

# FBI FILE OF DR. JAMES E. McDONALD

1-January-1999

Through the Freedom of Information Act, we have obtained a portion of the files the Federal Bureau of Investigation was maintaining on Dr. James McDonald, widely held to be the most effective "establishment" scientist to take a public interest in UFO.

We want to make clear right up front, that we have made this material available not to embarrass, to impugn the memory, or tarnish the accomplishments of Dr. McDonald, but to provide an insight to the workings of the FBI as relates to an effective scientist who was an outspoken man of conscience and happened to have an interest in UFO.

What we received just before Christmas 1998, was but a few pages, and it is certain from references in these documents and from the small number of pages released, that only a part of the files on Dr. McDonald being maintained by the FBI were released. The 29 pages we received had been previously processed and released to another (FOIA) requestor, so the searches we specifically requested that the FBI do under the provisions of the FOIA as amended were not made.

These FBI files, many of which have been released recently even as the FBI and other agencies destroy historical documents en masse, usually concentrate on possible communist associations, leanings or thoughts of a person. It's always amazing to us how many of a person's co-workers, neighbors, friends and acquaintances the FBI interviews to get the material for the files. This is the general nature of most of the material in this file also, but at least one very interesting item is revealed. For one redacted paragraph, the FBI cites the exemption "(b) (1)," a subsection of Title 5, U.S.C., Section 552 (FOIA): "specifically authorized under criteria established by an Executive Order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy..." That paragraph, from a May 26, 1969 Memo to the Director of the FBI from the Phoenix FBI office is:

"As set put in the LHM, the subject is a prominent Atmospheric Physicist and is becoming well known publicly for his belief that Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs) are extraterrestrial and are real. [ 25 Chars Blacked ] [ 7 Lines Blacked ] [ 24 Chars Blacked ] {(S)} {b1}"

We would certainly like to see what the material deleted from this paragraph is and how it relates to national security.

A big "thank you" goes to Michael Ravnitzky - a serious student and user of the FOIA - whose advice allowed us to obtain this file, and has helped on other FOIA submissions also. Some of Michael's FOIA results can be viewed at [SECRET NO MORE](#), a web site where a compilation of high-profile and historically significant FBI files is posted. Michael urges all interested parties to file with the FBI to obtain files before they are lost forever due to destruction by the FBI. CUFON notes that, to some extent, older files being held by any federal agency are in similar peril.

- Jim Klotz, CUFON SYSOP

TEXT NOTES:

===== indicates a page break

Items in [ Square Brackets ] are comments  
[ 23 Chars ] = a blackout of approximately 23 characters length  
[ 2 Lines ] = a blackout of 2 full lines of text

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10  
MAY 1962 EDITION  
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 901-11.8  
UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

**SECRET**

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (105-NEW)

DATE: 3/24/69

FROM: SAC, NEW YORK (105-NEW) (P)

SUBJECT: J. E. MC DONALD  
{b1} [ ] {(S)}  
(00: PHOENIX)

{10-24-97}  
CLASSIFIED BY {SP2ACM/BMP}  
DECLASSIFY ON: 25X {1,6}  
{#887,961}

[ 8 lines Blacked ] {(S)}

[ 3 Lines Blacked ] {(S)}

[ 24 chars Blacked ]

[ 2 Lines Blacked ]

[ 3 Lines Blacked ] {(S)}

[ 2 1/2 Lines Blacked ]

EX-105

MCT-19

{105} 191677

3-BUREAU (105-NEW) (RM)

{b1}[ 23 Chars Blacked ] {(S)}

REC-31

MAR 26 1969

3-PHOENIX (105-NEW) (RM)

{b1}[ 28 Chars Blacked ]

[ 30 Chars Blacked ] {(S)}

1-New York

EJM: bll

(8)

[ 16 Chars Blacked ] {(S)}

[ 16 Chars Blacked ]

**SECRET**

56 APR 9 1969

*Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan*

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN [ 28 Chars Blacked ] {(S)}

=====

NEW YORK (105-NEW)

**SECRET**

{b1} [ 17 lines Blacked ] {(S)}  
[ 20 Chars Blacked ]  
[ 6 lines of 19 Chars Blacked ] {(S)}

NYO indices contain no information identifiable with Professor J. E . MC DONALD.

