

across, appeared at times like a giant balloon with a triangular shape suspended below it as it hung at about 75,000 feet, too high for the planes to approach. One astronomer said the object hung for several hours in one position."

### UFO reports flood Duluth

We are grateful to Mr. Gary S. Mathams, Grand Rapids, Minn, for sending us the following two reports from the *Duluth News-Tribune* dated August 18:

"Four occupants of a car reported an object which rose up from behind some woods just off Highway 8. The driver, James Luhm told police officers that its size was difficult to determine, but it looked about the size of a football field. As they drove towards the object, its light dimmed, but it suddenly whirled, changed colour and headed towards the car. It had blue, green and faint red whirling lights which turned to a definite blue-green as the object came closer. As it approached the car's windows started to steam up. When the object was only a few blocks away, Mr. Luhm turned the car and drove back towards the highway.

"Several other persons in the State reported seeing objects similar to the one Mr. Luhm and his passengers saw, and Twin Cities radio station and the weather bureau reported more than 75 calls reporting sightings.

"Several pilots reported noting an object at the Flying Cloud Airport, south-west of Minneapolis. They said it settled down on an east-west runway and then zoomed up and away."

"Three Duluth teenagers, who had been discussing the sighting of Mr. Luhm reported above, were frightened by a UFO while driving along the West Tischer Road.

"Dennis Tyo, Bonnie Mattila and her sister Carol saw a large dark object moving at moderate speed. It appeared a few hundred yards above the ground and carried bright orange lights that flashed on and off.

"Tyo drove away, but they returned about half an hour later and saw the object again. It appeared to have moved about 10 miles from the place where it was first sighted."

### UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

#### Dr. Hynek's statement

The *New York Post* of September 2 reports that Dr. J. Allen Hynek,

U.S. Air Force Consultant on Un-identified Flying Objects since 1948, has criticised the American Scientific Establishment for failing to investigate the persistent UFO phenomena.

In a letter to *Science Magazine*, dated August 1, Dr. Hynek, who is Head of the North-western University Astronomy Department, said that the scientific community in general has ignored reports of UFOs as a serious challenge despite the fact that twenty years after the first major public fervor over UFOs, "reports continued to accumulate at a rate much greater than at first."

While many sightings can be dismissed as natural phenomena, there is a growing number which cannot be explained. He stated that he had written to *Science Magazine* to give the gist of his experiences with the UFO problem so far to colleagues "who could not be expected to keep up with so seemingly bizarre a field."

Dr. Hynek said he learned the fallacy of assuming all UFO reports were the products of hysteria and crackpots or cranks.

"The opposite is much nearer the truth," he stated. "Only a negligible handful of reports submitted to the Air Force or to any other organisation, so far as I know, are from such people. I cannot dismiss the UFO phenomenon with a shrug. I have begun to feel there is a tendency in 20th century science to forget that there will be a 21st century science."

(Credit to Louise Amsden, New York).

### VENEZUELA

#### Did object kill rider ?

From the Venezuela Press same the following account of an unusual occurrence at Valencia on January 16:

"As a bright flying object passed over his head, Antonio Grozco, a 60-year-old peasant who was riding his donkey in the town of El Berrial, in the province of Los Guayos, dropped to the ground—dead. A witness, Mr. Leon Maria, told a reporter that he and other onlookers were of the opinion that Antonio Grozco died as a result of the object flying over him. The object then shot skyward and was soon out of sight."

(Credit to Jerome Clark, Canby, Minnesota).

[UFO possibly—but the possibility of ball lightning must also be considered—EDITOR].

### GENERAL Official investigation

The *Daily Telegraph* of October 8, 1966, carried the following account under the headline U.S. UNIVERSITY TO INVESTIGATE FLYING SAUCERS . . .

"The American Air Force announced today that it had arranged for the University of Colorado at Boulder to make independent investigations of reports of 'flying saucers.' The project will be financed by a research grant of 300,000 dollars (£100,000).

"The scientific director will be Dr. Edward Condon, Professor of Physics at the university. A former head of the National Bureau of Standards, he played an important part in the development of the first atomic bomb.

"In subsequent years he was involved in controversy with the House of Representatives Committee on Un-American Activities. In 1953 he was president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science."

The *Yorkshire Post* of the same date reported the amount (presumably the conversion of \$300,000) as £140,000, and that the 100 scientists' report was expected in 1968. The *London Sun*, also of October 8, quoted the same conversion and the same date of expectancy.

We had to wait until October 10 for a note to appear in *The Times*, but at least that newspaper had the conversion correct, as one would expect, although their source of information differed from others in the expected duration of the investigation . . .

"A new scientific study of Un-identified Flying Objects, expected to cost \$300,000 (about £107,000) over the next 15 years, has been sanctioned by the United States Air Force and will be undertaken by the University of Colorado.

"Announcing this, Mr. Harold Brown, the Secretary of the Air Force, said the study was intended to analyse phenomena associated with UFO sightings."

"Colorado University will choose several other universities to help in its programme, and more than 100 scientists and consultants will take part."

We can only hope that the investigation does indeed set out to analyse UFO sighting phenomena, and does not take the line which *The Yorkshire Post* and the *Sun* says it will take, namely, to decide whether or not "... they (the UFOs) are flown by pilots from outer space."