a friend in, and received encouragement from, the Secretary-General, U Thant. A letter dated 23 October 1967, addressed to a Mr. Ernst Timms, West Germany, and signed by Mr. C. V. Narasimhan, Chef de Cabinet of the United Nations, reads as follows:

"Dear Mr. Timms:

"On behalf of the Secretary-General I acknowledge your letter to him dated 18 October. While we note your concern in regard to UFOs, the reply given to you by Mr. Abdel-Ghani in his letter to you is factually correct. Neither the United Nations nor the Secretary-General has any authority to investigate UFO phenomena.

I may add" -

and this is significant -

"that the Secretary-General's interest in the subject is purely academic and personal."

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U Thant's interest in UFOs was, then, a personal one, but it did stir him to invite distinguished ufologists to talk with him and his colleagues on matters relating to the UFO phenomenon. The New York Post of Tuesday, 27 June 1967, carried the following column written by Drew Pearson and his associate, Jack Anderson:

"In the very middle of the Near East crisis United Nations Secretary-General U Thant took time to do a very significant thing. He arranged to have one of the top advocates of the theory that flying saucers - UFOs - are from another planet speak before the Outer Space Affairs Committee of the United Nations. The Middle East war broke on 5 June. On 7 June Dr. James E. McDonald of the University of Arizona, a firm believer in UFOs, spoke before the United Nations Outer Space Committee. Dr. McDonald believes that UFOs are extraterrestrial space ships on reconnaissance missions to explore the earth. He also addressed the American Society of Newspaper Editors and the Washington Meteorological Society on this subject. An interesting fact is that U Thant has confided to friends that he considers UFOs the most important problem facing the United Nations next to the war in Viet Nam. U Thant made his statement before the war in the Near East, so it is not known how he rates this latest international incident compared with UFOs."

The Outer Space Affairs Division did not confirm the above report but did confirm the fact that Dr. James McDonald and Dr. Allen Hynek, both distinguished and outstanding scientists, have held discussions with officials of the Division. It is clear, however, that the interest in the UFO phenomenon displayed by the Secretary-General was not shared by the United Nations as a whole. The letter to Mr. Ernst Timms, referred to above, has already confirmed this. The statement made in 1971 in the First Committee by the United States representative, in reply to the representative from Uganda, smacked of a similar non-interest, which obviously reflected official United States attitude to UFOs since 1969, following the much discredited Condon Report.

This seemingly negative United Nations attitude was a cause of dismay and frustration both to scientists and representatives to the United Nations who had raised the question of UFO research.

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A letter from Ambassador Ibingira to the Director of ICUFON, dated 14 June 1974, underlined the need for a more receptive United Nations approach to the UFO phenomenon and the necessity for United Nations intervention. It reads in part:

"The points you made are quite undeniable; indeed, so much is the apathy of the United Nations that I do not propose to bring up the matter of UFOs at the forthcoming session of the General Assembly. For any effort to be meaningful, sufficient time is needed to lobby a wide range of representatives for support so that when the issue of UFO investigation by the United Nations comes up it has a reasonable chance of acceptance. At the moment, the overwhelming majority of us are earth-bound and think about outer space and the heavens only in terms of moon shots and satellites launched by the big Powers on earth."

The cause for non-action on the part of the United Nations seems to have been spelled out in a letter, again to the Director of ICUFON, dated 5 December 1967, written by Mr. Abdel-Ghani, Chief of the Outer Space Affairs Group, which reads as follows:

"With reference to our previous numerous correspondence on the subject of UFOs, I must inform you once more of the strictly limited role of the Outer Space Affairs Group of the United Nations in this regard. The subject of unidentified flying objects has never been an item on the agenda of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. It is only if a State Member of the United Nations decides that this is a subject which should be brought up for the attention of the Committee that it can be officially taken up. For these reasons, there is no basis under which I can give support to any international effort to solve the UFO problem."

Members will recall that this question of UFOs was already raised in the Outer Space Affairs Committee in 1971 by the Ambassador from Uganda, but, because of the lack of interest in that subject in the context in which it was raised - discussion of an Outer Space Convention - Ambassador Ibingira decided against raising it again during the following session of the General Assembly.