{b1} [ 10 lines Blacked ] {(S)}

- 2 -

**SECRET**

=====

NY 105-NEW

**SECRET**

{b1} [ 4 1/4 lines Blacked ] {(S)}

{b1} [ 6 Lines Blacked ]  
[ 16 Chars Blacked ] {(S)}

- 3 -

**SECRET**

=====

SAC, Phoenix (100-6252)

**SECRET**

6/23/69

**REC-124**

Director, FBI (105-191677) {-2}

1 - Mr. C.D. DeLoach  
1 - Mr. W.C. Sullivan  
1 - Mr. W.A. Branigan  
1 - [ 15 Char Blacked ]

PROFESSOR JAMES EDWARD MC DONALD

{b1} [ 7 Chars Blacked ] {(S)}

2-12-98

CLASSIFIED BY {SP2ACM/BMP}

DECLASSIFY ON: 25x {1,6}

Reurlet 5/26/69.

{#389,961}

{b7D} In accordance with your request authority is granted to interview [ 25 Chars Blacked ]  
Explain to [ 13 Char Blacked ] that we are not interested in legitimate educational contacts and  
functions. Interview of [ 8 Chars Blacked ] should be [ 28 Chars Blacked ] of the University of  
Arizona. Furnish results in form for dissemination.

{b7D} Attention is called to the fact that [ 13 Chars Blacked ] was interviewed 2/20/62  
concerning the subject as set out [ 20 Chars Blacked ] on the subject.

{b1} [ 3 Lines Blacked ] {(S)}

LML:mst/lis {lis}  
(7)

NOTE:

Based on memorandum W. A. Branigan to Mr. W.C. Sullivan, captioned as above, dated 6/{20}/69, prepared by LML:mst/{SC}s.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT  
WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.

MAILED 20  
JUN 23 1969  
COMM-FBI

59 JUL 11 1969

**SECRET**

= = = = =

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10  
10 MAY 1962 EDITION  
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 901-11.8  
UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

*Memorandum*

TO DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: 5/26/69

FROM: SAC, PHOENIX (100-6252) (P)

**SECRET**

SUBJECT: CHANGED

PROFESSOR JAMES EDWARD MC DONALD, aka  
J. E. MC DONALD

{b1} [ 5 CHAR] {(S)}

00: Phoenix

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT  
WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.

The title of this communication is marked CHANGED to add the full name of the subject as shown in University of Arizona (UA) records.

{105-191677-1}

{b1} Re New York let to Bureau, 3/24/69, entitled, "J.E. MC DONALD; [ 7 char ] {(S)}

Report of SA [ 13 char ] dated 5/19/69, at Phoenix, entitled, [ 20 char ] aka [ 43 char ] SM-SDS."  
[ 14 char ] {b7C}

Enclosed herewith for the Bureau are ten copies of a letterhead memorandum (LHM) entitled "PROFESSOR JAMES EDWARD MC DONALD, Senior Physicist, Institute of Atmospheric Physics, University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona."

Enclosed for New York are two copies of the above LHM and one copy of above referenced report on the subject's [ 25 char ] {b7C}

## Informants

## File Location

{b7D}[ 17 char ]

[ 15 char ] {b7D}

{b7D} [ 18 char ]

[20 char ]

4 - Bureau (Enc. 10) (RM) **REC-15**

[ 14 char ] [ 7 char ] {(S)} {b1}

3 - New York (Enc. 3) (RM)

2 - Phoenix

RPP:gjk

**MCT-19**

{105-191577-2}

{Hold Dissemination}

TO MAY 191969

{lml 6-24-69} {10-28-97}

CLASSIFIED BY {SP2ALM/BMD}

DECLASSIFY ON: 25X {1,6}

{#367,961}

**SECRET**

[ 6 - 15 Char Lines ] [ Chars Blacked ] {(S)} {b1}

*Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan*

=====

PX 100-6252

RPP:gjk

**SECRET**

[ 1 Line Blacked ] {b7d} UA, Tucson, is a long-time established reliable sources, contacted by SA

[ 20 chars Blacked ] {b7C}

The LHM is classified ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~, as disclosure of information therein from the above live informants could reasonably result in their identification, thereby jeopardizing their future effectiveness.

As set put in the LHM, the subject is a prominent Atmospheric Physicist and is becoming well known publicly for his belief that Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs) are extraterrestrial and are real.

[ 25 Chars Blacked ]

[ 7 Lines Blacked]

[ 24 Chars Blacked ] {(S)} {b1}

It appears that Professor's MC DONALD's letter to [ 6 chars ] {(S)} (contents of which are not known) might have in itself been innocuous, sincere contact on the part of Professor MC DONALD; however, in view of his background [ 46 chars ]" activities in the Tucson area. [ 55 Chars ] [ 2 Lines ]

[ 18 chars ] {(S)} {b1} At this point it is not known whether Professor MC DONALD would be at all cooperative in an interview.

