

Science panel set to endorse report on UFO

CHGO DAILY NEWS 1/8/69

WASHINGTON (AP) — A blue-ribbon committee of the National Academy of Sciences will agree with the main conclusion of a secret report on a scientific investigation that says there is no evidence to indicate that unidentified flying objects are spaceships from another world.

This was learned Wednesday as the Air Force, which financed the \$500,000, two-year study, was preparing to release the long-awaited report.

The study, commissioned by the Air Force as an "independent" one to answer persistent criticism of its own investigations, was conducted by a group of nongovernment scientists headed by Edward U. Condon of the University of Colorado.

SINCE NOV. 15, the project's secret report has been under review by the special panel of the prestigious Academy of Sciences. The appraisal was asked by the Air Force to "provide a further independent check on the scientific validity of the method of investigation." It will be released simultaneously with the report.

The Associated Press revealed the main conclusion of the Condon report Tuesday. There had been no disclosure on the reaction of the academy panel, working amid security so tight that even the names of committee members are a secret.

Informed sources disclosed Wednesday, however, that the academy panel would endorse the primary finding that there is no evidence to support theories that UFOs, or flying

saucers, are of extraterrestrial origin. The sources said this is "the only sensible scientific conclusion that could be drawn" from studies made by the Condon project.

The sources also said the panel has "no strong disagreement" with other conclusions of the report, but they declined to elaborate.

No evidence found of Martian visitors

By Neal Stanford
Staff correspondent of
The Christian Science Monitor

1/13/69

Washington

Very simply put, the half-million-word, half-million-dollar, two-year study of UFOs (unidentified flying objects) just released, comes down to this:

A small percentage of reports of sightings of unidentified flying objects remain unexplained. But no evidence has turned up that would support the theory that these are actually sightings of vehicles from extraterrestrial sources.

And no evidence was found to support the theory that UFO reports indicate the existence of some hidden threat to national security.

This report, obviously is not going to be accepted by the many persons—scientists and laymen—who have come to believe that UFOs exist and are actually extraterrestrial phenomena. In fact, even as this three-volume study (the work of the University of Colorado and directed by the eminent scientist, Dr. Edward U. Condon) appears, several persons are rushing into print with paperbacks challenging the Condon report—both its conclusions and procedures.

Report solidly backed

However, the three-volume report has the unanimous support of a blue-ribbon panel of scientists named by the National Academy of Sciences to review the study. These examiners could find nothing wrong with either the scope, methodology, or findings of the Colorado group.

Of the scope of the study they said: "In our opinion it was adequate to its purpose, a scientific study of UFO phenomena."

Of its methodology: "We think its methodology and approach were well-chosen, in accordance with accepted standards of scientific investigation."

And of its findings: "Its conclusions and interpretations were warranted by the evidence and analyses presented."

The Colorado report, and the academy's underwriting of it, are quite specific in their findings and comments. It says, for example, that there is no basis for the contention:

- That the subject of UFOs is "shrouded in official secrecy"; that the Air Force (which has had responsibility for study of UFOs has covered up and misled the public on UFO dangers; or that the Air Force and other government agencies have either held back information from the Colorado study group or tried to influence its findings.

- It says that as nothing turned up in the study to indicate UFOs were extraterrestrial or a threat to national security, future investigations of UFO reports could be handled by the Defense Department in its normal surveillance operations. This means that the Air Force would not have to con-

tinue its Project Blue Book, a specialized unit devoted only to investigating UFO reports. The implication is that creation of a new major agency, as some have suggested, to study UFOs is unnecessary.

- It says that while "nothing has come from the study of UFOs in the past 21 years that has added to scientific knowledge," specific research in some fields is still warranted—such as in atmospheric optics, radio-wave propagation, atmospheric electricity, plasma phenomena—since these could help explain certain UFO sightings when more complete knowledge is available.

Extraterrestrial reports doubted

The conclusion of the august National Academy of Sciences panel on the study was unanimous: "That this has been a very creditable effort to apply objectively the relevant techniques of science to the solution of the UFO problem."

As for extraterrestrial sources of UFOs, the panel had this to say:

"The report suggests so many reasonable and possible directions in which explanation may eventually be found that there seems to be no reason to attribute them to an extraterrestrial source without evidence that is much more convincing. The report also shows how difficult it is to apply scientific methods to the occasional transient sightings with any chance of success.