That was in 1971. Grenada became a Member of the United Nations in 1974, and continuously from 1975 the Prime Minister of our country, Sir Eric Gairy,

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has been raising in the General Assembly the question of research into psychic and UFO phenomena, which continue to baffle man. It was as if this unique role of championing the cause of United Nations involvement in research in those areas was made to order for Grenada, because often small and new nations like Grenada that still retain their primeval simplicity are those with the psychological courage and daring to face novel world issues of such unusual, even frightening, magnitude and complexity as unidentified flying objects.

We of the Grenada delegation anticipate the question, namely: "Why is Grenada the country raising this issue at this point; what interest is there in it for Grenada and why not another issue more relevant to Grenada's status as a small developing country?" Indeed, Grenada is cognizant of, gives full support to and holds in high priority all the social, political and economic issues that face the global community and which are raised with serious concern within the United Nations.

In fact, we feel that the question of scientific research into UFOs must essentially be an integral part of our attempts to solve the social, economic and political problems of the world and, certainly, Grenada's interest in the well-being of the world community is part of the motive behind introduction of this item. It is by no means an attempt to give singular emphasis to a topic that, in the view of many, only deals with the hypothesis of the possible existence of intelligent life beyond the limits of our earth plane.

Rather, it is an attempt to get the world community as a whole to develop some perspective regarding the relationship between planet earth and other worlds in outer space and between earth men and other alien intelligent beings.

Serious consideration of these relationships at this time is not so much out of place and irrelevant when we consider that billions of dollars are spent by countries of our earth to increase their stockpile of conventional weapons and to develop new and more destructive engines of war to destroy themselves as well as their brothers on the planet earth.

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Not only should we be diverting more and more of those funds to help the less developed parts of our earth to improve the living conditions of their people, so that they can live in greater peace and harmony with their planetary brothers, but we should also be giving serious consideration to preparing ourselves as earth people for the psychological and philosophical contact or communication with alien intelligent life.

We know for a fact that some countries of the world with advanced technical expertise are currently engaged in outer space research, including the UFO phenomenon, which means that there is a good possibility of contact between space ships launched from earth and space ships from extraterrestrial origins. Any such contact might have consequences of tremendous importance to all nations on planet earth, and it seems to my delegation that all countries, including Grenada, have a legitimate right to all data gleaned from UFO research.

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Some people have expressed the view that because Grenada is a small nation we should not tackle such a controversial subject but should rather leave it for the super-Powers. It is precisely because we are a small nation that we can take some initiative on this aspect of interplanetary affairs while the super-Powers allegedly conceal the real UFO evidence and continue to use their technical data to pursue national objectives.

Indeed, Grenada has a deep commitment to improving the quality of life of its people, and we seek international aid and co-operation from our more affluent brothers, in the full knowledge that the strength of our earth planet and its readiness to face the consequences of interplanetary contact and communication may well depend on the strength of its individual parts, including Grenada. Time will tell, and history will so record that the Prime Minister of Grenada, Sir Eric Gairy, has not been playing games with this international body or foisting upon it what some may unfortunately regard as a laughing matter.

It might be fitting now to introduce to the Committee some of the physical aspects of UFOs as generally reported by the most renowned authorities on the subject.

If, indeed, we must look for some physical guidelines on the UFO phenomenon, there is no more fitting reference and source of material than the eminent scientist and astronomer, Mr. J. Allen Hynek, whose dedicated work in research is well known all over. I now take the liberty to put to the Committee in paraphrase Mr. Hynek's categorization of the phenomenon based on the numerous reported sightings that scientists have been putting together. In his latest text, The Hynek UFO Report, of which I have received an advance copy through the courtesy of the author and publishers, Mr. Hynek put as his first category the relatively distant sightings, which include the following. Firstly, there are the "nocturnal lights", referring to those sightings which have the aspects of strangely behaving lights in the night sky - lights which are truly puzzling even to experts, because their behaviour does not fit the pattern of lights from known sources. Secondly, there are the "daylight discs", which have to do with UFOs sighted in the daytime. These are generally of an oval shape with a metallic appearance and can seem to disappear at astounding speed. Thirdly, there are the "radar visuals", which are the unidentified blips on the radar screens which coincide with and confirm simultaneous visual sightings by the same witness or another witness.

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Dr. Hynek cites a second category of the UFO phenomenon as the relatively close sightings: those which have been reported to be as close as within a few hundred feet or at least close enough so that the witness is able to use his stereoscopic vision and discern considerable detail.

Subdivided in this category, as observed by the respected astronomer, are what are called "close encounters of the first kind", "close encounters of the second kind", and "close encounters of the third kind".

