

Mr. Philip J. Klass, who has been conducting a one-man campaign against NICAP and Dr. McDonald, are singled out "for helpful information on UFO developments in Washington".

#### Extraterrestrial hypothesis refuted

The main conclusions of the report are meant to refute the ufologists' claim that the UFOs are of extraterrestrial origin. This is unscientific in itself. The main problem should have been to determine the existence of a phenomenon. We must first assemble a scientific body of evidence proving the existence of the phenomenon before we can proceed to explain it. Many of the cases in the report clearly indicate that an inexplicable phenomenon does exist. No effort was made to correlate these cases. So the first step was never taken. A statistical breakdown of all the sightings reported to the project in 1967-68, plus an

extensive psychological study of the witnesses to isolate the factors of reliability and interpretation would have been of inestimable value. A giant step forward.

The Condon Report does prove one thing—perhaps for all time—and that is that scientists trapped within the limitations of their own specialties and disciplines are not equipped to cope with a phenomenon which is more observational than physical. They lack the training necessary for competent field investigations and they permit their own emotions and pre-conceived conclusions to cloud their judgement and prevent any objective review of individual testimony. Just as the separate UFO organizations have settled upon conclusions and theories which they feel are valid, so do the scientists feel that all the reported sightings can be explained naturally by their own particular specialities. Roach is devoted to "airglow"; others are

obsessed with mirage effects, electrical plasma, and swamp gas. None of the men who slapped together the final Condon Report apparently reviewed all the data. The report does not even indicate that any systematic effort was made to collect all the data.

I personally believe that many of the issues of the UFO buffery have been over-magnified and I at least agree with Condon on some points. I think the extraterrestrial thesis is not applicable to all the sightings and manifestations being reported. I think that "governmental secrecy" is more a myth than a reality (read the intriguing Condon report on the Heflin photographs . . . pages 437-455) and that a large part of the controversy and dissension has been caused by speculation and inadequate investigation.

Summing up, the Condon Report has been a gross waste of money and has made only a very small contribution to the subject.

## WORLD ROUND-UP

We are sorry pressure of other articles and events has forced us to reduce the size of this feature. However, we hope to include a good selection of items in our next issue.

### BRAZIL

#### More Pereiro earthquakes

As a follow-up to Gordon Creighton's article *UFOs and Earthquakes* (FSR for November/December 1968) we read in the French newspaper *Le Midi Libre* of August 21, 1968, that UFOs are still active in the Brazilian 'quake zone.

"A report from Rio de Janeiro states that a new earthquake has been registered at Pereiro (N.E. Brazil), where civilian authorities have affirmed that recent shocks were preceded by strange celestial phenomena. Reports from Pereiro indicate that the latest shock was on Thursday last (August 15); there were no casualties but the whole populace evacuated the town.

"Last week, in Brasilia, the new Capital, Ernesto Valente, parliamen-

tary deputy for the State of Ceará (in which Pereiro is located) declared in the Parliament that the flying saucers were causing the earthquakes, and he called upon the Brazilian Government to institute an inquiry."

Credit: Hervé Matte of Paris.

[There were also press reports from Venezuela early in 1968 to the effect that there were many people in Venezuela too who believed that the earthquakes there were due to the UFOs—EDITOR.]

### Postscript to Botucatu

Mr. Nigel Rimes now reports that he has cleared up the mystery of the horse bones found near the site of the Botucatu landing (see FSR, November/December 1968, p. 21). It seems that the animal's bones had been used in a class for students to study. It happened that on the day when they had finished with the remains, the hospital incinerator was not working. The remains were therefore dumped

temporarily on the other side of the hospital grounds. Mr. Rimes received this information from one of the students who had used the bones.

### FRANCE

#### Radar misses Orly saucer

French press reports of August 20, 1968, stated that reports were pouring in from people who claimed to have seen a mysterious machine over the Paris area. For a period of 45 minutes it was moving about over Villeneuve-le-Roi, Saint-Denis and Melun, and numerous residents of these areas saw it. The descriptions are somewhat imprecise as some witnesses said it looked like a metallic cigar while others spoke of "a balloon cut in two". However, as one paper points out, the theory of collective hallucination is not tenable.

