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PHYSICIST RAPS EXPLANATIONS*Air Force Probe of UFOs
Called 'Scientific Scandal'*

TUCSON, Ariz., Oct. 8 (UPI)— A University of Arizona physicist says he believes some unidentified flying objects come from outside the earth's atmosphere and are "operated or controlled in some way by thinking beings."

James McDonald, senior physicist at the Institute of Atmospheric Physics, criticized

Air Force explanations of the UFO sightings.

He said the most common explanation is that they result from two natural phenomena—swamp gas and ball lightning.

"Several cases I have investigated, atmospheric conditions were not such as to allow either of these to occur," he said.

Dr. McDonald also said the Air Force method of investigation "is a scientific scandal." He said none of the investigators had training in astronomy, physics, or related sciences.

He said he has "absolutely no idea where the objects come from, or how they are operated," but "after 10 years of research I know they are something outside of our atmosphere."

Dr. McDonald said they seem but he said he did not know to be "extra-terrestrial probes" their purpose or origin "and I won't speculate on the matter."

'Saucer' Study

The Air Force has commissioned Colorado University to conduct an "in-depth" study of flying saucers for the next 18 months.

The project apparently is the outgrowth of continuing public mistrust of Air Force investigations of thousands of unidentified flying objects (UFOS) — which some citizens believe may be visitors from other planets.