be irresponsible. As a result, this organization was considered one to which the Bureau's name should not be connected even through membership of FBI employees. (62-103581)
TO:        DIRECTOR, FBI
FROM:  SAC, PHOENIX (62-0)
SUBJECT:  JOHN LAVAL,
MEMBER, NATIONAL INVESTIGATIONS
COMMITTEE ON AERIAL PHENOMENA
INFORMATION CONCERNING

For the information of the Bureau and possible dissemination, there is enclosed letterhead memorandum concerning communication from the above individual to the Arizona Highway Patrol in Phoenix.

Newark is being furnished copy of letterhead memorandum for information, since LAVAL gave his address as 7 Idlewild Lane, Matawan, New Jersey.

(2) - Bureau (5) REGISTERED
1 - Newark (enc 1)
1 - Phoenix (62-0)

ELB-kb
(4)

ENCLOSURE

REG 5  62-103581
11 FEB 18, 1964

CRIME RESEARCH

57 MAR 3, 1964
February 14, 1964

RE: JOHN LAVAL
MEMBER, NATIONAL INVESTIGATIONS
COMMITTEE ON AERIAL PHENOMENA
INFORMATION CONCERNING

Attached is copy of letter received by
the Arizona Highway Patrol from JOHN LAVAL, 7 Idle- 
wild Lane, Matawan, New Jersey, in which he states
he is a member of the above organization the NICAP, 
Washington, D. C., and requesting information.
7 Idlewild Lane
Matawan, New Jersey
January 15, 1964

State of Arizona
Department of Law and Public Safety
Division of State Police
State House
Phoenix, Arizona

Dear Sirs:

I am a member of the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP), headquarters in Washington, D.C., and would greatly appreciate your answering the following questions:

1. Has the United States Air Force compelled you in any way, thru official orders or otherwise, to withhold from the press media and the general public any information you might obtain from investigating an unidentified flying object sighting reported to you or any county or local police force in the State of Arizona?

2. If the answer to question 1 is in the negative what is the Arizona State Police policy regarding UFO sightings reported to you in releasing information on said sightings to the press media and general public?

3. Have you investigated any recent UFO reports and, if so, what were the results of those investigations?

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

John Laval
NICAP member

ENCLOSURE
May 26, 1965

62-1035-81-18

Mr. Harry E. Koch
Research Director
Northern Indiana NICAP
Unit 2
Post Office Drawer 638
La Porte, Indiana 46350

Dear Mr. Koch:

Your letter of May 18th was received during Mr. Hoover's absence. You may be certain your communication will be brought to his attention upon his return. I know he would want me to thank you for your interest in writing.

Sincerely yours,

Helen W. Gandy
Secretary

NOTE: Correspondent is not identifiable in Bufiles and there is nothing derogatory concerning Orvil Hartle. The National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena has not been investigated by the Bureau; however, it has been the subject of many citizen inquiries. It was founded in 1956 and has been critical of the United States Air Force with regard to the disclosure of Unidentified Flying Object information to the public. Major Donald E. Keyhoe is a retired Major of the United States Marine Corps. He has been known to the Bureau since the 1930's and is a flamboyant free-lance writer. He has written to the Bureau and much of the material he has submitted has been irresponsible. An invitation to Keyhoe to the Director to become a member of this group was not accepted. In view of the fact that this group has become engaged in matters controversial in nature, it is not felt that this request for the Director's Appropriations Testimony should be honored and that the above letter over Miss Gandy's signature is warranted.

NOTE continued next page.
Mr. Harry F. Koch

Correspondent's letter in general advises of the activities of his organization so that this Bureau may be apprised of them in the event of any inquiry regarding the organization.
John Edgar Hoover  
Director of FBI  
Justice Department  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

I just read and article in the local newspaper that you delivered in a report on March 4, 1965 before the House Appropriations subcommittee. And I can not understand why our government is about to allow the Communist bloc to establish consulates in many parts of our country when we can not even keep our embassies and our flag from being damaged in foreign countries, also we can not enter anywhere in Russia or China. Your department has difficult as it is to keep tabs on subversive groups that dwell within our country as it is. I and many others believe they should be kept in Washington D.C. area, that is where Government affairs are at. It is best to have them under your thumb instead of the whole hand, and this should be stopped by some means. I believe if the people knew this and urged to write their Congressmen and Senators it could be stopped. By gosh it will become, one will suspect ones neighbor in time. And we have enough unrest among our youth's as it is

Harry F. Koch  
Research Director NICAP  
P.O. Drawer 638  
La Porte, Indiana.
Anyway, the reason I am writing to you is because of that report you gave.

