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UFO Hush Blamed on CIA Men

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TUCSON — Unidentified flying objects seen over the United States for the past 18 years may be visitors from outer space here on reconnaissance missions, an eminent University of Arizona physicist said yesterday.

Dr. James E. McDonald, senior physicist in the Institute of Atmospheric Physics at the university, said he reluctantly has accepted the extraterrestrial theory after intensive research into UFOs.

In addition, Dr. McDonald charged that the Central Intelligence Agency has ordered all reports of UFOs to be officially "debunked" by the Air Force.

In the process of his research at Project Blue Book headquarters at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, where the Air Force compiles reports of saucer sightings, McDonald was inadvertently permitted to see the classified CIA order.

It was attached to the Robertson Report, a government-sponsored investigation of the UFO problem by a group of respected scientists.

The Robertson Report, named after its chairman, Cal Tech physicist H. P. Robertson, is also classified and has been so at CIA request since the report was completed in 1957.

CIA agent P. G. Strong, who signed the secrecy order, said the UFOs must be debunked because widespread reports of their sightings "were clogging up intelligence channels," according to McDonald.

One of the world's leading atmospheric physicists, McDonald said he casually asked Project Blue Book personnel at Wright-Patterson if he could see the Robertson Report.

"The report was declassified on the spot and I was permitted to read it and make notes. When I returned three months later I asked to make Xerox copies of the report. The request bounced up to the base commander, and he passed it on to the CIA, which classified the report again," McDonald said.

The CIA's stated reason for debunking flying saucer reports, according to McDonald, was that with less official recognition of UFOs there would be a corresponding drop in public interest and there would be fewer reported sightings.

The CIA also said in the debunking order that civilian UFO organizations such as the Tucson-based Aerial Phenomena Research Organization (APRO) should be kept under surveillance because they might be subversive.

Speaking before a group of physics students and members of the faculty yesterday, McDonald said there is quite strong evidence the UFOs are from outer space.

"I haven't the slightest idea where the UFOs come from," he said. "They don't fit any form that we know here on earth. The only thing that can fit the known evidence is that the UFOs are extraterrestrial."

He said the patterns of sightings suggest that the saucers, if they are from some other

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planet, are here on peaceful reconnaissance missions.

That would explain the "buzzing incidents, the hovering of UFOs over cars and trucks and the flybys of aircraft," McDonald theorized.

He said the outer space idea is "the least unacceptable explanation." He listed as other hypotheses that he has rejected time traveling, extra-sensory perception, hoaxes, hallucination hysteria, misinterpreted natural phenomena, secret advance aircraft, secret societies, and messengers of salvation.

McDonald said the Air Force has failed in the job of collecting and correctly investigating UFO reports. Blue Book accounts say that 95 per cent of UFOs can be explained, while 5 per cent of the sightings defy logical explanation.

McDonald said the percentage is actually closer to 50 per cent.

Air Force investigators try hard to suggest all reports are either balloons, birds, inversion

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layers, clouds, reflected lights or aircraft.

"But too many of the reports are from credible, trained observers who do not seek publicity or gain, and these reports are not being thoroughly investigated," he said.

He scored the Air Force for enforcing a regulation that makes it a crime for airmen to report UFO sightings to civilian organizations. He said this has resulted in a vast official silence about radar observations, visual sightings by pilots and detection by space apparatus.