"While further study of particular aspects of atmospheric phenomena may be useful, a study of UFOs in general is not a promising way to expand scientific understanding of the phenomena. On the basis of present knowledge, the least likely explanation of UFOs is the hypothesis of extraterrestrial visitations by intelligent beings."

These three volumes on UFOs, with pictures, tables, reports, case studies, etc., are a gold mine for anyone interested in UFOs, whether doubters or believers.

There is a chapter on what other countries are doing about UFOs, with possibly the most interesting comment that on the U.S.S.R. Dr. Condon tried to make contact with Soviet scientists on the matter of UFOs, by letter to Moscow, through the embassy in Washington, and at the UN in New York. He got nowhere.

However, the Soviet attitude toward UFOs was expressed in Pravda a year ago when it wrote:

Historic references cited

"No one has in his possession any new facts that would substantiate the reality of 'flying saucers.' They are not seen by astronomers who attentively study the skies day and night. They are not encountered by scientists who study the state and condition of earth's atmosphere. They have not been observed by the air defense service of the country. This means there are no grounds for reviving the nonsensical, long-buried rumors about secret trips to our planet by Martians or Venusians. . . . Academician L. A. Artsimovich at a recent meeting on UFO propaganda called it 'antiscientific,' saying, 'These fantasies do not have a scientific basis at all; the observed objects are of a well-known nature.'"

There is also a chapter on "UFOs in History," citing so-called UFO reports dating back to 213 B.C., including references to Pliny, Charlemagne, Halley, Cotton

Mather, Madame Blavatsky, the Book of Ezekiel, and Bertrand Russell.

There are several chapters of case studies, giving details, investigations, conclusions. There is no attempt to be complete, only to take up particularly impressive or well-known cases, both over the last 21 years, and in the two-year period of this study.

Chapters also deal with analysis of photographic evidence, direct physical evidence, optical and radar analysis of field cases, visual observations.

Other chapters concern various suggested scientific explanations of UFOs: psychological, optics, radar, sonic boom, atmospheric electricity, plasma, balloons.

There is a most interesting chapter on "visual observations made by U.S. astronauts." It relates the various objects the astronauts have reported seeing in space—with most of them explainable as air glow, aurora, stars, meteors, and various pieces of space "junk" that have been left in earth orbit. There is mention of Astronaut John H. Glenn's "fireflies," of phenomena seen by Gemini 12 Astronaut James A. Lovell on his extra vehicular activities and described as "stars."

But there still are, it is reported, three visual sightings by astronauts which have no explanation.

The report's tables include polls on adults and teen-agers views on UFOs and on why UFO sighters didn't report to officials. Also included is a chapter on public attitudes toward UFOs.

These three volumes termed "Scientific Study of Unidentified Flying Objects" promise to be among the country's best sellers once they are put out in paperback, as Bantam Books reportedly plans to do shortly. At the same time the report promises to popularize the many other UFO books now on the market, by recognized scientists, fiction authors, and even publicity seekers.

Dr. Condon warns in his introduction to the report:

"The subject of UFOs has been widely misrepresented to the public by a small number of individuals who have given sensationalized presentations in writings and public lectures. So far as we can judge, not many people have been misled by such irresponsible behavior, but whatever effect there has been has been bad."

And he has this specific advice to science teachers in the schools: "We strongly recommend that teachers refrain from giving students credit for school work based on their reading of the presently available UFO books and magazine articles."

It will be interesting to see, now, if science teachers refer their pupils to this Colorado study—whether for credit or not—to learn more about a problem that has been with us over the ages—but specifically in the United States for 21 years.

U.F.O. Finding: Not Visits From Afar

By WALTER SULLIVAN

The first full-scale scientific study of unidentified flying objects, or U.F.O.'s, has uncovered no evidence that they are intelligently guided spacecraft from beyond the earth, according to the final report of the project.

The report brushes aside the demands of some scientists and laymen for a large-scale effort to determine the nature of such "flying saucers." Such a project, the report says in effect, would be a waste of time and money.

The document, prepared by a University of Colorado team headed by Dr. Edward U. Condon, is to be made public shortly. At the request of the Air Force, which sponsored the study, the report has been assessed by a panel

of independent scientists convened by the National Academy of Sciences. It is expected that this evaluation will be made public at the same time as the report.

Yesterday, however, the Associated Press circulated a fragmentary account of the principal conclusion of the Colorado study. Sources with access to the report were then willing to discuss its contents further.