I am a Research Director for the NICAP Unit 2 of Northern Indiana. And I have been writing all over the world to scientists and subcommittees of NICAP also to our government officials and NASA of various departments for facts, data and photos about our outer space programs and other scientific science. Our group also investigate UFOs sightings of true sighting in a scientific fashion, the hoax we expose along with the Air Force. Those type of sighting we do not want, they can only hurt our organization. But with the thousands of people seeing something and even frighten them, we take their statement with an open-mind then evaluate it and class it with other sightings to see if we can make a pattern to learn what and why. UFOs has been sighted every since B.C. and have been carried along in history, but today, these sightings has become more numerous with intelligent people making reports. You probably have a copy of the UFO EVIDENCE that Major D. Keyhoe published, and that book will explain our interest. But we of Northern Indiana has a secondary interest, and that is to urge our youth's to finish their schooling. Being an non-profit group, we donate our time and money, writing, giving lecturers and gather material from scientists and NASA. We give that personal contact to the youth's that are interested in science, which appears that is what the youth's want.
This requires myself as researcher to write all over this country to gather material. Just the other week, the local police detective had orders to check me out, to see if I represented what I address myself to be. I do write to top leaders of our country, sheriffs, Air Force and other government branches, and all respond graciously and most help me in gathering material, such as Ranger 7–8–9 Photos, Grissom and Youngs photos, that they took on their second orbit, detail of various crafts that are in space and going into space, oceanography, satellites, propulsion, rockets, atomic energy and many other scientific events. And photos they are the material the youth's get most impress on, because as they say, "it is like being there as the event happens".

And you know the old say, one picture is worth 10,000 words and I do believe it from the interest these youth's take, not only the youth's but various organization of science we speak to.

Mr. Orvil Hartle Chairman and myself as Researcher been thinking, because we are interested in science, that we might be approach by some subversive person or group, but we will, without saying or doing a thing let the FBI office know that is in South Bend. I say this because of all the places I have been writing to, specially all the scientists I hear from and get material from. And we want your department to know what we do, and why we contact so many top men in the field of science, just encase something does turn up.
But both of us are true Americans and believe what our flag stands for, we should not hate, I know that, but we will say we dislike what unAmerican groups do. We do offer our services in whatever way you need us, we can say that much, and if you want to check us out, that is fine, both of us has been checked out during the War II and after that war for various jobs we held. Mr. Hartle is in business for himself as a TV repair man, as for myself I am semi-retired but work part time as a surveyor chainman with most of my time writing and gathering material as I mentioned in this letter, which by the way is turning into a novel if I don't stop. Could you send me a copy of the report you delivered on March 4, 1965, that too I would like to show the youth's it would impress them to read a report from you sir.

I thank you for your time and consideration.

yours very truly,

Harry F. Koch
Research Director
Northern Indiana NICAP
Unit 2,
P.O. Drawer 638
La Porte, Indiana.
Memorandum

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
FROM: SAC, PITTSBURGH (62-0) (C)
SUBJECT: NATIONAL INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE ON AERIAL PHENOMENA

Enclosed for the Bureau are 2 copies each and for Washington Field Office 2 copies each of a LHM and reliability memo concerning captioned organization.

Indices of the Pittsburgh Office contain no information identifiable with captioned organization, to other individuals mentioned in the attached LHM.

Furnished to the Bureau and Washington Field Office for information. No further action is being taken and this matter is closed.

