

UFO INVESTIGATOR



NICAP ■ 3535 UNIVERSITY BLVD. WEST, SUITE 23 ■ KENSINGTON, MARYLAND 20795 ■ (301) 949-1267 ■ FOUNDED IN 1956

JIMMY CARTER'S 1973 UFO REPORT

During the autumn of 1973 hundreds of people throughout the United States reported UFOs to NICAP. Among those reports were two made by state governors. During the recent presidential campaign, Jimmy Carter was quoted by the National Enquirer as stating, "If I become President, I'll make every piece of information that this country has about UFO sightings available to the public. I am convinced that UFOs exist because I have seen one."

President Carter's conviction in UFOs is understandable since he not only saw one but also was one of the two governors who reported a UFO to NICAP in 1973.

On October 12, 1973, then-Governor Carter responded to NICAP's inquiries about his sighting with a letter and a report form. NICAP's Regional Investigator, Harry Lederman, handled the investigation.

President Carter's UFO sighting has been briefly reported by the news media, sometimes accurately, sometimes inaccurately. Since Jimmy Carter is the first U.S. President to speak publicly about a personal experience, NICAP believes that its members should have the complete report as it was submitted. President Carter's handwritten report has been typed for clarity.

NATIONAL INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE ON AERIAL PHENOMENA (NICAP)®

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REPORT ON UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT(S)

This form includes questions asked by the United States Air Force and by other Armed Forces' investigating agencies, and additional questions to which answers are needed for full evaluation by NICAP.

After all the information has been fully studied, the conclusion of our Evaluation Panel will be published by NICAP in its regularly issued magazine or in another publication. Please try to answer as many questions as possible. Should you need additional room, please use another sheet of paper. Please print or typewrite. Your assistance is of great value and is genuinely appreciated. Thank you.

- Name **Jimmy Carter** Place of Employment _____

Address **State Capitol Atlanta** Occupation **Governor**

Telephone **(404) 656-1776** Date of birth _____ Education **Graduate**

Special Training **Nuclear Physics**

Military Service **U.S. Navy**
- Date of Observation **October 1969** Time **AM** **PM** **7:15** Time Zone **EST**
- Locality of Observation **Leary, Georgia**
- How long did you see the object? _____ Hours **10-12** Minutes _____ Seconds
- Please describe weather conditions and the type of sky; i.e., bright daylight, nighttime, dusk, etc. **Shortly after dark.**
- Position of the Sun or Moon in relation to the object and to you. **Not in sight.**
- If seen at night, twilight, or dawn, were the stars or moon visible? **Stars.**
- Were there more than one object? **No.** If so, please tell how many, and draw a sketch of what you saw, indicating direction of movement, if any.

9. Please describe the object(s) in detail. For instance, did it (they) appear solid, or only as a source of light; was it revolving, etc.? Please use additional sheets of paper, if necessary.
10. Was the object(s) brighter than the background of the sky? **Yes.**
11. If so, compare the brightness with the Sun, Moon, headlights, etc. **At one time, as bright as the moon.**
12. Did the object(s) — (Please elaborate, if you can give details.)
- | | | | |
|---|------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| a. Appear to stand still at any time? | yes | f. Drop anything? | |
| b. Suddenly speed up and rush away at any time? | | g. Change brightness? | yes |
| c. Break up into parts or explode? | | h. Change shape? | size |
| d. Give off smoke? | | i. Change color? | yes |
| e. Leave any visible trail? | | | |

Seemed to move toward us from a distance, stopped-moved partially away—returned, then departed. Bluish at first, then reddish, luminous, not solid.