Professor MC DONALD's [ 26 Chars ] [ 3 Lines ] {b7D } [ 47 Chars ] all at the UA. He is considered a highly respected scientist and teacher, [ 25 Chars ] and it is believed he would be

**SECRET**

=====

PX 100-6252

RPP:gjk

**SECRET**

Completely cooperative and reliable in any authorized interview concerning this matter.  
Therefore, bureau authority is requested for an interview [ 17 chars ] along the following lines.

1. [ 44 Chars ] [ 2 Lines ] {b1} {(S)}
2. [ 48 Chars ] {b1} [ 1 Line ] [ 22 Chars ] {(S)}
3. His evaluation of Professor MC Donald so far as his loyalty is concerned and his opinion as to whether Professor MC DONALD would be amenable to interview.

On 5/20/69, [ 33 Chars ] University of Arizona, a long-time established reliable source, interviewed By SA [ 21 Chars ], concerning various SDS members at the UA, including subject [ 29 Char ] {b7D} commented that he recently received information that Professor JAMES E. MC DONALD is "disenchanted" with [ 29 Chars ] activities and [ 45 Chars ] young Hippie proteges. This information has not yet been confirmed through other sources; however, if true, it should have some bearing on MC DONALD's cooperation in any interview.

-3-

**SECRET**

=====

[ FBI Seal ]      UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, please refer to      Phoenix, Arizona  
File No.      May 26, 1969

CONFIDENTIAL

PROFESSOR JAMES EDWARD MC DONALD  
Senior Physicist, Institute of Atmospheric Physics (UA)  
Tucson, Arizona

The current Student and Faculty Directory for the University of Arizona (UA), Tucson, Arizona, for the 1968-1969 academic year, lists "James E. Mc Donald, Ph.D., Senior Physicist, Institute of Atmospheric Physics and Professor, Meteorology Department, residence, [ 8 Chars ] {b7C} Third Street, Tucson."

On April 11, 1969, [ 45 Chars ] UA, Tucson, made available records which show the following:

James Edward Mc Donald was employed at the University, April 1, 1954, as Associate Director, Institute of Atmospheric Physics, and Associate Professor of Physics. On July 1, 1956, his title was changed to Scientific Director, Institute of Atmospheric Physics, and Associate Professor of Physics. On July 1, 1957, his title was changed to Senior Physicist, Institute of Atmospheric Physics; Professor of Meteorology; these are the positions he now holds.

The records show he was born May 7, 1920, at Duluth, Minnesota. He attended the University of Omaha from 1938 to 1942, receiving a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1942. He attended Massachusetts of technology from 1943 to 1945, receiving

DECLASSIFIED BY {SP2ACM/BMD"  
C.I. {10-24-97}  
{#387,961}

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
Group 1  
Excluded from Automatic  
downgrading and declassification

**ENCLOSURE**

{105-191677-2}

=====

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

PROFESSOR JAMES EDWARD MC DONALD

A Master of Science degree in 1945. He attended Iowa State from 1946 to 1951, receiving his doctorate in 1951.

The records show that he was on Sabbatical Leave from July 1, 1963 to December 31, 1963. In his application for this leave, dated April 12, 1963, he said, "I will continue working on research and affairs of Naval research Contract # NR-082-164." He stated his main reason for applying for Sabbatical Leave was to write up already completed research for publication.

His salary as of may 18, 1969, was \$21,000 per year.

The records show that he currently resides at [ 7 Chars ] Third Street, Tucson, [ 34 Chars ] {b7C}

[ 40 Char Line ] various anti-Vietnam War and anti-draft groups in the Tucson area since at least 1966 [ 34 Chars ] {b7C} [ 22 Chars ] Peace and Freedom Association (PFA) and of the Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) in Tucson.

[ 17 Chars ] {b7D b2}

The SDS is characterized in the Appendix.

Concerning the PFA, the March 16, 1968 edition of "The Tucson Daily Citizen," a daily newspaper published in Tucson Arizona, carried an article which stated, in part, as follows:

"The formation of Peace and Freedom Associations, a coalition of local groups dedicated to end the war in Vietnam and to ending racial injustice at home, was announced today. The center will serve as a communications interchange between local and national peace groups and will be the focal point of local efforts

-2-

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

=====

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

PROFESSOR JAMES EDWARD MC DONALD

against the Vietnam War." A list of member organizations set out in the article included the SDS above.

On October 18, 1968, [ 15 Chars ] at a meeting of the PFA in Tucson, reported {b7C} [ 26 Chars ] attendance at a convention of the SDS at Boulder, Colorado.

[ 17 Chars ] {b7D}

A bulletin put out by the Tucson Peace center (TPC) and received through the mail, February 7, 1968, advertised the fact that on February 8, 1968, there would be a public meeting where Dr. James E. Mc Donald would speak on the subject of napalm. The bulletin described Mc Donald as "Professor of Atmospheric physics at the University of Arizona and Consultant to the Peace center."