2 - Bureau (Enc. 2) (RM)
2 - Washington Field Office (Enc. 2) (RM)
2 - Pittsburgh (1 - 62-2514B)

HSM/emq (6)

69 SEP 201965
In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

Title
NATIONAL INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE ON AERIAL PHENOMENA

Reference
Memorandum dated and captioned as above at Pittsburgh, Pa.

Source has not been contacted a sufficient number of times to establish reliability.

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

It has been near a year since I wrote you about our Society and our aims. What brought my attention to you again was a report I heard read over radio, the wonderful article that Mr. Hoover wrote in the Feb. 1966 issue of the FBI monthly bulletin about subversive actions of the youths etc. Those words are the same basic we are building our society on. I wonder if you could get Mr. Hoover to send us a copy of that bulletin with his own signature and with his consent that we could reprint that article to place in our Plume of Youth publication and our Student Reminder publication, which by the way is written and edited by the students themself. We dropped out of the NICAP organization because we didn't like their constant digging at our military over the UFO's. We feel the UFO's is a science and much is to be learned about it, we class it along with the space programs. And we do not only research into UFO's but into all fields of science, anything that can be helpful to the young people, that is our main goal, to urge the young people to finish their education and advance themself into higher education. We have a science library of books, fact sheets, data, photos etc of up to date science, it keeps me busy writing all over the country and even foreign countries for the latest of any science the young people are interested in. Today ever job regardless what it is, even if a housewife it is a science, we are living in a scientific world. We are a non-profit group with many members from various parts of this country with NASA, corporations, industries, aircraft companies, scientists in many phases sending us data, fact sheets, actual photos of science events to help youths, to get them interested in science which in the past year we feel has created enough interest to keep them off the street corners at late nights. We have the help of sheriff's, chief of polices, state police whom are in our staff. We would like a FBI man on our staff also, don't seem to be able to get in contact with someone in South Bend, Indiana. With men like them on the staff and get material of various bulletins it does help. In scientific fields, they are not all bad, thank goodness.

A SOCIETY...CONCERNED IN THE ACADEMIC AFFAIRS OF YOUTH... WORLD WIDE.
Some are interested in law enforcement, if you have any data, photos, and booklets we sure would place them in our science library for the young people to research into. I also wonder if you could place our Society on your mailing list for the FBI monthly bulletin, it would keep us posted in laws, and such articles as the one Mr. Hoover wrote. I can proudly say we citizen here in La Porte, Indiana do not have subversive acts, marches, or draft card burning, oh I don't say there is a bunch of angels, we do have petit thief and other mischievous acts, but there is always it seems a few bad apples in a barrel, most that do happen are from out of town, but we have a wonderful Sheriff, and City police department. In other words this society acts as intermediary between the renowned scientists, government officials, corporations because texts books cannot be printed fast enough to keep up with this ever changing scientific world of various events. We act as a school away from the school, and have created much interest among the young people, and also the adults and school teachers are interested in our library. Each member donates their own time and money to maintain this society and it is my job to see that no member that carry one of our I.D. cards are or have been subversive, that we will not tolerate, course we haven't come across any as yet—hope never, but if we do, out they go, and names turned over to our law officers that are on the staff. We believe in Justice, Law of the land, freedom, and the rights of man. I am writing to you because it was you that answered my last letter when Mr. Hoover was absence, and I hope you could ask him to write in person, because a personal letter as the youth's look at it, is the same as if he was speaking to them in person. Strange way for the young people to look at it that way, but I found it so with the letters and data I received from many top scientists and experts which the young people read, even many of the adults think that way, course as I say, many leaders of science are very busy and cannot answer all and ever letter they receive, but I reprint them in our simple mimeograph and photo-copier publication which we mail out bi-monthly to every member. We do not have an elaborate cover and printing but being non-profit and all donated with time etc, it has proven that to keep many people posted of what is going on within this world and within this society our simple publication does the work just as good as a fancy cover or printing, our publication is designed and made by hand and yet serves its purpose. Hope to hear from you and Mr. Hoover and our staff members, and I mean everyone takes our hats off to one of the best Lawmen in the world, we all know he has a great responsibility and this is not for flattery but we are all sincere in these remarks.