In their investigation of hundreds of incidents the Colorado scientists found that a number of episodes previously classed as inexplicable could be accounted for by natural means or by hoaxes. The accounts of witnesses with seemingly impeccable credentials were reported to have been found,

in some cases, to be self-contradictory and hence of little value.

This led the investigators to be skeptical regarding the residue of cases that, assuming the reliability of the witnesses, could not be explained by well-established phenomena. These were classed as unresolved but, according to the Colorado report, did not lend credence to the proposition that they represented visitations from another world.

The report is said to state unequivocally that no evidence could be found of a contemporary government effort to withhold information about the objects from the public. The only exception—

Continued on Page 50, Column 2

U.F.O. Finding: No Visits From Afar

Continued From Page 1, Col. 4

termed a reasonable one—was the Air Force policy of delaying comment until the investigation of an episode had been completed.

It is understood that portions of the report are critical of individual Air Force units. One California episode involved the nightly sighting of lights that seemed, to an investigator from the Colorado project, to be aircraft landing and taking off from a distant air base.

The air base denied such flight operations, prolonging an investigation that finally demonstrated that the operations had, in fact, given rise to reports of unidentified objects. The Colorado group is also reported to be critical of delays, during the 1950's, in bringing the Air Force reports and investigations of reported objects fully into the open.

The Colorado study, which has cost roughly a half million dollars, was contracted for by the Air Force after it had become evident that a number of people did not believe that the Air Force had pursued the subject adequately. Dr. Condon was chosen to head the project, which lasted 18 months, as a man of eminence and known independence.

He was formerly head of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Physical Society and the National Bureau of Standards. The last-named operated a laboratory complex in the University of Colorado's home town of Boulder.

Aided by Many Specialists

These laboratories, plus the National Center for Atmospheric Research, on a mesa overlooking Boulder, provided a reservoir of specialists in atmospheric phenomena, abnormal radar propagation, astronomy and other sciences related to possible explanations of unidentified flying objects. The National Center for Atmospheric Research conducts a wide variety of balloon flights,

which have been responsible for U.F.O. reports over the

The Colorado group seems to have made every effort to remain aloof from any Air Force influence over its work. Thus the cases that it investigated were chosen largely from the recommendations of private groups. Notable among these was the National Investigations Committee for Aerial Phenomena, in Washington.

It is headed by Donald Keyhoe, a former Marine Corps major who first achieved considerable notice with a magazine article contending that "flying saucers" are extraterrestrial visitations. His committee is not committed to this view, but its members tend to regard this as a serious possibility.

As the investigative phase of the Colorado project drew to a close late in 1957 there was a falling out between Dr. Condon and Mr. Keyhoe's group, allegedly because some statements by Dr. Condon had shown his lack of sympathy for the view that some unidentified objects may be visitations from other worlds.

Memo Provokes Dispute

An internal university memorandum was taken from the project's files and passed to outside U.F.O. enthusiasts who were disenchanted with the project.

The document, written before the project had begun, discussed whether the university could undertake the study without incurring ridicule from the academic world and while satisfying the public that an open-minded study was being made.

Its phraseology was taken by some persons to indicate bias against the objects. Two members of the project's staff were dismissed, apparently for their role in the removal and publication of this memorandum. One was a psychologist, Dr. David R. Saunders, who had become a member of Mr. Keyhoe's committee shortly before joining the project.

This week a book by Dr.

Saunders, written with a journalist from Boulder, R. Roger Harkins, went on sale. This is entitled, "U.F.O.'s? Yes!" Its subtitle is, "Where the Condon Committee Went Wrong."

The book, in paperback, was set for publication simultaneously with issuance of the Condon report, but it was on sale at some newsstands yesterday. Dr. Saunders champions a conspiracy hypothesis.

That is, he and Mr. Harkins argue for the possibility that the Colorado investigation was a front contrived by the highest echelons of government to mask the truth. The "truth," presumably, was that U.F.O.'s are known to the government to be visitations from afar. Dr. Saunders stated:

"I am sure everyone on the University of Colorado Project at one time or another asked himself (unless he already knew the answer) why, if the true story was cover-up, the project was allowed to exist. There were many plausible answers to this question, but they all implied that someone on the project must be acting in a double role."

He said this had led to mutual distrust. He also complained that other members of the project's staff had referred to him as a "quasi-believer."