[ 16 Chars ] {b7D}

On February 18, 1969, [ 5 Chars ] {b7D} advised that an accurate summary of the aims and purposes of the TPC was set out in a mimeograph letter dated October 22, 1968, from the TPC President and sent to all persons on the TPC mailing list. This letter stated in part, "The Tucson Peace center serves as a clearing house for information on peace activities and programs in the Tucson area." The source said the TPC has never at any time advocated the use of violence in demonstrations or protests.

On May 20, 1969, [ 6 Chars ] {b7D} advised that although professor James E. Mc Donald possibly

[ 54 Chars ] groups in the Tucson area, he very seldom [ 21 Chars ] of these activities and has taken very little part in such activities.

-3-

CONFIDENTIAL

=====

CONFIDENTIAL

PROFESSOR JAMES EDWARD MC DONALD

The July 27, 1968 edition of the "Arizona Daily Star," a newspaper published daily in Tucson, Arizona, carried the following article.

--

[ Page consists of actual copy of newspaper clipping ]

## **UA Physicist To Spur Scientific UFO Probe**

Will Appear Before house Committee

By JUDY DONOVAN

A University of Arizona physicist will attempt to spur an extensive scientific investigation of Unidentified Flying Objects when he appears Monday before a congressional hearing in Washington D.C.



Dr James E. McDonald, senior physicist at the university's Institute of Atmospheric Physics, said a thorough investigation of UFOs is long overdue. Twenty years have passed since the objects first attracted public attention, he said, and officialdom is still taking a, "ho-hum" attitude toward the matter.

"UFOs constitute an extraordinary important scientific problem, the greatest of these times, and it has been shoved under the rug," he remarked.

The UA physicist who is appearing with five other scientists from around the United States will present testimony before the U.S. House of representatives Committee on Science and Astronautics. McDonald said rep. Morris K. Udall was highly instrumental if efforts to arrange for the special unidentified Flying objects Symposium.

McDonald is organizing the bulk of his presentation around a set of typical questions people ask about UFOs, such as, "Why they aren't picked up on radar?," and "Why don't they contact us?"

He will include examples of what he termed "scientifically ludicrous explanations" that hinge on some scientists' meteorological and atmospheric physical weather explanations for UFOs.

"I particularly take issue with Dr. Donald H. Menzel, former director of Harvard Observatory, who had written two books on UFOs and mainly explains them away as meteorological phenomena. Another work that can't be taken seriously is a recent book by Philip Klass, senior editor of Aviation Week Magazine, which purports that UFOs are meteorologically generated plasmas of the ball lightning type.

-4-

CONFIDENTIAL

=====

CONFIDENTIAL

PROFESSOR JAMES EDWARD MC DONALD

The April 6, 1969 edition of the "Arizona Daily Star" carried the following article:

--

[ Page consists of actual copy of newspaper clipping ]

## **UA Prof Will Challenge Condon Report On UFO's**

2-24-2 UA PROF PAGE 5A

The Condon report on unidentified flying objects will be challenged before the Vandenburg Chapter, American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, by Dr. James E. McDonald when he speaks at Vandenburg Air Force Base Friday.

The senior physicist of the University of Arizona's Institute of Atmospheric Physics will speak on "UFOs and the Condon report: A Dissenting View." As a dissenter, Dr. McDonald expects to stress the fact that the Condon report covers only a "minute fraction" of the significant cases available for study.

From his studies of several years Dr. McDonald believes that UFO's are probably extraterrestrial and are real.

His talk at the air force base in California will be the first in a series of 15 lectures he will give in the next 12 months to members of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics in Oklahoma, California, Arizona, Iowa, Washington, D.C., Missouri, Minnesota and Pennsylvania.

-5-

CONFIDENTIAL

=====

CONFIDENTIAL

PROFESSOR JAMES EDWARD MC DONALD

### APPENDIX

#### STUDENTS FOR A DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY

The Students For A Democratic Society (SDS), as it is known today, came into being at a founding convention held at Port Huron, Michigan, in June, 1962. The SDS is an association of young people on the left and has a current program of protesting the draft, promoting a campaign for youth to develop a conscientious objector status, denouncing United States intervention in the war in Vietnam, and to "radically transform" the university community, and provide for its complete control by students.

