

**The original documents are located in Box D9, folder “Ford Press Releases - UFO, 1966” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

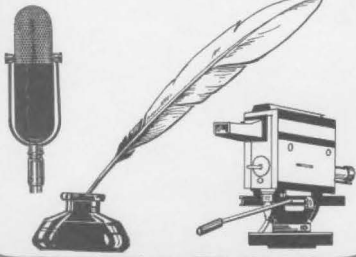
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## UFO Enclosures

Library of Congress book	(UFO material)
Blue Book	"
Air Force Statement about UFO at Dexter, Michigan	"
March 25, 1966, News Release	(UFO statements)
March 28, 1966, News Release	"
April 3, 1966, News Release	"
April 21, 1966, News Release	"
April 16, 1967, Editorial from The New York Times	(UFO information)
April 17, 1967, Editorial from The Detroit Free Press	"
October 7, 1966, News Release	"
July 31, 1966, UFO Sighting	"
May 9, 1966, News Release	"
April 17, 1966, Ravenna, Ohio	"
September 3, 1965, Exeter, New Hampshire	"
March 2, 1965, Brooksville, Florida	"
April 24, 1964, Socorro, New Mexico	"
February 24, 1959, UFO over Pennsylvania	"
November 23, 1953, Kinross Incident	"
July 19/20 and 26/27, 1952, Washington, D. C.	"
January 7, 1948, The Mantell Case	"
June 24, 1957, Mt. Ranier, Washington	"
Air Force Regulations 80-17 and 80-17A <u>(Only in special cases; see page 5 of blue book)</u>	"





CONGRESSMAN  
**GERALD R. FORD**  
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS  
RELEASE**

FROM THE OFFICE OF HOUSE MINORITY LEADER GERALD R. FORD, R-MICH.

FOR RELEASE ON RECEIPT

MARCH 25, 1966

WASHINGTON--House Minority Leader Gerald R. Ford, R-Mich., today proposed that Congress investigate the rash of reported sightings of unidentified flying objects in Southern Michigan and other parts of the country.

Ford said he believes a congressional inquiry would be worthwhile because the American people are becoming alarmed by the UFO stories.

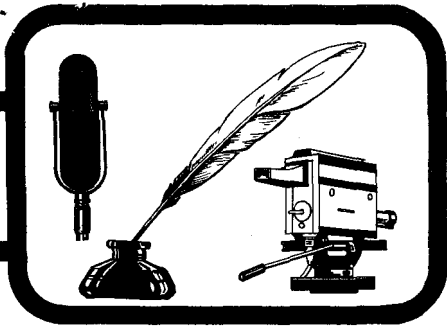
He noted that Air Force investigators have been checking on such reports for years but have come up with nothing conclusive.

"In the light of these new sightings and incidents," Ford said, "it would be a very wholesome thing for a committee of the Congress to conduct a number of hearings and to call responsible witnesses from the executive branch (of the government) and witnesses who say they have sighted these objects."

"I think the American people would feel better if there was a full-blown investigation of these incidents, which some persons allege have taken place."

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CONGRESSMAN  
**GERALD R. FORD**  
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER



FOR RELEASE TUESDAY, P.M.

MARCH 28, 1966

NOTE TO ALL NEWS MEDIA: House Minority Leader Gerald R. Ford, R-Michigan, today sent the attached letter to the chairmen and the ranking Republican members of the House Committees on Armed Services and Science and Astronautics, urging that one committee or the other investigate the subject of Unidentified Flying Objects (UFO's).

Ford is not satisfied with the Air Force explanation of the recent sightings in Michigan and describes the "swamp gas" version given by astrophysicist J. Allen Hynek as "flippant."

Ford has received a number of telegrams and letters from individuals anxious to see a congressional investigation of UFO's.

###

C O P Y

March 28, 1966

Rep. George P. Miller, Chairman  
Science and Astronautics Committee  
U. S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C.

Rep. L. Mendel Rivers, Chairman  
Armed Services Committee  
U. S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Chairmen Miller and Rivers:

No doubt you have noted the recent flurry of newspaper stories about unidentified flying objects (UFO's). I have taken special interest in these accounts because many of the latest reported sightings have been in my home state of Michigan.