Sincerely yours,

Harry F. Koch

P.S. If Mr. Hoover would drop a short remark of our thoughts about our feelings toward the following lawmen it would be very much appreciated. Clifford D. Arnold, Sheriff La Porte, County La Porte Indiana. Richard Lewis, Sgt. Indiana State Police, Dunes Park Station, Chesterton, Indiana. Russell Greenwell Jr. Chief of Police Hopkinsville, Kentucky. None of our law men get complements for the work they do. And even give their life for law and order.
Decoded Copy

Airgram

Deferred 4-4-66 3:49 PM

To Director

From Indianapolis 04/1966

Harry F. Koch La Porte, Indiana, Research (Correspondence and Tours). Bude, April 4, 1966.

Reurairel March 29 Last.

La Porte, Indiana, an official

Held in high regard, acquainted with organization, universal research society of America, and Harry F. Koch. States constantly harassed by Koch and other members of organization. National Investigations communities on as highly spirited citizens relative of UFOs and other aerial phenomena and border on fanatics in this regard. They have recently become interested in youth programs. They, in no way, can be considered subversive and on the contrary are generally regarded as extremely patriotic American citizens. However, local law enforcement agencies are deluged with requests for endorsement and appearances in connection with the organization.

Records of so, La Porte, Indiana contain no info on...
UNIVERSAL RESEARCH SOCIETY OF AMERICA OR ANY ARREST RECORD FOR KOCH.

IN VIEW OF ABOVE, IT IS RECOMMENDED THE BUREAU NOT FURNISH REQUESTED MATERIAL TO KOCH AS IT IS BELIEVED KOCH COULD BE CONSIDERED NOT RELIABLE, USES POOR JUDGMENT, AND WOULD NOT BE PRUDENT IN THE USE OF THE DIRECTOR'S NAME OR MATERIAL FURNISHED TO HIM BY BUREAU. RUC.

RECEIVED: 4:21 PM  JG
Memorandum

TO: Mr. Wick

FROM: D. C. Morrell

DATE: 4/6/66

SUBJECT: HARRY F. KOCH
UNIVERSAL RESEARCH SOCIETY
OF AMERICA
LA PORTE, INDIANA

BACKGROUND:

By letter dated 3/23/66 to Miss Gandy, captioned individual, who is known in Bfiles for his former connection with the National Investigations Committee on aerial phenomena, referred to a letter to Miss Gandy about a year ago concerning his society. With lavish praise of Mr. Hoover and the FBI, he asked to be placed on the mailing list so that Bureau material could be included in his library. In addition, he asked that Miss Gandy have Mr. Hoover write a short remark about various law enforcement officials in his area. By airtel 3/29/66, the Indianapolis Office was requested to make discreet inquiries and to submit recommendations.

CURRENT DEVELOPMENT:

By communication 4/4/66, the SAC at Indianapolis advised that no derogatory data per se was developed concerning Koch and this group. However, an official held in high regard, pointed out that Koch and others (of his associates) continually harass law enforcement officers for endorsements and requests for appearances. Admittedly, Koch and his group were not considered subversive. Due to the highly spirited nature of Koch and his associates, and particularly due to Koch's alleged unreliability and poor judgment, the SAC recommended that the FBI should not furnish him material.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the in-absence letter sent to Koch under the date of 3/29/66 stand as the only acknowledgment to his communication. Should he make additional inquiry in the future, the question of responding to him could be re-evaluated at that time.
TRUE COPY

Jan 25, '68

F.B.I.
9th & G St NW
Washington, D.C.

J E Hoover

Dear Sir,

I was wondering if you know anything about
Membership Dept
NICAP
1536 Connecticut Ave NW
Washington, D.C. 20036

NICAP stands for National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena, organized in 1956 by Major Donald E Keyhoe, an ex-marine.

Is the organization sincere -- or a bunch of frauds--or a bunch of screwballs who "see" little green men running all over.

I have read books about them by Ruppelt, Green, Steiger, Wilkens, Edwards and Binder--the latter mentioned the organization.

I'm on the fence about them, and I would like to know more--but I don't want to deal with a bunch of racketeers who are out to make a fast buck on some suckers.