He defines "close encounters of the first kind" as those sightings where "there is no interaction of the UFO with either the witness or the environment, or at least none that is discernible." Mr. Hynek goes on to elaborate that, since this encounter must be close enough so that the UFO is in the observer's own frame of reference and he is able to see details, the chance of the sighting being a misidentification of Venus or a conventional craft and so on is quite small, particularly if the sighting is made by several persons.

"Close encounters of the second kind" include details of interaction between the UFO and the environment which may vary from interference with things like car ignition systems and electronic gear to imprints or burns on the ground and physical effects on plants, animals and humans. This category has been of particular interest to scientists, since it affords them the use of physical samples for laboratory testing. It is reported that, while there has not been a piece of an actual UFO for testing, the effects of the presence of UFOs have been amply attested to, and many cases have been catalogued.

"Close encounters of the third kind" refer to the situation where there have been reports of occupants or entities within the UFO, a factor which, as Mr. Hynek says, "brings us to grips with the most puzzling aspect of the UFO phenomenon: the apparent presence of intelligence other than our own, intelligence we can recognize but not understand". The reported creatures or entities are capable of communication in their own way and on their own terms. Their interaction with humans has been reported to be largely impersonal, neither overtly friendly nor hostile. There have been instances of abductions of humans, ostensibly for testing purposes.

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As stated by Leonard Stringfield in his recent book, Situation Red, The UFO Siege, published by Doubleday:

"Close encounters with the UFO on the ground and in the air have been frightening experiences for thousands of human beings worldwide ... This alone is disconcerting, but my greatest concern goes to the victim suffering physical effects: flesh burns, eye damage, paralysis or the traumatic experience of a time lapse, and, beyond that, the indignities of an alleged abduction. Also of concern is the effect on man's necessities - power outages in his city, his automobile, his home appliances - and to military aircraft that dared to challenge the interloper."

As we move from the theory of the phenomenon, let us attempt to assess the significance of continued research into UFOs as it relates to man. Let us commence our review by accepting and recognizing the fact that the UFO phenomenon is real - that a significant amount of the world's population have more than a cursory interest in supporting further scientific inquiry, that there is a significant body of respected scientists whose approach to the subject must be seen at a level above the range of fiction, sensation and hysteria, and that, indeed, Governments of this very Organization have shown more than a trifling commitment to the further investigation of the phenomenon. As Mr. Hynek says in the epilogue of his recent work:

"Now that more than a quarter of a century has passed, and the UFO phenomenon is still with us (not having obliged the savants who declared it to be but a passing fad) a call for a reappraisal of the situation is in order ... There exists today a growing number of scientifically and technically trained persons who are ready to devote their time and attention to the whole matter of the nature of UFOs and to follow wherever the search may lead".

According to Stanton Friedman, a well-known nuclear physicist concerned with the UFO phenomenon, there are now on file over 1,100 physical trace cases of the UFO phenomenon from 57 countries involving changes produced by UFOs in the soil and vegetation and observable after the UFO has left. So the UFO phenomenon is not related only to one country or to one part of our earth; it is a world-wide phenomenon with significance for all mankind.

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If statistics and polls may be considered in any way a reasonable guide to the importance of the subject as it relates to us today, we can feel justified in pressing for investigation with renewed vigour and with international support into this phenomenon.

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The reported results of a survey of a professional group of engineers and scientists, conducted by Industrial Research Magazine in the winter of 1971 and reported by Friedman, shows a wide acceptance of the UFO reality. Some of the questions posed were:

Do you believe that UFOs exist? And the results show the following: Definitely 20 per cent, probably 34 per cent, Undecided 15 per cent, Probably not 23 per cent, Definitely not 8 per cent.

Do you know anyone who claims to have seen a UFO? The results show: Yes 36 per cent, No 64 per cent.

Do you believe that the Government has revealed all its information concerning UFOs? Yes 24 per cent, No 76 per cent.

In your opinion were the conclusions of the Condon Report on UFOs definitive? Yes 20 per cent, No 76 per cent.

Do you think that the Government should support further research to document existence (or non-existence) of UFOs? Yes 49 per cent, No 51 per cent.

We cannot but take a serious look at such statistics, bearing in mind too the rate of growth of public opinion in favour of scientific ufology. In his current book Situation Red, the author and researcher Leonard Stringfield notes that a Gallup poll of November 1973 reported that 51 per cent of adult Americans believed UFOs were real, that 11 per cent, or a projection of 15 million people, said they had seen a UFO - more than double the 5 per cent figure of 1966.

