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# Saucer Data Suppressed, Admiral Says

## Congressman Admits Secret Hearings Hold

By ROBERT J. SERLING  
WASHINGTON, Aug. 2—A group which includes a former Central Intelligence chief reported today that congressional committees have conducted secret hearings on "flying saucers" but have never made their findings public.

The claim was made by the National Investigating Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP), which insists the Air Force is withholding evidence which would prove that flying saucers actually exist. Retired Vice Admiral R. H. Hillenkoetter, who once headed the Central Intelligence Agency, is a committee member.

### Congressman Quoted

NICAP quoted a letter from Rep. William H. Ayres, Ohio Republican, as proof that hush-hush congressional hearings had been held. An aide confirmed that Mr. Ayres wrote the letter last January to Melvin V. Knopp of West Richfield, Ohio.

The congressman said: "Congressional investigations have been held and are still being held on the problem of unidentified flying objects (UFO's). Since most of the material presented to the committees is classified, the hearings are never printed. When conclusions are reached, they will be released if possible."

The NICAP said this refuted Air Force claims that no congressional hearings had been held.

### Scotts at Claims

The Air Force says that thorough investigation has shown there is nothing to bear out claims that reported flying saucers are man-made or piloted. Officials contend that mysterious objects in the sky are natural phenomena such as strange cloud formations, northern lights or optical illusions.

NICAP differs. Admiral Hillenkoetter and other board members issued a statement which said:

"From evidence in NICAP's possession, it is clear the Air force is still withholding information on unidentified flying objects—including sighting reports. We believe this policy to be dangerous. It makes it possible for the Soviet government to claim ownership of UFO's or flying saucers. Such a claim, especially at this time, might create a serious situation in this country."

### Scott Views Given

The group, which includes Donald E. Kehoe who has written extensively on flying saucers, quoted Rep. Ralph H. Scott, North Carolina Democrat, in support of the demand for more information.

Mr. Scott said: "The general public should be allowed information thus far known about flying objects except, of course, in the case where they might become unduly alarmed or panicked by such a revelation."

"If this information could be presented to the American people in such a way as to appeal to reason and not to emotion, I think it would be a good thing."