13. Did object(s) at any time pass in front of, or behind of, anything? If so, please elaborate giving distance, size, etc, if possible. **no.**
14. Was there any wind? **no.** If so, please give direction and speed.
15. Did you observe the object(s) through an optical instrument or other aid, windshield, windowpane, storm window, screening, etc? What? **no.**
16. Did the object(s) have any sound? **no** What kind? How loud?
17. Please tell if the object(s) was (were) —
- | | | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|----------|
| a. Fuzzy or blurred. | b. Like a bright star. | c. Sharply outlined. | X |
|----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|----------|
18. Was the object — a. Self-luminous? **X** b. Dull finish? c. Reflecting? d. Transparent?
19. Did the object(s) rise or fall while in motion? **came close, moved away-came close then moved away.**
20. Tell the apparent size of the object(s) when compared with the following held at arm's length:
- | | | | | |
|------------|-----------|------------------|---------------|-----------|
| a. Pinhead | c. Dime | e. Half dollar | g. Orange | i. Larger |
| b. Pea | d. Nickel | f. Silver dollar | h. Grapefruit | |

Or, if easier, give apparent size in inches on a ruler held at arm's length. **About the same as moon, maybe a little smaller. Varied from brighter/larger than planet to apparent size of moon.**

21. How did you happen to notice the object(s)? **10-12 men all watched it. Brightness attracted us.**
22. Where were you and what were you doing at the time? **Outdoors waiting for a meeting to begin at 7:30pm**
23. How did the object(s) disappear from view? **Moved to distance then disappeared**
24. Compare the speed of the object(s) with a piston or jet aircraft at the same apparent altitude. **Not pertinent**
25. Were there any conventional aircraft in the location at the time or immediately afterwards? If so, please elaborate. **no.**
26. Please estimate the distance of the object(s). **Difficult. Maybe 300-1000 yards.**
27. What was the elevation of the object(s) in the sky? Please mark on this hemisphere sketch. **About 30° above horizon.**
28. Names and addresses of other witnesses, if any.

Ten members of Leary Georgia Lions Club

29. What do you think you saw?

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| a. Extraterrestrial device? | e. Satellite? |
| b. UFO? | f. Hoax? |
| c. Planet or star? | g. Other? (Please specify). |
| d. Aircraft? | |

30. Please describe your feelings and reactions during the sighting. Were you calm, nervous, frightened, apprehensive, awed, etc.? If you wish your answer to this question to remain confidential, please indicate with a check mark. (Use a separate sheet if necessary)

31. Please draw a map of the locality of the observation showing North; your position; the direction from which the object(s) appeared and disappeared from view; the direction of its course over the area; roads, towns, villages, railroads, and other landmarks within a mile.

Appeared from West--About 30° up.

32. Is there an airport, military, governmental, or research installation in the area? **No**

33. Have you seen other objects of an unidentified nature? If so, please describe these observations, using a separate sheet of paper. **No**

34. Please enclose photographs, motion pictures, news clippings, notes of radio or television programs (include time, station and date, if possible) regarding this or similar observations, or any other background material. We will return the material to you if requested. **None.**

35. Were you interrogated by Air Force investigators? By any other federal, state, county, or local officials? If so, please state the name and rank or title of the agent, his office, and details as to where and when the questioning took place.

Were you asked or told not to reveal or discuss the incident? If so, were any reasons or official orders mentioned? Please elaborate carefully. **No.**

36. We should like permission to quote your name in connection with this report. This action will encourage other responsible citizens to report similar observations to NICAP. However, if you prefer, we will keep your name confidential. Please note your choice by checking the proper statement below. In any case, please fill in all parts of the form, for our own confidential files. Thank you for your cooperation.

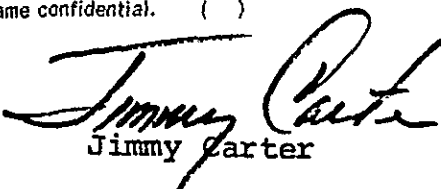
You may use my name. (☒)

Please keep my name confidential. (☐)

37. Date of filling out this report

9-18-73

Signature:


Jimmy Carter

Dutch Police Involved With UFO Reports

The Dutch police have given their full cooperation to a UFO research group in the Netherlands (NOBOVO) by informing the research team of all UFO reports that are received.

In the Netherlands there are three types of police. They have community police, state police, and military police. Every single agency has agreed to give their support and cooperation to assist with the UFO research work. Before the state police could cooperate with NOBOVO, there was an inquiry by

an official judicial commission to look into the activities of the NOBOVO. Their findings were positive; that this group, very much like NICAP, is solely dedicated to the scientific research.