[ 45 Chars ] {b7C} SA, when interviewed by a representative of United Press international in San Francisco, California, on May 14, 1965, described the SDS as a part of the "responsible left" which the Party has "going for us." At the June, 1965, SDS National Convention, and anticommunist proviso was removed from the SDS constitution. In the October 7, 1966, issue of "New Left notes," the official publication of SDS, an SDS spokesman stated that there are some communists in SDS and they are welcome.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

6\*

CONFIDENTIAL

=====

4-22 (Rev. 1-22-60)

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Records Branch

\_\_\_\_\_, 19 \_\_\_\_

[ ] Name Searching unit - Room 6527  
[ ] Service Unit - Room 6524  
[ ] Forward to File Review  
[ x ] Attention \_[ 9 chars ] \_\_\_\_\_ {b7C}  
[ x ] Return to \_[ 8 chars } \_\_\_\_\_  
Supervisor                  Room                  Ext.

Type of Reference Requested

☐ Regular Request (Analytical Search)  
☒ All References (Subversive & Nonsubversive)  
☐ Subversive References Only  
☐ Main References Only

Type of Search requested

- [ x ] Restricted to Locality of { Ariz. }
- [ x ] Exact Name only (On the Nose)
- [ x ] Buildup            [   ] Variations

---

Subject     { James E. McDonald }

Birthdate & Place { 5-7-20 Minn }

Address

## Localities

Searcher

R# \_\_\_\_\_ Date { 6-12-69 } Initials { les } { rel }

Prod.

FILE NUMBER	SERIAL
{MF *}	{ 105-191677 }
	{ 161-1891 }
	{ 119-7 }
	{ 44-9098 }
	{ 1-1152-38-326 }
	{ 26-0-5203 }
	{ 5204 }
	{ 5209 }
	{ 62-46140-12 }
	{ 13 }
	{ 62-75147-38-63, 64 }
	{ 62-112-423-77 }
	{ 100-146997-38-1 }
	{ 100-451572-4 }
	{ 100-453551-2 }
	{ 100-453871- 2 }
	{ 105-138315-2589 [?] SP }
	{ James Edward }
{ x }	{ 116-144354 }

- 1 -

=====

4-22a (Rev 11-17-59)

## NUMEROUS REFERENCE

## SEARCH SLIP

Subj: { James E. McDonald }

Supervisor \_\_\_\_\_ Room \_\_\_\_\_

Searcher  
R# \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Initial \_{ sel } \_\_\_\_\_

Prod. \_\_\_\_\_

FILE NUMBERSERIAL\_\_\_\_\_ { James Edward McDonald } \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ { 3-62 }\_\_\_\_\_ 161-1891 - 20, Summ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ { 8-65 }

\_\_\_\_\_ { No breakdowns searched } \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ - 2- \_\_\_\_\_

= = = = =

4-22 (Rev. 1-22-60)

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Records Branch

\_\_\_\_\_ { 6 - 11 } \_\_\_\_\_, 19 { 68 }

[ ] Name Searching unit - Room 6527

[ ] Service Unit - Room 6524

[ ] Forward to File Review

[ ] Attention \_[ 9 chars ] \_\_\_\_\_ {b7C}

[ ] Return to \_RM 826 EXT [ 8 chars ] \_{b7C} \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor Room Ext.

## Type of Reference Requested

[ ] Regular Request (Analytical Search)

[ x ] All References (Subversive &amp; Nonsubversive)

[ ] Subversive References Only

[ ] Main \_\_\_\_\_ References Only

## Type of Search requested

[ ] Restricted to Locality of { Ariz. }

[ ] Exact Name only (On the Nose)

[ ] Buildup [ ] Variations

Subject \_\_\_\_\_ [ 27 chars ] \_{b7C} \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate &amp; Place \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Localities \_\_\_\_\_

Searcher

R# \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_{ 6 / 11 } \_Initials \_{ jah } \_\_\_\_\_

Prod. \_\_\_\_\_

FILE NUMBER	SERIAL
{MF*} { 116- 153669 }	
{ 161-6351 }	
[ Blacked Out ] {b7C}	
{ S F }	
[ Blacked Out ] {b7C}	
{ 116 - 153669 - 4 }	
{ 6 - 20 }	

=====

4-22 (Rev. 1-22-60)

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Records Branch

\_\_\_\_\_, 19\_\_\_\_

[ ] Name Searching unit - Room 6527  
 [ ] Service Unit - Room 6524  
 [ ] Forward to File Review  
 [ x ] Attention [ Blacked ] {b7C}  
 [ x ] Return to [ Blacked ] { 828 9&D }  
 Supervisor Room Ext.