But even more important than those statistics and the results of Gallup polls is the revelation that while an appreciable number of countries have initiated and supported research into ufology, there exists an aura of secrecy and holding back by major Powers which it is the object of our draft resolution to reverse.

Since 1971 when the representative of Uganda made his momentous statement about UFOs in the Political Committee of the twenty-sixth session of the General Assembly, much has happened in and around our planet to make mankind take new stock of the changing circumstances and begin to consider seriously the possibilities of life in extraterrestrial domains and the meaning of that possibility for earth people against the backdrop of the continued UFO surveillance.

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I have already cited statistics and the results of Gallup polls which indicate a growing awareness and acceptance of the UFO phenomenon by peoples throughout the world, especially by young people and the better-educated. For many years scientists have raised lone voices, as in a wilderness, supporting the view not only that UFOs exist but that they may represent highly intelligent life of extraterrestrial origin.

All scientists do not accept all the views relating to UFOs, but I think we can all be guided by the caution suggested by Allen Hynek in his most recent book, The Hynek UFO Report:

"In the public mind, UFOs seem to be synonymous with spaceships and visitors from outer space. Certainly a careful study of the more extraordinary and unexplained UFO cases, not only from the Air Force files but from the more extensive files at the Center for UFO Studies, leaves little doubt that an 'intelligence' of some sort is operating. What kind and where from?

"We must be extremely careful not to be too self-centered about this question. It is only too natural for us to think that all intelligence must necessarily be like our own - that visitors, if these they be, must think and act as we do. Indeed there are people in other nations whose actions we sometimes find difficult to understand. Why, then, presume that the intelligence that appears to manifest itself in one way or another through the UFO phenomenon must be akin to ours? Or why assume that it necessarily operates under the conditions we are accustomed to? And whence this intelligence? Does it really hail from afar, or is it perhaps much closer to us than popularly supposed? Is it metaterrestrial rather than extraterrestrial? Or, going even further afield, is it in some way, as the psychologist Jung held, a strange manifestation of the human psyche?

"This overall concern has even invaded Hollywood, a sure index of its pervasiveness and popular appeal. It is the central theme of the motion picture Close Encounters of the Third Kind whose director, Steven Spielberg, has had an intense interest in the subject of UFOs for many years. Spielberg has succeeded in capturing on film the

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essence of the UFO enigma, the mounting evidence that intelligence other than our own not only exists, but, in a manner peculiarly its own, is making itself known to the human race."

Incidentally, the Grenada delegation wishes to thank the management of Columbia Pictures for making available, at our request, 300 tickets to allow members of the Special Political Committee to attend a special private screening of the film. Also, the Grenada delegation wishes to thank the management of Ballantine Books for making available, also for distribution to delegations, 300 copies of their new book Project Blue Book, edited by Brad Steiger. It is our earnest hope that those inputs assisted members of this Committee to understand more clearly and vividly the implications of the strange UFO phenomenon which seems destined to cause concern to all mankind.

Although many countries have developed an open-minded posture with regard to the UFO problem, there is still an amorphous veil of secrecy surrounding UFO activities in some countries and a considerable lack of media coverage. For some idea of what is happening in some of those countries I turn again to Leonard Stringfield's recent book Situation Red. Stringfield quotes William Hauck, director of the International UFO Registry, as follows:

"Shortly after Kurt Waldheim lost his bid for Chancellor of Austria, I questioned him concerning the concealment of UFO reports by Austrian authorities. He replied that the Austrian Government would not hesitate to release significant material should it become available. This approach shadows the official position of West Germany based on findings of a government commission headed by Dr. Herman Oberth.

"The Oberth commission found that '... UFOs are conceived and directed by intelligent beings of a very high order ...' and the West German Government has proved very open in its handling of the phenomenon.

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"To my knowledge, the British Air Ministry has taken a less serious approach and is only too happy to pass UFO reports along to U.S. authorities. All Canadian UFO sightings must be reported to U.S. military communications stations under a Joint Chiefs of Staff directive, although the Minister of Defense ... has denied all knowledge of such an arrangement. The Australian Department of Air also works closely with U.S. authorities in what appears to be a continuing effort to debunk UFO sightings.