Recently the Netherlands had a UFO sighting over a military air base. For the first time in history of Dutch UFO research, an official UFO investigation was held. To date, there has been no conclusive evidence as to what was seen over the base.

ERRATUM

A misprint appeared in the January 1977 newsletter in the article entitled, "Mystery Of The Melting Pond." The temperature read 85°F and should have been -5°F.

MELTING POND MYSTERY

A preliminary report of a mystifying event which took place in Wakefield, New Hampshire on January 10, 1977 was given in the January UFO INVESTIGATOR. The following is a capsule report of the initial findings.

Mr. William McCarthy, the owner of a farm in a small New England town, noticed that the center of his pond was beginning to melt. This would not seem at all unusual if the temperatures had not been at -5°F (and less) for many days. His horses had been walking on the pond the day before. Mr. McCarthy telephoned his good friend, Mr. Palmer, who observed the unusual melting and thought it to be so strange that he reported it to the local authorities.

McCarthy went to look at the pond later the same evening using a flash light to see by, and observed a 3 foot hole. He further stated that he could see a dark square object at the bottom of the pond. The pond's depth is only 3 feet.

Soon the "quiet living" that Mr. McCarthy enjoys was disrupted by the intrusion of newspaper reporters, local and state police, fish and game preserve authorities, and a National Guard unit. The National Guard proceeded to cut a 6 foot hole in the pond and drained it three inches. Samples of the sediment from the bottom of the pond were shoveled out and taken to the Public Health Department.

The first public announcement from the area National Guard was that there was an abnormally high radioactive reading and for all observers to stay away from the area. McCarthy was told not to allow his horses to drink from the pond. The second day, the National Guard stated that no unusual radioactivity was present. The Governor of New Hampshire made a public statement that there was never anything abnormal regarding the whole episode.

Col. Parker of the New Hampshire National Guard stated that his men were called to the scene by the authority of the Attorney General's office. This agency was in charge of the case because at first it was thought that evidence in connection with a criminal case (not related to the McCarthy family) could have been disposed of in the pond. Tests for radiation taken on the evening of January 10 showed levels higher than normal. The detection devices were thought to be malfunctioning because of the extreme cold. The instruments were checked and found to be out of calibration. Tests the next morning showed a normal level of radiation. A college professor made an independent check of radiation levels on January 11, and reported that he found levels higher than normal. The subject of radiation effects is therefore still unanswered. Officially the levels were

not abnormal, unofficially they were. Discussions with the McCarthy family and other witnesses reveal that the area was not blocked off. The public had free access to the pond except for a short time while they were kept back to give sufficient room for the tests to be made. Advice to Mr. McCarthy was given by the local police. He was told not to allow his horses to drink from the pond and to keep the incident quiet.

Mr. McCarthy and Mr. Palmer are unsure whether they saw a dark square object at the bottom of the pond or whether it was a shadow caused by the ice formation.

On January 11, the ice covering the pond had a "slushy" appearance (even though the temperature was near 0°F) and rivulets of slushy ice were still evident on the 13th before the pond froze again. The hole that was seen in the ice on the 10th had smooth sides. It seemed as though something hot had melted through the ice. There was no evidence of cracking or splintering of the ice such as would be expected if the hole had been caused by impact. At this point, it does not seem that we are dealing with a UFO. The ice melted and continued to melt. Nothing was found in the pond and taken away. No weather condition is known to have caused the melting. No object was seen. The mystery remains unsolved.

SIGHTING ADVISORY

Preliminary information on new reports. Details and evaluations will be published when available.

January 21, 1977—St. Bernard Parish, La.

Two hunters had the scare of their life while hunting by boat in the Dyke Canal. At approximately 8:45 PM the two men spotted an extremely bright light which seemed to appear from nowhere. The light moved over them and just hovered. There was no noise coming from the light source, but the men could feel heat emitting from it. The light moved slowly toward a fire station located close by and appeared to hover for about 30 minutes. Finally it moved over to the Shell Oil Plant for awhile and then disappeared as quickly as it had come. The two hunters admitted that they had laughed about people reporting and believing such things. Now . . . they feel differently. When questioned as to what they thought the light source was they replied "We have no idea, but would give anything to find out. All we know is that whatever it was it shouldn't have been there."