*“If you shut up truth and bury it under the ground, it will but grow, and gather to itself such explosive power that the day it bursts through, it will blow up everything in its way.”[[1]](#footnote-2)*

Emile Zola

**UFO Quotes**

Sample quotes from opposing sides of the UFO debate and a selection of more balanced views

**Quotes supporting the natural explanation for UFOs**

*“Popular ideas about flying saucers have no basis in scientific fact. I have often spoken to observers of flying saucers and in most cases we can explain the sightings as weather balloons, natural phenomena, or bright planets seen through atmospheric turbulence.*

I am convinced all would be explained away if we had enough details of each sighting.”[[2]](#footnote-3)

Dr J. W. Warwick**,** American space expert at the University of Colorado

"I think that it is much more likely that the reports of flying saucers are the result of the known irrational characteristics of terrestrial intelligence rather than the unknown rational efforts of extraterrestrial intelligence."

Dr. Richard Feynman

*“There is no doubt UFOs exist in the sense that people genuinely see things in the sky that they cannot identify. But the real question is: what do these things turn out to be on investigation?*

*Not all reported UFOs can be extraterrestrial spacecraft, and no one pretends they are. Even UFO believers agree that at least nine reports out of every ten are readily explicable in known terms. The main culprits are bright stars and planets, aircraft, meteors, and satellites – although a complete list of misidentifications would be almost endless. UFO proponents often point to the residue of unexplained cases as proof that there must be something to UFOs after all, but that’s not so. An unsolved case is not evidence for any theory. If even the most credible and honest witnesses turn out to be demonstrably wrong nine times out of ten it is not unreasonable to suppose that all cases would be soluble if we had sufficient information.”*

Ian Ridpath (http://www.ianridpath.com/ufo/ufoindex.htm)

*“To be quite truthful, we do not pay significant attention to the UFO issue at all. We feel that the whole area is so debatable, uncertain, and unscientific that it is probably not going to help anybody very much. We don’t do anything on UFOs, and we do not recommend that anybody else do anything on them.”[[3]](#footnote-4)*

John Billingham of NASA Ames Research Center in California, USA, a leader in the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence (SETI) movement

*“Respectable scientists don’t even discuss UFOs in serious terms.”[[4]](#footnote-5)*

Professor Edward Ney, an astrophysicist at the University of Michigan, USA

**Quotes supporting the alien explanation for UFOs**

*"I can assure you that flying saucers, given that they exist, are not constructed by any power on earth."*

President Harry S. Truman (April 4, 1950, White House Press Conference)

*"It is time for the truth to be brought out... Behind the scenes high-ranking Air Force officers are soberly concerned about the UFOs. But through official secrecy and ridicule, many citizens are led to believe the unknown flying objects are nonsense.... I urge immediate Congressional action to reduce the dangers from secrecy about unidentified flying objects."*

Vice Admiral Roscoe Hillenkoetter, CIA Director (Statement in a NICAP news release, February 27, 1960)

*"I've been asked about UFOs and I've said publicly I thought they were somebody else, some other civilization."*

Eugene Cernan, Apollo 17 Astronaut

*"This massive cover-up has been going on for almost six decades since the UFO crash near Roswell, New Mexico in July 1947, an event which was certainly not caused by balloons, as alleged by the U.S. Air force."*

Dr. Brian O'Leary, Apollo Astronaut

It is now time to put away this embargo of truth about the alien presence."  
Dr. Edgar Mitchell, Apollo 14 Astronaut

*"Of course UFOs are real - and they are interplanetary...The cumulative evidence for the existence of UFOs is quite overwhelming and I accept the fact of their existence."*

Air Chief Marshal Lord Dowding, Commander-in-Chief of RAF Fighter Command during the Battle of Britain

*"There is a serious possibility that we are being visited by people from outer space. It behooves us to find out who they are, where they come from, and what they want.”*

Admiral Lord-Hill Norton, UK Chief of Defense Staff Ministry of Defense, Great Britain (1971-73)

*"The mystery surrounding this crash (at Roswell) has never been adequately explained - not by independent investigators, and not by the U.S. government."*

Bill Richardson, Congressman, Secretary of Energy, and New Mexico, Governor

*"It would be a tragic joke if all this money were spent searching for evidence of extraterrestrial intelligence in far places when that evidence might be under our very noses."[[5]](#footnote-6)*

Dr Josef Allen Hynek (1910-1986), former professor of astronomy at Northwestern University, Illinois, USA

**Quotes supporting a more balanced position on UFOs**

*“I do believe there are objects which have yet to be identified.”[[6]](#footnote-7)*

The late Dr Carl Edward Sagan

*“Let us learn what we can from UFOs. Granting that some of the claimed sightings may have substance, we should undertake to learn what we can from the presence of an unidentified object and from the observer of the object.”*

Ken Wear, 12 August 2007

*“I propose that true skepticism is called for today: neither the gullible acceptance of true belief nor the closed-minded rejection of the scoffer masquerading as the skeptic. One should be skeptical of both the believers and the scoffers. The negative claims of pseudo-skeptics who offer facile explanations must themselves be subject to criticism. If a competent witness reports having seen something tens of degrees of arc in size (as happens) and the scoffer -- who of course was not there -- offers Venus or a high altitude weather balloon as an explanation, the requirement of extraordinary proof for an extraordinary claim falls on the proffered negative claim as well. That kind of approach is also pseudo-science. Moreover just being a scientist confers neither necessary expertise nor sufficient knowledge. (I wish it did, sigh.) Any scientist who has not read a few serious books and articles presenting actual UFO evidence should out of intellectual honesty refrain from making scientific pronouncements. To look at the evidence and go away unconvinced is one thing. To not look at the evidence and be convinced against it nonetheless is another. That is not science.”*