The Air Force sent a consultant, astrophysicist Dr. J. Allen Hynek of Northwestern University, to Michigan to investigate the various reports; and he dismissed all of them as the product of college student pranks or swamp gas or an impression created by the rising crescent moon and the planet Venus. I do not agree that all of these reports can be or should be so easily explained away.

Because I think there may be substance to some of these reports and because I believe the American people are entitled to a more thorough explanation than has been given them by the Air Force to date, I am proposing that either the Science and Astronautics Committee or the Armed Services Committee of the House schedule hearings on the subject of UFO's and invite testimony from both the executive branch of the government and some of the persons who claim to have seen UFO's.

I enclose material which I think will be helpful to you in assessing the advisability of an investigation of UFO's.

May I first call to your attention a column by Roscoe Drummond, published last Sunday in which Mr. Drummond says, "Maybe all of these reported sightings are whimsical, imaginary or unreal; but we need a more credible and detached appraisal of the evidence than we are getting."

Mr. Drummond goes on to state, "We need to get all the data drawn together to one place and examined far more objectively than anyone has done so far. A stable public opinion will come from a trustworthy look at the evidence, not from belittling it."

"The time has come for the President or Congress to name an objective and respected panel to investigate, appraise, and report on all present and future evidence about what is going on."

I agree fully with Mr. Drummond's statements. I also suggest you scan the enclosed series of six articles by Bulkley Griffin of the Griffin-Larrabee News Bureau here. In the last of his articles, published last January, Mr. Griffin says, "A main conclusion can be briefly stated. It is that the Air Force is misleading the public by its continuing campaign to produce and maintain belief that all sightings can be explained away as misidentification of familiar objects, such as balloons, stars, and aircraft."

I have just today received a number of telegrams urging a congressional investigation of UFO's. One is from retired Air Force Col. Harold R. Brown, Ardmore, Tennessee, who says, "I have seen UFO. Will be available to testify."

Another, from Mrs. Ethyle M. Davis, Eugene, Oregon, reads, "Nine out of ten people want truth of UFO's Press your investigation to the fullest."

(MORE)

Rep. George P. Miller, Chairman  
Rep. L. Mendel Rivers, Chairman  
Page Two  
March 28, 1966

Ronald Colier of Los Angeles, who identifies himself as "a scientist from M.I.T.," urges that you "do everything in your power to make Air Force Project Blue Book (the AF name for its study and verdicts on UFO reports) known to the people."

Are we to assume that everyone who says he has seen UFO's is an unreliable witness?

A UPI story out of Ann Arbor, Michigan, dated March 21, 1966, states that "at least 40 persons, including 12 policemen, said today that they saw a strange flying object guarded by four sister ships land in a swamp near here Sunday night."

Matt Surrell of Station WJR, Detroit, cites an eye witness account of a recent UFO sighting by Emile Grenier of Ann Arbor, an aeronautical engineer employed by Ford Motor Company. He points out that an aeronautical engineer can hardly be considered an untrustworthy witness.

In the firm belief that the American public deserves a better explanation than that thus far given by the Air Force, I strongly recommend that there be a committee investigation of the UFO phenomena.

I think we owe it to the people to establish credibility regarding UFO's and to produce the greatest possible enlightenment on this subject.

Kindest personal regards.

Sincerely,

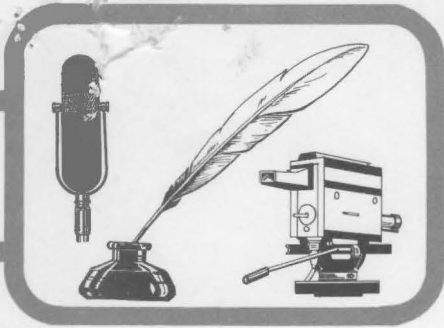
/s/

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GRF:plr

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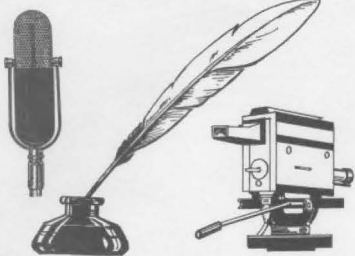
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Enclosures

# # #



CONGRESSMAN  
**GERALD R. FORD**  
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS  
RELEASE**

FOR SUNDAY A.M. RELEASE

APRIL 3, 1966

STATEMENT BY HOUSE MINORITY LEADER GERALD R. FORD, R-MICHIGAN

As I had expected, some persons have ridiculed my call for a congressional investigation of unidentified flying objects (UFO's). These people are a fraction of those who have given me their reaction to my proposal. The overwhelming majority of those expressing a view in letters to me believe a congressional investigation would be useful and is needed.