The reaction of Dr. Condon to past charges of bias was: Wait for the report. He argued that the validity of his conclusions and those of his colleagues must stand or fall on the observations and analyses described in that document. The Colorado group knew that Dr. Saunders was preparing a dissenting presentation and that their evaluations of some cases would be challenged.

However from other studies of this sort it has become evident that in most cases the evidence is largely hearsay and it is often impossible to prove or disprove a particular hypothesis. Presumably it is for this reason that Dr. Condon has concluded that further studies of the unidentified objects are unlikely to add much to scientific knowledge.

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NEW YORK, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8, 1959 - CITY EDITION

and other progressive thinkers

unavoidable that his book pub. before Condon report comes out. Great.

our views may not be able to solve UFO yet - same trouble with Columbus (write Bros)

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Flying Saucers Bjt 4 0 2 Takes Total 700

By FRANK CAREY

AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON AP - A secret report on an Air Force-financed investigation of flying saucers will say there is no scientific evidence to indicate that these unidentified flying objects are spaceships from another world.

Informed sources told The Associated Press that this will be the primary thrust of the closely-guarded report on a two-year study by a team of nongovernment scientists.

The sources said the report will not claim that the study produced proof that UFO s are not manned surveillance craft from outer space.

You can't prove a negative, the sources said.

Neither, they said, will it question the possibility that intelligent life exists beyond the earth. Instead, it will emphasize that the investigation uncovered no scientific evidence to support contentions by various individual scientists and private organizations that flying saucers are visitors from a distant planet.

The study, financed by a \$500, 00 grant from the Air Force, was made by a team of scientists under the direction of Dr. Edward U. Condon of the University of Colorado.

Tight security has been imposed on the project from the start, and authorities are still working hard to guard against leaks.

The 1, 0-page report has been turned over, at the Air Force's request, to a special appraisal committee of the National Academy of Sciences, which refuses to divulge any information, even the names of committee members.

Findings of the academy committee are to be attached to the report for simultaneous release by the Air Force, now tentatively scheduled for Friday.

It was learned that the only other copies of the report are locked in a basement at the University of Colorado at Boulder.

Dr. Condon, 65, a physicist and a former chief of the U.S. National Bureau of Standards, has repeatedly refused to talk about the findings of the project.

Asked in an interview last February whether the study had made him a believer or disbeliever in the theory that flying saucers are spacecraft from other planets, he replied:

I'm not getting to be more one way than the other, but I'm not going to tell you what that way is.

Condon's project staff included a dozen astronomers, physicists and psychologists. ; , enlisted the aid o

Condon's project staff included a dozen astronomers, physicists and psychologists. He also enlisted the aid of outside consultants, and contracted with private agencies for some research.

The Air Force commissioned Condon's study in the face of persistent criticism of its own UFO investigations, begun 20 years ago and still continuing.

Critics of the Air Force claim its studies are biased against the possibility that UFO s are manned surveillance craft from other space, and accuse it of withholding information that might prove the contention. The Air Force has vigorously denied both accusations.

MORE

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NEWS

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Flying Saucers Djt 470

By FRANK CAREY

AP Science Writer

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This was learned Wednesday as the Air Force, which financed the \$5,000, two-year study, was preparing to release the long-awaited report.

The study, commissioned by the Air Force as an independent one to answer persistent criticism of its own investigations, was conducted by a group of non-government scientists headed by Dr. Edward U. Condon of the University of Colorado.

Since Nov. 15, the project's secret report has been under review by the special panel of the prestigious Academy of Sciences. The appraisal was asked by the Air Force to provide a further independent check on the scientific validity of the method of investigation. It will be released simultaneously with the report.

The Associated Press revealed the main conclusion of the Condon report Tuesday, but there had been no leak on the reaction of the academy panel, working amid security so tight that even the names of committee members are a secret.

Informed sources disclosed Wednesday, however, that the academy panel will endorse the primary finding that there is no evidence to support theories that UFOs, or flying saucers, are of extraterrestrial origin. The sources said this is the only sensible scientific conclusion that could be drawn from studies made by the Condon project.

The sources also said the panel has no strong disagreement with other conclusions of the report, but they declined to elaborate.

Still another source familiar with the report said it will declare that project scientists believe there is no future in further scientific investigations of UFOs.

This apparently is directed at demands by individual scientists and private organization for continued and broader scientific probes of flying saucers, some of which were made while the Colorado study still was under way.