Keep up your good work--you're doing fine. You have built up a fine organization and are serving the American people in a grand way.

I am very sorry that there are so many phonies and screwballs on the Supreme Court who have tied the hands of the police and expect them to fight with their hands behind their back--congratulations on the fine work the FBI has done.

Sincerely

Irma H Weightman
Helfen, Edwards, and Binder
the latter mention the
organization.
I'm on the fence about
them, and I would like
to know more — but
I don't want to deal with
a bunch of rascals who
are out to make a fast
buck on some racket.

Keep up your good work —
you're doing fine. You have
built up a fine organization
and are serving the
American people in a
great way.

I'm not very sorry that there
are so many phonies and
losers in the Supreme
Court who have held the
hands of the police and told
them to fight with their
backs behind their backs —
congratulations on the fine
work the FBI has done.

Sincerely

Erma H. Weightman
F.B.I.
9th & G FF NW
Washington, D.C.

J. E. Hoover

Dear Sir,

I was wondering if you know anything about Membership Dept.

NICAP
1536 Connecticut Ave NW
Washington, D.C., 20036


I think the organization sincere or a bunch of cranks or a bunch of so-called UFO people who see little men running all over the place. I have read lots about them in self-published books.
January 31, 1968

Miss Irma H. Weightman

Dear Miss Weightman:

Your letter of January 25th has been received, and your kind comments regarding my administration of the FBI are indeed appreciated.

In response to your inquiry, information in our files must be maintained as confidential pursuant to regulations of the Department of Justice. I regret I am unable to be of help and hope you will not infer either that we do or do not have material in our files relating to the organization you mentioned.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

NOTE: Buf files contain no record identifiable with correspondent. The National Investigation Committee on Aerial Phenomena has not been investigated by the Bureau; however, it has been the subject of many citizen inquiries. It was founded in 1956 and has been critical of the United States Air Force with regard to the disclosure of information to the public concerning Unidentified Flying Objects. Major Donald E. Keyhoe is a retired Major of the United States Marine Corps. He has been known to the Bureau since the 1930's and is a flamboyant free-lance writer. He has written to the Bureau and much of the material he has submitted has been irresponsible. An invitation by Keyhoe to the Director to become a member of this group was not accepted. (62-103581)
February 7, 1968

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C. 20535

Attention: F.B.I. Laboratory

Dear Sir:

Re: 2 negatives of photos taken by Vincent Perna
143 Bruce Ave.
Yonkers, N.Y.

Date photo taken: 12/18/66

I am a member of the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena, Emerson, N.J. Sub-Committee, and at present my committee is investigating a report of an unidentified flying object as reported by the person named above.

The evidence, two photo negatives which were supplied by Mr. Perna, is being submitted in connection with this case in an effort to determine their authenticity, and has not been, nor will it be subjected to the same type of technical examination. The results of your examination will be used for official purposes only.

You will find that one negative contains a burn mark which was accidentally done by myself while examining it under a microscope.

Your cooperation in this matter will be greatly appreciated.

Respectfully,

Michael Solimando, Chief
February 12, 1968

Mr. Michael Solimando
Chief of Police
Emerson, New Jersey 07630

My dear Chief:

Reference is made to your letter dated February 7, 1968, enclosing two negatives of photographs purportedly taken by Vincent Perna, 143 Bruce Avenue, Yonkers, New York.

I regret we will be unable to comply with your request for examination of the negatives you submitted. It is a long-established policy of this Bureau that the facilities of the FBI Laboratory are available to law enforcement agencies for assistance in connection with the investigation and prosecution of criminal matters. Since there is no indication that the negatives you submitted are in any way related to a criminal case, it would be contrary to the above-enunciated policy for the examinations to be made. Please be assured that the facilities of our Laboratory are available to you and your department in the examination of any evidence submitted in harmony with established policy, and may I assure you of my desire to cooperate with you on matters of mutual interest. The negatives you submitted are returned herewith.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Enclosures (2)
1 - Newark (with copy of incoming)
WDG:mb (4)
Mr. Michael Solimando

No record identifiable with Vincent Perna located in Bufiles. We do have a record of the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (100-35992-41). It has been described as a "non-profit, privately supported, fact finding body serving the National Public interest which offers memberships and publications giving authentic sighting reports and up-to-date developments about 'Unidentified Flying Objects'." This information was furnished to a Special Agent of our Washington Field Office in May, 1961, by Mr. Richard H. Hall, Secretary of the organization.