Those who scoff at the idea of a congressional investigation of UFO's apparently are unaware that the House Armed Services Committee has scheduled a closed-door hearing on the matter Tuesday with the Air Force and that Rep. Joseph E. Karth, D-Minn., headed a three-man subcommittee which held two days of hush-hush hearings five years ago on behalf of the House Science and Astronautics Committee. Karth has confirmed in conversation with a member of my staff that he conducted these secret hearings.

The present Science and Astronautics Committee chairman, Rep. George P. Miller, D-Calif., has shied away from a UFO probe at this time, saying his committee does not have jurisdiction over the Air Force. But the late Rep. Overton Brooks, D-La., obviously had different ideas because he tapped Karth to summon Air Force witnesses and question them after a flurry of UFO sightings in 1961.

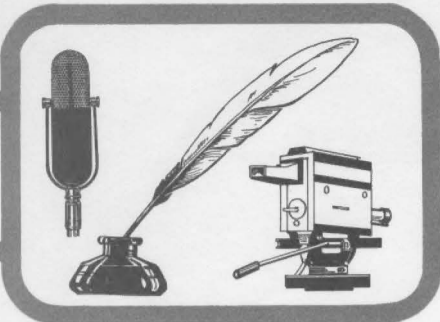
Karth has informed me that his subcommittee made an oral report to the full committee but never released anything to the public. According to Charles F. Ducander, the committee's staff director, no record was made of conversation between Karth's subcommittee members and Air Force witnesses. The hearings, he said, took place in Karth's congressional office.

I have never said that I believe any of the reported UFO sightings indicate visits to earth from another planet. Apart from pranks and natural phenomena, some of these objects may well be products of experimentation by our own military. If this is so, why doesn't the Air Force concede it and in this way reassure the American people? There would be no need to go into detail on the nature of the experiments.

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*Office copy*



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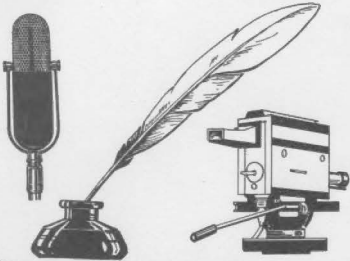
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CONGRESSMAN  
**GERALD R. FORD**  
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS  
RELEASE**

FOR RELEASE ON THURSDAY, P.M.,  
APRIL 21, 1966

STATEMENT BY HOUSE MINORITY LEADER GERALD R. FORD, R-MICHIGAN.

The Air Force has informed me it is arranging for a study by high-caliber scientists of some of the UFO sightings which have never been explained.

This study will be placed under contract soon after July 1, start of the new fiscal year. It will be carried out by a university which has no close ties with the Air Force so that the findings will be completely objective, Air Force officials tell me.

Those people engaged in the study will be high-caliber scientists who have never taken a position on UFO's, the Air Force said. It will be made clear to them that they are not being hired to come up with findings in support of previous Air Force statements regarding UFO's, I am informed.

The Air Force said there is too much effort involved to ask these scientists to make this study without pay.

The report will definitely be made public, the Air Force assured me. The whole purpose of the study is to clear the air as far as the public is concerned.

This, of course, was my purpose in recently requesting that public hearings on the subject of UFO's be conducted by either the House Armed Services Committee or the House Science and Astronautics Committee.

It was as a result of my call for a congressional investigation that the Air Force now is arranging for a study of UFO's by topflight scientists not connected in any way with the Air Force.

I would have preferred a congressional investigation with witnesses to include reliable persons from among those who say they have seen UFO's. I still think this would be beneficial. But the UFO study by a panel of scientists, with the report to be made public, is a step in the right direction.

