

# UFO Study Program In Making

## UA's McDonald Backs Project

A national program for investigating and evaluating sightings of UFOs was reported in the making today and the proposal met enthusiastic endorsement from Tucson's James E. McDonald.

The Denver Post, in a copyrighted story, said it has learned that the University of Colorado will head the program. The Post said the official announcement is expected tomorrow from Dr. Harold Brown, Air Force secretary.

THE STORY said the new approach to UFOs appeared to be in response to criticism from Congress and the public regarding the handling of reports of strange objects in the sky.

The Post story came a day after McDonald, a University of Arizona physicist, criticized the Air Force for "superficial and frequently absurd" reports on UFO investigations.

McDonald said the Air Force program has been in the planning stage for many months and its disclosure is "quite unrelated" to his criticisms of the Air Force UFO probes.

THE POST said: It is expected the new project, financed by a special appropriation, will be headed by Dr. Edward U. Condon, internationally known theoretical physicist at the University of Colorado. He will direct a team authorized to provide quick, in-depth investigation of selected UFO sightings. The team will provide unencumbered evaluation of the incidents.

Universities, scientific organizations and scientists throughout the United States are expected to be recruited for the program designed to quiet public fears regarding strange ob-

Continued Page 4



BY UA PHYSICIST

# Study Indicates UFOs From Outer Space

By JOHN RIDDICK  
Citizen Staff Writer

There is a serious possibility that visitors from outer space are on reconnaissance of the earth with "flying saucers," Dr. James E. McDonald, University of Arizona physicist, believes after intensive research on the highly controversial issue.

One of the world's leading atmospheric physicists, McDonald spent the past six months exploring the Unidentified Flying Object (UFO) reports. He previously had investigated incidents here for a decade.

"There is quite strong evidence supporting the hypothesis that UFO's are extra-terrestrial vehicles," McDonald said today.

"FURTHERMORE, there are certain patterns that suggest they are engaged in something of the nature of reconnaissance. I regard this as the No. 1 problem before science."

The official explanations simply do not fit thousands of creditably reported UFOs, said McDonald. He is convinced that dozens of reliable, sane people with whom he talked really saw something and these most probably were space ships on probes from elsewhere.

McDonald first presented his findings yesterday before his scientific colleagues at a physics colloquium on the UA campus.

He said that the fact that scientists had not given the UFO data "any appreciable attention" was a "scandal" and that "we are collectively delinquent for taking argument from authority."

HE GAVE more severe criticism to the authority — the U.S. Air Force which has had the official investigatory organization for two decades. This is Project Bluebook at Wright-Patterson AFB.

After looking through the Bluebook records and investigating 150 reports in detail, McDonald decided the reports are "almost invariably superficial and frequently absurd."

Although there are creditable reports of UFOs going back to the 1880s, the subject of flying saucers burst upon public consciousness on June 24, 1947, when a pilot saw nine discs "skimming along like saucers over water."

A PRIMARY Air Force concern at first was whether the UFOs were something hostile. To resolve this, a blue ribbon



—Citizen Photo  
**Dr. James McDonald**  
"Scientists are delinquent . . ."

panel of scientists led by Cal Tech physicist H. P. Robertson was formed in 1953 and it decided they were not.

Thereafter, the official policy of the government became to "debunk" the UFO issue, said McDonald. And Air Force personnel were restricted from releasing information on pain of fine and imprisonment.

Project Bluebook is in the Foreign Technology division at Wright Patterson. The Air Force says that of its 10,000 cases, 4 to 5 percent are not explained. McDonald said that he believes the percentage is closer to half.

After studying the records, McDonald said, he found explanations given that are meteorologically impossible—such as results of lightning on clear nights.

THE EFFECT of the debunking is that the UFO issue is in ridicule and people are afraid either to study it or report on them.

"Many people told me that they have been subject to such ridicule and pestering that they will never report another UFO," said McDonald.

To a great extent, McDonald was left with the extra-terrestrial theory by a process of eliminating the other hypotheses given.

He said that the five official

Continued Page 4