## Type of Reference Requested

[ ] Regular Request (Analytical Search)  
 [ x ] All References (Subversive & Nonsubversive)  
 [ ] Subversive References Only  
 [ ] Main \_\_\_\_\_ References Only

## Type of Search requested

[ ] Restricted to Locality of { Ariz. }  
 [ ] Exact Name only (On the Nose)  
 [ ] Buildup [ ] Variations

Subject \_\_\_\_\_ [ Blacked ] {b7C}

Birthdate & Place [ Blacked ] \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Localities \_\_\_\_\_

Searcher \_\_\_\_\_

R# \_\_\_\_\_ Date { 6-12-69 } Initials { les } \_\_\_\_\_

Prod. \_\_\_\_\_

FILE NUMBER	SERIAL
{x} { 100-453871 }	
{ 62-112423-43, 77 }	
{ 100-453551-2 }	
{ 157-9079-501 / p 9 }	
{x} { 161-1891-6 }	(BU)

[ \_\_\_\_\_ Blacked Out \_\_\_\_\_ ]  
 ]  
 [ \_\_\_\_\_ Blacked Out \_\_\_\_\_ ] { SI }  
 [ \_\_\_\_\_ Blacked Out \_\_\_\_\_ ]  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 [ \_\_\_\_\_ Blacked Out \_\_\_\_\_ ] { SI }  
 [ \_\_\_\_\_ Blacked Out \_\_\_\_\_ ]  
 [ \_\_\_\_\_ Blacked Out \_\_\_\_\_ ] { SI }  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 { x } { 25-?64655 } \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ { 14-2965-38-6 } \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ { 14-2965-47-37 Ep 8 } \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ { 61-190-771 } \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ { 62-111602-114 Ep 45 } \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ { 100-446997-38-1 } \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ { 100-451572 -4, 5 } \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ { 100-451572-4, 5 } \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ { 105-138315-2589 Ep 1 } \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ { 105-138315-50-29 Ep 3 } \_\_\_\_\_

=====

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10  
 MAY 1962 EDITION  
 GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 901-11.8  
 UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

1 - Mr. C. D. DeLoach

## Memorandum

1 - Mr. W. C. Sullivan

TO : Mr. W. C. Sullivan

DATE: June 20, 1969

FROM : W. A. Brannigan

~~SECRET~~

1 - Mr. W. A. Brannigan

1 - [ 15 chars ] { b7C }

SUBJECT: PROFESSOR JAMES EDWARD MC DONALD { 0 - 1 PX 9-5-69 }  
 INTERNAL SECURITY - RUSSIA { let WBS 9-17-69 }

Submitted to obtain authority to interview [ 1 Line Blacked ] { b7D } both professors, University of Arizona (UA).

[ 4 Lines Blacked ] [ 20 Chars ] { S } {b1} Subject, born 5-7-20, is senior physicist, authority on Unidentified Flying Objects (UFO). Applicant-type investigation of subject in 1962, favorable re loyalty, character, and reputation. [ 27 chars ] {b7C} Students for a Democratic Society and peace movement. Subject is disenchanted with [ 11 Chars ] activities and [ 18 Chars ] [ 34 Chars ] young hippy protégé. {b7C}

[ 41 Chars ] UA, highly respected scientist, [ 21 Chars ] and believed he will be completely cooperative. [ 9 Chars ] {b7C} is subject recent applicant-type investigation, results completely favorable. [ 21 Chars ] in 1962 investigation of subject, advised subject and wife are not pacifists, but interested in peace. [ 21 chars ] subject for position of trust and confidence.

Phoenix desires interview [ 8 Chars ] concerning subject's UFO studies, [ 81 Chars ] {b1} current evaluation of subject and opinion whether subject amenable to interview. No reason to anticipate embarrassment. We should authorize investigation of subject and interview of [ 1 Line ] [ 24 Chars ] {(S)} { 105-191677 }

Enclosure

EX-116

REC 36

JUN 25 1969

LML: mst/sc (5)

105-191677

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT  
WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

**53 JUL 1 1969**

{ 5- hmh }

**SECRET**

=====

Memorandum to Mr. W. C. Sullivan

RE: PROFESSOR JAMES EDWARD MC DONALD **SECRET**  
105-191677

RECOMMENDATION:

Attached for approval is letter to Phoenix in accordance with above instructing interview be conducted { b7C } [ 16 Chars ] UA, and explain not interested in legitimate educational functions.

-2- **SECRET**

=====

FD-233 (Rev. 11-29-61)

[ FBI Seal ]

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

*In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.*

Phoenix, Arizona  
May 26, 1969

Title      PROFESSOR JAMES EDWARD MC DONALD  
             Senior Physicist,  
             Institute of Atmospheric Physics  
             University of Arizona  
             Tucson, Arizona

## Character

Reference Letterhead memorandum, dated and  
captioned as above at Phoenix, Arizona.

All sources (except any listed below) whose identities are concealed in referenced communication have furnished reliable information in the past.