One such scientist is Dr. James E. McDonald, senior physicist at the University of Arizona's Institute of Atmospheric Physics, who told the House Space Committee last July that a broader base of inquiry is needed beyond that of the Condon study.

Earlier, Rep. J. Edward Rousch, D-Ind., called for a congressional investigation of flying saucers, contending that Condon's group was floundering in dissension.

Rousch apparently referred to Condon's firing of two project scientists last February. The scientists, Dr. David R. Saunders and Dr. Norman Levine, were accused by Condon of incompetence.

In another development Wednesday, the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena—a private group that gathers reports on flying saucers—called a news conference for Friday in connection with official release of the report. This group charged last May that the Condon study lacked impartiality.

Pd2 pes Jan. 8, 1969

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WASHINGTON Take 2 Flying Saucers Bjt A 1WX: accusations. 300

The upcoming report appears certain to prompt renewed controversy.

Last May, the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena—a private group that gathers information on flying saucers—charged that the Condon study lacked impartiality. The organization said it had broken relations with the Condon group after what it called 7 months of cooperation.

That same month, Rep. J. Edward Roush, D-Ind., called for a congressional investigation of flying saucers, saying the Condon study was floundering in dissension.

He apparently referred to Condon's firing of two project scientists, Dr. David R. Saunders and Dr. Norman Levine. Condon accused the two of incompetence.

The House Space and Astronautics Committee held a seminar on UFO's last July. Ground rules prohibited specific discussion of the Condon project, but Rep. William F. Ryan, D-N.Y., asked Dr. James E. McDonald, senior physicist at the University of Arizona's Institute of Atmospheric Physics, whether more study than the Colorado project was needed.

Emphatically yes, the witness replied. We need a broader base. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration or the National Science Foundation ought to support some universities to make studies of UFO's.

In announcing the Condon project in October, 1966, Air Force Secretary Harold Brown said the University of Colorado had been commissioned to analyze phenomena associated with UFO sightings, and make recommendations on the Air Force's methods of investigation and evaluation. He added that to the National Academy of Sciences review will not be part of the investigation team, but will provide a further independent check on the scientific validity of the method of investigation.

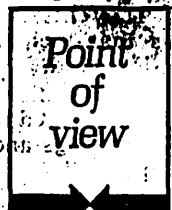
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WASH. NEWS

UFOs are still around

By Roscoe Drummond

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR 2/1/69
FROM S. J. MARSON FILES



Washington
It was hoped that the "scientific study of unidentified flying objects," undertaken by Dr. Edward U. Condon and his team at the University of Colorado, would be conclusive.

It isn't. It is inconclusive at significant points.

The massive, 1500-page report does offer a number of judgments:

That UFOs are not "spacecraft visiting the earth from another civilization."

That man should not expect to be visited by spacecrafts from other solar systems "in the next 10,000 years."

That any further study of UFOs will not "advance science" and that on the basis of present information there is no need for the government to sponsor further investigations.

Skeptical of skeptics

Obviously the Colorado study is useful, welcome, impressive.

But it is inconclusive because while the report has identified many flying objects, it leaves unidentified many others.

It may be a valid finding that UFOs are not intelligently guided craft from distant space, but that does not prove that they are not unidentified flying objects.

I am no UFO buff, but I have become convinced that it is well to be skeptical of the UFO skeptics who have been so certain that they could all be explained away by swamp gas, or radar malfunctioning or hysterical witnesses. I have simply come to doubt those who are

determined to cast all doubt on all UFO sightings.

I don't contend that UFOs are visits from extra-terrestrials. I simply argue that UFOs are UFOs—unidentified flying objects, no more but certainly no less.

The Condon report provides credible explanations to many of the reported sightings which were investigated. But the fact remains that a substantial percentage of UFO sightings in the Condon report remain unexplained in terms of natural phenomena — a percentage perhaps five to six times larger than the Air Force's own percentage of unexplained cases.

Scientific bias

I find it hard to escape the conclusion that there are too many unexplained and presently unexplainable unidentified flying objects from too many credible and responsible witnesses to banish the subject from public concern.

It should not be banished and it seems clear that the Condon report does not erase the UFO question from the minds of many laymen and from the minds of a good number of scientists. Fifty of them recently joined with the responsible national Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena in urging a congressional investigation of UFOs.