"Czechoslovakia has an extensive UFO research effort under way, which remains completely classified. Without doubt, the Soviet Union is involved in the study of UFOs, although in 1968 the Soviet Academy of Science pronounced the study of UFOs 'unscientific.' In this connection it is significant to note that Dr. Felix Zigel, Professor of Mathematics and Astronomy at the Moscow Aviation Institute in the Soviet Union, has confirmed that his long study of the UFO phenomenon has convinced him that UFOs are of extra-terrestrial origin. He sees no alternative hypothesis to the one which explains UFOs as being manifestations of extra-terrestrial space ventures. Indeed, in an article in a Soviet weekly since 1967 Dr. Zigel has been calling for international action to investigate the UFO phenomenon."

With respect to Canada, Stringfield quotes John B. Musgrave, who is preparing a documented history of the UFO in Canada for which he received a Canada Council grant, as follows:

"While there has been cover-up, there have also been some notable Canadian contributions to UFO research which have enjoyed at least some support from governmental agencies. The most famous of these, Project Magnet, was authorized in December 1950 by Commander C. P. Edwards, then Deputy Minister of Transport for Air Services. The project was in fact headed by Wilbert B. Smith, who was largely the inspiration for the project. Although no monies were allocated, facilities and electronic equipment were provided at Shirley Bay, Ontario. In his Project Magnet report, Smith concluded after analysing twenty-four cases from 1952 that 'It appears, then, that we are faced with a substantial probability of the real existence of extra-terrestrial vehicles, regardless of whether or not they fit into our scheme of things'."

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Stringfield reports that similar UFO investigations are carried out in Venezuela, Argentina and Brazil. With respect to Brazil, Stringfield informs us that the Brazilian air force has adopted a position of observer and analyst. In accordance with that position, the air force takes care of those cases which present ab initio a certain mark of credibility. Stringfield reports that Argentina has in the past openly exchanged information on UFO incidents. All of this suggests growing international interest in the UFO puzzle.

Stringfield also reports that Communist China is also sensitively alert to the UFO but officially has said nothing.

Very significant developments have taken place recently in two countries with respect to research into the UFO phenomenon - France and the United States. As from 1 May 1977 the President of the French National Centre for Space Studies has created an official research group on the UFO question. The group, called the National Centre for Space Studies, is under the guidance of the distinguished French scientist, Mr. Claude Poher, and its work will be multidisciplinary and carried out with the active participation of some members of all the main Government research organizations - the National Centre for Scientific Research, the Astrophysical Institute, the National Meteorological Service, universities, and so on. This constitutes a giant step on the national level towards coming to grips with this baffling problem.

With respect to the United States, reference has already been made to the closing in 1969 of Project Blue Book, an official United States investigation whose conclusions debunking the UFO phenomenon continue to be heavily criticized by well-known and distinguished scientists the world over. As Mr. Hynek observed in his most recent book:

"There were only two aspects of the UFO problem that ever really concerned ... [the air force]: whether or not UFOs were a threat to national security, and whether or not they were extraterrestrial."

Having decided that UFOs were neither a threat to national security nor extraterrestrial, the United States air force seems to have taken no more than routine interest in UFOs - or at least so it appears to the general public.

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But in the meantime a new President has come to occupy the White House: a President who admits that he has observed a UFO; a President who is reported to have promised as a presidential candidate to take a more open posture with respect to UFOs and to make more accessible to the public data on UFOs accumulated in the United States archives.

It will be recalled that the Prime Minister of Grenada, Sir Eric Gairy, had the pleasure and privilege of meeting President Jimmy Carter in Washington earlier this year, and it is more than likely that both the President and the Prime Minister exchanged some notes on the UFO phenomenon, especially as it was known world wide that the Prime Minister had been instrumental in having an item on the UFO included in the agenda of the thirty-second session of the General Assembly.

Very significantly, it has been confirmed that the White House is becoming the focal point of an increasing number of inquiries concerning UFOs and that there seems to be a national revival of interest in the matter of UFOs, with a younger generation becoming involved.

Accordingly, it has been suggested that the focal point of UFO matters be reopened. Significantly, the new probe has been entrusted by the White House to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). NASA recently named a project officer to review reports of the last 10 years and provide a scientific recommendation relative to any further inquiry which might be considered desirable. This is another giant step in the direction of UFO research at the national level. In our view it is a definite tribute to the sincerity of the new President of the United States and his commitment to candour and personal interest regarding the whole question of UFO research.