{-7-}

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it is and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

=====

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

*Memorandum*

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (105-191677) DATE: 9/17/69 SECRET

**SECRET**FROM : SAC, PHOENIX (100-6252) ( C ) ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT  
WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE{ 1 COPY TO OSI }  
{ 5/5/70 - LFS/ hal }SUBJECT: PROFESSOR JAMES EDWARD MC DONALD, aka  
J.E. McDonald  
{ B1 } [ 4 CHARS ] {(S)}  
00: Phoenix

Re Phoenix letter with its LHM, 5/26/69, entitled "PROFESSOR JAMES EDWARD MC DONALD, SENIOR PHYSICIST, INSTITUTE OF ATMOSPHERIC PHYSICS, UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA, TUCSON, ARIZONA"; two copies of the LHM are enclosed for New York for information.

Agent who interviewed [ 27 Chars ] is SA [ 20 Chars ]

The LHM is classified CONFIDENTIAL as this inquiry was based on information obtained from an extremely sensitive source of the NYO.

As set out in the LHM, [ 13 Chars ], [ 31 Chars ] at the University of Arizona (UA Tucson, [ 28 Chars ] social acquaintance of the subject, said he had no doubt whatever of the subject's loyalty to this country, [ 29 Chars ] [ 9 Lines ] {(S)} { b1 }

4 - Bureau (RM) (Enc. 9) **REC-23** { 105-191677 - 4 }  
[ 24 Chars ] {(S)} **EX-111**  
2 - New York (RM) (Enc. 2)  
(1 - 105 - Professor James Edward McDonald )  
[ 23 Chars ] {(S)} **5 SEP 19 1969**  
1 - Phoenix {/cc lkm D IA, OSI  
RPP:gjk **AGENCY** { State, CIA, AEC, RAO-IS }

?? Rcv'd \_\_\_\_\_ (7)  
**DATE** ??? { 10-3-69 }  
??? { 0-14 ks }

58 oct 10 1969 **BY** { lm2:lsf } **SECRET** [ blacked ] { b1 }

UNREC COPY AND COPY OF ENCL FILED IN [ 24 Chars ] {(S)}

=====

PX 100-6252  
RPP:GJK**SECRET**

{ B1 } 2 Lines ] [ 12 Chars ] said he would be alert for any indication of such continued contacts and he would contact the Tucson Resident Agency of the FBI, should he develop any such information.



{b7D} [ 12 Chars ] is considered completely reliable and he assured interviewing agent that he would keep this matter in complete confidence.

At this point it does not appear that an interview of Professor MCDONALD would be productive and could possibly result in embarrassment to the Bureau. Although Professor MCDONALD might not object to such an interview it is almost certain that [ 47 Chars ] Phoenix Office ), would attempt to publicly denounce the bureau for such an interview. For this reason a request for authority to interview the subject is not being made at this time.

If New York develops further information concerning this matter from [ 9 Chars ] {(S)} or other sources, such information should be furnished to Phoenix.

-2-

**SECRET**

=====

FD-233 (Rev. 11-29-61)

[ FBI Seal ]

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

*In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.*

Phoenix, Arizona  
May 26, 1969

Title      PROFESSOR JAMES EDWARD MC DONALD  
             Senior Physicist,  
             Institute of Atmospheric Physics  
             University of Arizona  
             Tucson, Arizona

On September 15, 1969, [ 26 Chars ] [ 3 Lines ] [ 24 chars ] {b7D}

Professor James Edward McDonald, Ph.D., is currently employed as senior physicist, Institute Of Atmospheric Physics, at the UA. He has been employed at the UA since 1954 [ 53 Chars ] [ 40 Chars ] {b7D}

[ 21 Chars ] considers professor McDonald a sincere, conscientious and dedicated scientist who is very outspoken in both his scientific and political views. [ 40 Chars ] {b7D} a political conservative, said his own political views are quite the opposite of those of professor McDonald and although he sees the McDonald family quite frequently socially, they seldom discuss political matters because of this divergence of views. He said he has no doubt whatever that professor McDonald is completely loyal to the United States.;

{b7D} [ 18 Chars ] Professor McDonald for the past several years has been obsessed with the idea that Unidentified flying Objects (UFOs) are probably extraterrestrial and are real. He has lectured before various groups throughout the country during the past year in the subject of UFOs and has publicly challenged reports by the U. S. Air Force and other

CONFIDENTIAL

Group I

Excluded from automatic  
Downgrading and declassification

{105-191677-4}  
**ENCLOSURE**

=====

CONFIDENTIAL

RE: PROFESSOR JAMES EDWARD MC DONALD

Agencies who discount the possibility that UFOs are real and from outer space.