One thing which has caused me to be skeptical of the UFO skeptics is patronizing disdain by many scientists toward other scientists who interest themselves in UFOs. This bias against investigation of the

unfamiliar, on the part of the scientific community is so acute that the University of Colorado hesitated to undertake the UFO study until it became persuaded that there might be a way to fool the public into believing the investigation would be objective and to fool the scientific community into believing the team would be packed with unbelievers.

Tendency to doubt

I quote from a memo which led to Colorado's final decision to go ahead:

"The trick would be," wrote the man who was later to be the study's project director, "to describe the project so that, to the public, it would appear a totally objective study but, to the scientific community, would present the image of a group of nonbelievers trying their best to be objective but having an almost zero expectation of finding a saucer."

The tendency of the human mind has always been to believe it can't be done — that the submarine wouldn't work, that heavier-than-air craft wouldn't fly.

Wonder what they thought about Jules Verne when 110 years ago he predicted that the time would come when three astronauts would take off from Florida for the moon. They probably said — not in 10,000 years!

The opposite to all these negatives is nearest the truth. Anything good which man can conceive, he can do. And we can, I think, accept the expectation that the time will come when we will be able to look out from the stars.

UFO study looks at life in space

By Neal Stanford
Staff correspondent of
The Christian Science Monitor

1/24/69

Washington

Is there intelligent life elsewhere in the universe?

A part of the just-published three-volume "Scientific Study of UFOs" discussed this subject at some length, Dr. Edward U. Condon, respected physicist, scientist, and former head of the National Bureau of Standards, headed the study by the University of Colorado and authored this particular section of the report.

To set the stage for consideration of the subject, Dr. Condon makes these comments: life began on earth more than a billion years ago. The known geological age of the earth is some 5 billion years. Advanced scientific technology is only 100 years old. We are just on the threshold of technological progress.

It is hard for man to conceive of the dimensions of the universe. A light year is 5,880,000,000 miles. The nearest known star to earth is 4.2 light years away. Our galaxy, the Milky Way, is about 8,000 light-years in diameter.

Our sun is about 28,000 light-years from the center. Other galaxies are inconceivably remote. The faintest observable galaxies are two billion light years away. There are some 100 million such galaxies within that distance. The average distance between galaxies is some 8 million light-years.

Assumptions dismissed

It is within the framework of these astronomical measurements that Dr. Condon comments: "We have no right to assume that in life communities everywhere there is a steady evolution in the directions of both greater intelligence and greater technological competence."

He suggests that "by the time a society would be technically capable of interstellar space travel, it could have reached a level of intelligence at which it had not the slightest interest in interstellar travel."

His conclusions: "We must not assume that we are capable of imagining now the scope and extent of future technological development of our own or any other civilization; and so we must guard against assuming that we have any capacity to imagine what a more

FROM S. J. LARSEN FILES

advanced society would regard as intelligent conduct."

Dr. Condon raises another provocative problem for interstellar space travel: civilizations may well develop to the point where they destroy themselves utterly before acquiring the technology for long space voyages. If the effective intelligent life span of a civilization is, say, 100,000 years (a figure he supports with some logic), such a short time span works against the prospect of successful interstellar communication.

"Different civilizations would probably reach the culmination of their development at different epochs in cosmic history," he concludes. To buttress this argument he adds that stars are constantly being formed by condensation of interstellar dust and gases. So the prospect, he suggests, is infinitesimal that two nearby civilizations would be in a state of high development at the same epoch.

'Habitable planets' estimated

Dr. Condon does, however, agree that there may be "many main-sequence stars probably accompanied by planets at just the right distance from their sun to provide for habitable conditions for life as we know it." He says it is therefore reasonable that where stars are, there are probably habitable planets. But he is quick to add that this is "entirely speculation: we are quite unable directly to observe any planets associated with stars other than the sun."

Dr. Condon does not say there is no intelligent life elsewhere, but he rates the prospect of such possible civilizations visiting earth as nil, even though "in our own galaxy there may be as many as a billion stars that have habitable planets in orbit around them."

Venus too hot

He points out that "biologists feel confident that wherever physical and chemical conditions are right, life will actually emerge." Hence, with biologists saying that places are sure to become inhabited where physical and chemical conditions are suitable, and with astronomers saying there are a vast number of stars in the universe accompanied by planets where these conditions exist, he concludes that intelligent life elsewhere is "essentially certain." But he insists: "There is no relation between intelligent life at other solar systems and the UFO phenomenon as observed on earth."