

Conclusions and Recommendations

The UFO problem cannot be eliminated by mere caustic and offhand witticisms. Since the publication of the first report by the Association des Auditeurs of IHEDN 20 years ago, CNES has conducted serious studies in close collaboration with the Gendarmerie Nationale and the Air Force primarily, as well as with other State agencies (Civil Aviation, Weather Service, etc.). These studies tally with other research conducted more or less discretely abroad, mainly in the United States.

They demonstrate the almost certain physical reality of completely unknown flying objects with remarkable flight performances and noiselessness, apparently operated by intelligent [beings]. With their maneuvers, these flying objects considerably impress civilian and military pilots, who hesitate to speak [about them]. The fear of appearing ridiculous, alienated, or simply gullible is the principal reason for this reserve. Secret craft definitely of earthly origin (drones, stealth aircraft, etc.) can only explain a minority of cases. If we step back and take an objective look over the years, we clearly perceive the limits of this explanation.

Thus we are forced to resort to other hypotheses. Some can neither be confirmed nor invalidated. They are therefore not scientific, and, certainly, it is very difficult to scientifically study rare, elusive, and random phenomena, when science is based above all on experiments and their reproducibility. However, the example of meteorites shows that this type of phenomenon can nevertheless end up being accepted by the scientific community after centuries of doubt and rejection.

A single hypothesis sufficiently takes into account the facts and, for the most part, only calls for present-day science. It is the hypothesis of extraterrestrial visitors. Advanced as of 1947 by certain U.S. military personnel, today it is popular worldwide. It is discredited by a certain elite, but is plausible. Scientists (astronomers, physicists, engineers, futurologists, etc.) have elaborated on it enough for it to be receivable - as a hypothesis - by their peers. Different plausible variants concerning the voyage of one or more civilizations from a remote solar system to ours have been developed. A model of magnetohydrodynamic technology, which could be employed to propel the UFOs in the atmosphere, has reached a significant stage of development. Other manifestations of these objects have begun to receive a physical explanation (automobile breakdowns, truncated beams [of light], etc.).

The purposes of these possible visitors remain unknown, but they must be the subject of indispensable speculations and the development of prospective scenarios.

The extraterrestrial hypothesis is by far, the best scientific hypothesis. It certainly has not been categorically proven, but strong presumptions exist in its favor and if it is correct, it is loaded with significant consequences.

Based on this prudent but solid assessment, we can make several recommendations:

- 1) Inform the political, military, and administrative decision-makers, as well as the aircraft and helicopter pilots. A gradual information campaign could target:
 - ENA [National Public Management College] and IHEDN,
 - [Ministry of] Defense schools: Air, Navale, Saint-Cyr, Gendarmerie, (officers and NCO gendarmes), Santé des Armées [Military Health College], Polytechnique [Polytechnical College], ENSTA [National College of Advanced Technologies], ENSAE [National College of Aeronautics and Space], CID, CHEAR [Center for Advanced Armaments Studies], CHEM [Center for