In mid-1968, as part of his research into the question of UFOs, Professor McDonald wrote to a number of representatives of various countries soliciting information concerning sightings of UFOs in these countries. He entitled this project, "A Plea for international Scientific Study of the problem of the UFO." The principal reason for this effort was to obtain reports of UFO sightings from more or less under developed areas of the world where people reporting these sightings would not have been previously exposed to publicity about UFOs. [ 20 Chars ] Professor McDonald contacted representatives of several agencies at the United Nations in New York, including the Soviet representative of the Outer Space Affairs Group, United Nations Secretariat. [ 12 Chars ] does not know the name of this individual. He said Professor McDonald mentioned receiving a reply from this Soviet representative but he does not recall whether Professor McDonald ever mentioned any further contacts with that individual. [ 12 Chars ] {b7D} said he believes that if there had been further contacts between Professor McDonald and the above Soviet representative, that he, Professor McDonald, probably would have mentioned this fact.

[ 42 Chars ] is not [ 47 Chars ] {b7D} Professor McDonald at the present time does not have access to any classified research material.

[ 12 Chars ] reiterated that he has never had any reason to whatever to question Professor McDonald's loyalty to the United States.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it is and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

2\*

CONFIDENTIAL

=====

~~SECRET / NO FOREIGN DISSEMINATION~~

Honorable Alexander P. Butterfield  
Deputy Assistant to the President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

DECLASSIFIED BY {SP2ACM/BMP}  
ON {10-31-97}

Dear Mr. Butterfield:

#387,961

Reference is made to your name check request concerning {b7C} [ 23 Chars ] and some other individuals.

Attached are separate memoranda concerning the following individuals:

{b7C} [ 23 chars ] Dr. James Edward McDonald [ 20 Chars ]  
[ 17 chars ] {b7C}

This letter of transmittal may be declassified when the enclosures bearing a classification are removed.

Sincerely yours,

[ ] {b7C} Enclosures (7)

DELIVERED BY LIAISON  
ON { 3/19/71 ????? }

{4} ENCLOSURE ~~SECRET / NO FOREIGN DISSEMINATION~~

1- Mr. Mohr - Enclosures (sent direct)

2 - Mr. Mohr - Enclosures (sent direct)

EX-103 REC-1

NOT RECORDED

LMG:mcb (7)

MAR 24 1971

**51 MAR 26 1971**

=====

CONFIDENTIAL

{10-29-97}

CLASSIFIED BY {SP2ALM/BMP}

DECLASSIFY ON: 25X {1}

**SECRET**

March 18, 1971

DR. JAMES EDWARD MC DONALD {SUMMARY}

Dr. James Edward McDonald, who you advised was born May 7, 1920, in Duluth, Minnesota, and who resides at 3461 East Third Street, Tucson, Arizona, was the subject of favorable applicant-type investigations in 1949 and 1962. A summary of these investigations dated March 12, 1962, is attached. (161-1891)

[ 8 Lines ]

[ 9 chars ] {(S)} (105-191677)

Our files indicate [ 62 Chars ] {b7C} various anti-war and antidraft groups in Tucson since 1968. As of late 1970, [ 27 Chars] the Peace and Freedom Associations (PFA) and Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) in Tucson. In October, 1968, [ 17 Chars ] reportedly attended the SDS National Convention in boulder, Colorado, and was overheard telling a group in Tucson upon [ 15 chars ] favored violence, if necessary, to achieve the goals of the SDS (100-453871)

A confidential source in a position to know advised in mid-1969 he had recently received information that Professor James Edward McDonald [ 25 Chars ] constant New Left activities and that [ 21 Chars ] The source also said he has heard [ 43 Chars ] young hippie proteges. (105-191677)

The central files of the FBI, including the files of the Identification Division, contain no additional pertinent information concerning captioned individual based upon background information submitted in connection with this name check request.

Enclosure

CONFIDENTIAL

**SECRET**

Group 1

Excluded from automatic  
Downgrading and declassification

KPW:pan/lg/mjj (7)

{JCF 105-141677-5}

SEE NOTE - NEXT PAGE

ENCLOSURE

=====

Dr. James Edward McDonald

**SECRET**

NOTE: Per request of Alexander P. Butterfield, Deputy Assistant to the President. This memo classified "~~Confidential~~" in as much as it contains information previously so classified.

- 2-

**SECRET****C U F O N**

The Computer UFO Network

<http://www.cufon.org/>SYSOP - [Jim Klotz](#)Webmaster - [Chris Lambright](#)

UFO Reporting and Information Service

Director - [Dale Goudie](#)

Mail service currently unavailable Voice Line - unavailable

[Back to Top of this Page](#)[To CUFON Main Page](#)