Bernard Haisch, astrophysicist, UFOSkeptic.org

*“Cut through the ridicule and search for factual information in most of the skeptical commentary and one is usually left with nothing. This is not surprising. After all, how can one rationally object to a call for scientific examination of evidence? Be skeptical of the ‘skeptics.’”*

Bernard Haisch, astrophysicist, UFOSkeptic.org

*“During my tenure with Project Blue Book we had reports of radiation and induction fields in connection with UFOs, however the information was sketchy and we were never able to pin it down....[The reports of electromagnetic disturbances characterised] a whole new dimension to the UFO investigation.”[[7]](#footnote-8)*

The late Captain Edward J. Ruppelt, first head of Project Blue Book (1952-53)

*"I have taken special interest in these accounts [of UFOs].. I think there may be substance to some of these reports… I think we owe it to the people to establish credibility regarding UFOs and to produce the greatest possible enlightenment on this subject."*

President Gerald Ford, 1966 (Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives, Eighty-Ninth Congress, Second Session, Hearing on Unidentified Flying Objects, April 5, 1966.)

*"A purely psychological explanation is ruled out... the discs show signs of intelligent guidance, by quasi-human pilots..."*

Dr Cal Jung (Quote appeared in the article "Dr. Carl Jung on Unidentified Flying Objects," *Flying Saucer Review*, Vol. 1, No. 2, 1955.)

“I have been led to a conclusion quite different the cumulative weight of continued reports from groups of people from around the world, whose competence and sanity I have no reason to doubt, reports involving close encounters with unexplainable craft, with physical effects on animals, motor vehicles, plants, and on the ground, has led me reluctantly to the conclusion that either there is a scientifically valuable subset of reports in the UFO phenomena, or that we have a world society containing people who are articulate, sane and reputable in all matter save UFO reports.”

“. . . when one or more obviously reliable persons reports – as has happened many times – that a brightly illuminated object hovered a few hundred feet above their automobile, and that during the incident their car motor stopped, the headlights dimmed or went out, and the radio stopped playing only to have these functions return to normal after the disappearance of the UFO, it is clearly another matter.”

“By what right can we summarily ignore their testimony and imply that they are deluded or just plain liars? Would we so treat these same people if they were testifying in court, under oath, on more mundane matters?”

Dr J. Allen Hynek. UFO Symposium, Monday 29 July 1968 at the House of Representatives, Committee on Science and Astronautics, Washington, D.C. Source: http://www.nicap.org/hearing3.htm

**The general scientific view on UFOs**

*“To judge from this survey of the membership of the American Astronomical Society, it appears that: (a) scientists have thoughts and views but no answers concerning the UFO problem; (b) Although there is no consensus, more scientists are of the opinion that the problem certainly or probably deserves scientific study than are of the opinion that it certainly or probably does not; and (c) a small fraction (of order 5%) are likely to report varied and puzzling observations, not unlike so-called "UFO reports" made by the general public. As is the case with reports from the public, many may be unusual observations of familiar objects, but some seem to be definitely strange.*

*These results are consistent with the findings of an earlier but more limited survey of members of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (Sturrock, 1974b).*

Report on a Survey of the Membership of the American Astronomical Society Concerning the UFO Phenomenon

Regarding the Condon Study:

*"The opposite conclusion could have been drawn from The Condon Report's content, namely, that a phenomenon with such a high ratio of unexplained cases (about 30 percent) should arouse sufficient scientific curiosity to continue its study. From a scientific and engineering standpoint, it is unacceptable to simply ignore substantial numbers of unexplained observations... the only promising approach is a continuing moderate-level effort with emphasis on improved data collection by objective means... involving available remote sensing capabilities and certain software changes.*

*The Committee has made a careful examination of the present state of the UFO issue and has concluded that the controversy cannot be resolved without further study in a quantitative scientific manner and that it deserves the attention of the engineering and scientific community.”*

Kuettner, J. P. (Chaiman of the UFO Subcommittee of the AIAA) et al. “UFO – An Appraisal of the Problem: A Statement by the UFO Subcommittee of the AIAA”: *Journal of Astronautics and Aeronautics.* November 1970, p.49.

*“Although I do not yet have enough reliable information concerning the relevant characteristics of the UFO phenomenon with which to form a scientific judgment of its “core” identity, I do believe that the phenomenon is objectively real; i.e., I believe that the many thousands of eyewitnesses around the world are experiencing UFO phenomenon in a manner very similar to the way any other human with normal sensory capabilities would perceive it if they happened to be present.”*

Richard Haines, NASA scientist, UFO researcher, author of several books on UFOs, expert on pilot UFO sightings

“Anything that is theoretically possible will be achieved in practice, no matter what the technical difficulties, if it is desired greatly enough.”[[8]](#footnote-9)

World--renowned English science fiction writer, Arthur Charles Clarke

1. Le Poer Trench 1974, p.129. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. Holledge 1965, p.90. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. Edelson 1980, p.87. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. Flammonde 1976, p.17. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. Hough & Randles 1991, p.62. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
6. Quote from Associated Press published in the article *Prof says Beings from Outer Space have visited Earth*. 26 November 1962. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
7. Maney & Hall 1961, pp.70 & 186. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
8. Landsburg 1976, p.153. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)