As a matter of interest we have had prints made of the two negatives, that are attached for information. Our photographic experts have observed that the alleged flying object appears to be a considerable distance away over the distant forest. The flying object is clearly outlined but the distant forest is quite blurry. This would tend to suggest that, in fact, the object pictured was actually approximately as close as the nearby trees and, therefore, could not have been more than 12" to 15" in diameter. In other words, in all likelihood there is some trick photography involved.
Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM : SAC, DALLAS (62-1311)(C)

DATE: 1/23/68

SUBJECT: UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS
MISCELLANEOUS - INFORMATION CONCERNING

There is enclosed for the Bureau one Xerox copy of a letter dated 11/20/67, from Mr. ROBERT G. EDWARDS, 1736 Northaven Court, Arlington, Texas 76010, received by the Dallas Office on 1/19/68 in an envelope postmarked at Arlington, Texas, 1/17/68.

The enclosed letter reflects the formation of a subcommittee of the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP) in the Dallas - Fort Worth area, the purpose of which organization is to conduct scientific investigation of unidentified flying objects. TEXAS

This letter has been acknowledged and a copy of same has been furnished OSI, Tinker AFB for its information.

The acknowledgement to Mr. EDWARDS pointed out to him that information concerning unidentified flying objects received by this bureau is, by requirement, currently furnished to the U. S. Air Force.
20 November 1967

To:

From: Robert G. Edwards
1736 Northaven Court
Arlington, Texas 76010

Subj: Request for Information on Sightings of Unidentified Aerial Phenomena in the Dallas-Ft. Worth Area

1. A subcommittee of the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena, (NICAP), has recently been established in the Dallas-Ft. Worth area. NICAP is a private, non-profit organization directed by Major Donald E. Keihoe, USMC (Ret) from the National Headquarters in Washington, D. C. The purpose of the organization is to conduct scientific investigation of Unidentified Flying Objects. It now has 14,000 associate members in 50 states. The organization is not interested in the alleged psychic, occult, mystical, or religious aspects of UFO phenomena.

2. NICAP subcommittees, of which there are 30 in the United States, are composed of qualified individuals in technical or investigative fields, who are selected and appointed by the Washington office.

3. NICAP is currently working closely with the Colorado Project, a comprehensive study of UFO's begun in November 1966, by a group of distinguished scientists at the University of Colorado under a U. S. Air Force contract.

4. The local subcommittee earnestly solicits your support in reporting to the Committee Chairman any UFO sightings occurring in this area. It is especially important that the NICAP committee be contacted immediately in cases of reported UFO sightings where photographs have been taken or physical evidence remains after the observation.

Robert G. Edwards
Subcommittee Chairman
Texas Unit #2
Phone CR 5-1784
April 30, 1969

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C. 20535

Attention: Director

Sir:

I am doing an article for an Air Force magazine concerning Aerial Phenomenon and other so-called flying objects.

To help me out, I would like to know if the Bureau has ever received any such reports concerning the sightings or investigations of such objects. If so, would it be possible to send me some reports for use in my article.

Very truly yours,

Lon M. Cerame
Eastern Rep. NICOUFO
May 7, 1969

Mr. Lon M. Cerame
Eastern Representative
National Investigations Committee
on Unidentified Flying Objects
77 Giess Avenue
Belleville, New Jersey 07109

Dear Mr. Cerame:

I have received your letter of April 30th concerning an article you are preparing on Aerial Phenomena.

Although I would like to be of assistance, matters pertaining to Unidentified Flying Objects and Aerial Phenomena are not within the jurisdiction of the FBI. I regret we are unable to be of help.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

NOTE: Our files contain no information identifiable with correspondent.

JCF;pls (5)