

TELEGRAM

Circ.: m. 57,017
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FEB 29 1960

Date:

Another Jab At the Air Force

The Air Force, it appears, is in trouble again. Not with churchmen who resent being called communists nor with privates who don't like to wash generals' dogs. This time the complainants are the flying saucer people.

A group known as the National Investigations Committee on aerial Phenomena has charged that the Air Force really believes in the existence of unidentified flying objects while, at the same time, it tries to kid the public into thinking that they are nonsense.

As evidence of this double standard of the Air Force the committee, through Vice-Admiral R.H. Hillenkoetter, one of its board members, cites new regulations issued by the Air Force inspector general last December.

These regulations, the issuance of which has been confirmed by the Air Force, warn personnel of the service to treat such objects as "serious business" directly related to the nation's defense.

Admiral Hillenkoetter is a former director of the Central Intelligence Agency. The organization for which he is spokesman is a privately financed group the purpose of which is explained by its name.

For years now, such groups have been trying to get the Air Force to concede the existence of UFOs, as unidentified flying objects have come to be known. The latest Air Force statement on the subject, issued a month ago declared:

"No physical or material evidence, not even a minute fragment of a so-called flying saucer has ever been found." The Air Force has investigated 6,312 reports of flying objects since 1947, including 183 in the last six months of 1959."

Presumably the interest of the Air Force is directed toward any flying thing that poses a threat. Also presumably, the NICAP is interested in proving its thesis that something is flying in here from outer space, and it wants official backing for its belief that, by George, something is.

What the NICAP and similar groups has never made clear is why they believe that officadom would sit on such information if they actually have it, or how, in the nature of things, they would be able to do so even if they wished.

This is one manual we can't get, very excited about. About those two others, we did.