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# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (PUBLIC AFFAIRS)

WASHINGTON, D.C. - 20301

PLEASE NOTE DATE

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 7, 1966

## AIR FORCE SELECTS UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO TO INVESTIGATE UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT REPORTS

The University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado, has been selected by the Air Force to conduct independent investigations into unidentified flying object (UFO) reports.

A research agreement, valued at approximately \$300,000, is being negotiated with the university by the Air Force Office of Scientific Research to analyze phenomena associated with UFO sightings and to make recommendations on the Air Force's methods of investigating and evaluating UFO reports -- a program known as Project Blue Book. A report is expected to be made to the Air Force in early 1968.

Dr. Edward U. Condon will direct the scientific phases of the work, while Robert J. Low will serve as project coordinator. Principal investigators working with Dr. Condon will be Dr. Franklin E. Roach and Dr. Stuart W. Cook.

Dr. Condon, former director of the National Bureau of Standards (NBS), is a professor of physics at Colorado and a fellow of the Joint Laboratory for Astrophysics which is co-sponsored by the university and NBS. Mr. Low is an assistant dean of the university's graduate school. Dr. Cook is chairman of the university's psychology department, and Dr. Roach is an astrophysicist with the Environmental Science Services Administration (ESSA).

Colorado is expected to select several other universities to take part in the research. These and other consultants will bring the number of scientists involved to over 100.

The National Academy of Sciences has indicated its willingness to assist by appointing a panel--at the time the Colorado report becomes available to the Air Force--to review the investigating team's work. This panel will not be part of the investigating team, but will provide a further independent check on the scientific validity of the method of investigation.

In announcing the selection, Air Force Secretary Harold Brown said, "We are more than pleased to be able to place this grant with respected individuals in a university of such high standing in the scientific community. Additionally, the location of the university should prove invaluable to the investigators, since the National Center for Atmospheric Research and the research headquarters of the Environmental Science Services Administration are located at Boulder. These organizations conduct research on the properties of man's natural environment, specializing in the physical characteristics of the atmosphere and the near-space medium."

MORE



Air Force Project Blue Book files, as well as any other UFO information in the possession of the Air Force, will be made available to the team. Additionally, all Air Force installations within the U.S. will assist the team if requested. The investigators will, however, conduct their research independently of and without direction from the Air Force.

The decision to enter into a research agreement for this work was based on a recommendation of the Air Force Scientific Advisory Board which completed a review of the resources, methods and findings of Project Blue Book earlier this year. While complimenting the Air Force on the organization of Project Blue Book, the Board recommended that the program be expanded to include investigation of selected sightings by independent scientists.

Within the Department of Defense, the Air Force has the responsibility of investigating UFO reports. The Air Force has been investigating such reports since 1948 under its role of air defense of the United States, and the university's research does not alter Project Blue Book responsibilities of receiving, investigating and evaluating UFO reports.

END

(DOD Release No. 388-66, May 9, 1966, refers.)

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
WASHINGTON

*Office Copy*

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

7 OCT 1966

Dear Mr. Ford:

Knowing of your continuing interest in Air Force matters the Secretary of the Air Force has asked me to inform you of our selection of the University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado, to conduct independent investigations into unidentified flying object (UFO) reports.

Attached is a copy of the news story scheduled for release at 11:00 A. M. EDT today, October 7, 1966.

If further information would be helpful, please let us know.

Sincerely,

*Bryce Poe*

BRYCE POE, II, Colonel, USAF  
Chief, Plans Group  
Legislative Liaison

Attachment

Honorable Gerald R. Ford

House of Representatives



**CASE #173**[Direct PDF Download](#)

## SOURCE URL

<https://www.fordlibrarymuseum.gov/library/document/0054/4525586.pdf>

## DOMAIN

[www.fordlibrarymuseum.gov](http://www.fordlibrarymuseum.gov)

## CASE ID

#173 of 924

## CONTEXT FROM ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

(PUBLIC DOMAIN) - 3 April 1966 — Rep. Gerald R. Ford states the Air Force assured him an upcoming scientific study on UAP (what would become the Condon Committee) would not be connected “in any way” with the Air Force. Ford was dissatisfied with Project Blue Book and was seeking an independent analysis.

This assurance was later revealed to be untrue, as the USAF provided Condon with an “informal liaison” to assist with “certain technical activities” to analyze cases, a declassified memo shows.

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