In the Political Committee at the twenty-sixth session of the General Assembly Mr. Kurt Waldheim, then the representative of Austria, made the following very significant statement:

"Space research, however, and in particular its many practical applications, are not the exclusive purview and interest of only a few space Powers. These activities by their very nature are of general importance and they have already given rise to an increasing political-technical interdependence among nations and will require considerably

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intensified collaboration among them. Collaboration at all political and practical levels and collaboration between nations and peoples of various environments are now realities which are becoming increasingly necessary for our very survival ..." (A/C.1/PV.1822, para. 21)

The Grenada delegation has attempted, by means of this rather extensive statement, to indicate to this Committee that the question of UFO research is not something trumped up by our Prime Minister to waste the time of representatives and bring ridicule on the work of the General Assembly. We have tried to show that even though the question of the UFO phenomenon has been brought to the attention of the United Nations and Member States for several years this is the first time that a member nation, spurred mainly by increased UFO activity world wide since 1973, has had not only the courage but the concern and vision to introduce an item on UFOs for debate by the General Assembly.

The delegation of Grenada, like many private persons, scientific groups and perhaps even some Governments which might not have expressed this openly, holds the view that the question of UFO research is one for the international community and thus for the United Nations, since we see in the UFO, simply expressed, a vast new hinterland with significance for all mankind.

I recall the words of our Prime Minister delivered earlier during the current session of the General Assembly. He said:

"In the light of scientific discoveries it would be more than fallacious to conceive our planet as being the sole and only estate of God's domain." (A/32/PV.25, p.22)

The possibility of life in outer space is a gripping hypothesis and has now begun to surface openly in the United Nations. Indeed, in the course of the twentieth session of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, held in Vienna from 20 June to 1 July 1977, the question of extraterrestrial civilizations was raised several times in view of the acknowledged impact that any contact with extraterrestrial civilization might have on our planet. The question of UFOs is different,

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of course, and research into the UFO phenomenon may well provide the final answer both by confirming extraterrestrial life and by providing life on earth with an entirely new lifestyle.

Stanton Friedman makes the point that after 11 years of study of UFOs he is convinced not only that some UFOs are extraterrestrial vehicles but that the problem with the acceptance of UFOs is a psychological one, just as was that of the acceptance of the Copernican universe 300 years ago.

Mr. Allen Hynek, the well-known expert in ufology, has given the world this inspiration:

"Today I would not spend one further moment on the subject of UFOs if I did not seriously feel that the UFO phenomenon is real and that the efforts to investigate and understand it, and eventually to solve it, could have a profound effect and perhaps even be the springboard to a revolution in man's outlook on the universe."

In his historically significant statement in 1971 referred to earlier in this statement Mr. Ibingira quoted the words of Mr. Oberth:

"Science should regard anything as possible so long as it cannot be proven impossible by facts based upon observations." (A/C.1/PV.1821, para. 105)

And in his own words Mr. Ibingira warned almost prophetically:

"... we shall outgrow the outlook of our forefathers when they argued vehemently that the earth was flat, that man could never fly, that no one could ever reach the moon or go beyond it to the stars." (Ibid., para. 107)

Allow me to quote some very significant words of Leonard Stringfield:

"Once we know the truth from whatever source perhaps the world will find cause to unite. The answer may even bear a cornucopia of goodness for man, a sharing of scientific and cultural knowledge; or it may spell man's ultimate doom. What is important is knowing the truth so that man can rediscover himself."

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The item with which we are now dealing calls for the establishment of an agency or department of the United Nations for undertaking, co-ordinating and disseminating the results of research into unidentified flying objects and related phenomena.

Earlier in this session my Prime Minister already made it clear that Grenada is prepared to be very flexible in this matter and to introduce a draft resolution calling for the establishment of a small committee which, with the assistance of the Secretary-General and specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations, would carry out a review of the current international status of the UFO phenomenon for submission to the thirty-third session of the General Assembly before it proceeds to discuss further the establishment of any formal agency. We are prepared to take one step at a time out of concern and consideration for member nations which might wish to reflect more deeply on this phenomenon in the light of technological and other developments taking place in the world today.

That draft resolution is in fact ready but before presenting it my delegation wishes to defer to other delegations, which we know are bubbling with interest in this subject and are anxious to make statements. My delegation joins me in urging members of this Committee to accept the invitation of our Prime Minister, Sir Eric Gairy, to support the thrust of our statement and join Grenada in keeping this important date with history for the benefit of our nations and of all mankind, and especially for our young people who, we hope, will be living on this earth tomorrow.

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