At the Orly Airport nothing abnormal was detected either by ground personnel or pilots in the air or radar.

Credit: H. J. Besset of Chenôve.

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**FSI**

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Scene of the allegedly UFO-caused

## **TARADALE CAR CRASH**

See Page 3

Edited by CHARLES BOWEN

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## GETTING THE MESSAGE

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1969

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IT was on August 9, 1966, that Robert Low, co-ordinator of the proposed U.S. Air Force-sponsored UFO study wrote his notorious "Trick" memorandum to the University of Colorado<sup>1</sup> before the contract for the setting up of the Condon Committee was signed. Mr. Low thought that by concentrating the investigation on the psychology and sociology of the people who report UFOs rather than on the reports themselves and the "physical reality" of the saucer, the trick (costing more than \$500,000) would be worked, that the scientific community would quickly *get the message*, and that they (the Condon Committee) would carry the job off to their benefit.

At the time of writing, the Condon Report has been published, but has yet to be seen by the FSR team. A phone call to Jacques Vallée revealed, however, that it is "very bad"; as a commentary by John A. Keel confirms that opinion, we have chosen, for the present, to publish the Keel review. Suffice it to say in these lines that it seems that the Report is a hasty agglomeration of hoary old veteran explanations, irrelevances and padding; perhaps not denying the existence of the phenomenon but minimising its importance; a study which seems to have been concerned only in a very small way with the over-all phenomenon which we have carefully studied all these years.

Whether or not the scientific community got the message remains to be seen. It appears, however, that the press—especially in the U.K.—got it quickly enough. A mere handful of provincial newspapers found space for anything to say about the report, while the national newspapers which mentioned it *after* it had appeared could be counted on the fingers of one hand. Their reactions can be judged from their headlines. They were: *Daily Express* of January 10 ("There aren't any flying saucers"); *Daily Mail* of January 10 ("There are no little green men", and some textual prominence to the recommendation that teachers should stop students reading about educationally harmful flying saucers—and that in spite of the fact that at that very time the *Daily Mail* was sponsoring a very large and expensive stand for the British UFO Research Association at the New Year Exhibition, formerly known as the Schoolboys' Exhibition); and odd-man-out, *The Times* of January 10 ("UFO study starts new controversy" with some prominence to the opposition view as expressed by Dr. David Saunders, former member of the Condon Committee who was dismissed for—heavens be praised—revealing the "Trick" memorandum to the world).

On January 9, the *Guardian* ran a forecast, based on a "leak" of the Condon Report's contents. Its headline was: "Flying saucers not from other planets". The *Daily Telegraph* contented itself with an eight-line forecast of the outcome on January 8.

Another odd-man-out was BBC Radio 1 and 2 which, on the evening when the embargo on the Colorado news was lifted, invited the Editor of FLYING SAUCER REVIEW to answer questions in a live broadcast via the telephone. The questions gave him the opportunity to tell a few million listeners about the "Trick" memorandum and the official misleading of the public, and how the Condon Report merely underlined the fourth (CIA) recommendation



which was added to the 1953 Robertson Report, and insisted that official policy should be to deliberately debunk flying saucer reports.<sup>2</sup>

Next day (January 10) a reporter of one national newspaper was even briefed to interview FSR's Editor with—so we learned subsequently—a view to having journalistic fun at our expense. Apparently our twenty-minute telephone conversation convinced this reporter that any such attack would be completely futile and grossly unfair. The article was never written. However, we should not lose sight of the fact that until his conversation with FSR's Editor, the reporter, and those who briefed him, had "got" only the Condon message. We can only hope they have now got ours as well!

This, then, is how the message will be expected to work. The scientific community, the press, and the services may now be expected to lay-off the topic—and ridicule those still interested in it—with the full backing of the Condon Report, regardless of the quality of its contents. Maybe it is only scientific bloody-mindedness that is behind it all, or maybe some official organisation wishes to corner the subject for itself, or even, maybe, Authority is afraid that an indirect admission of its inability to cope with the

problem—which could be construed to be inherent in the setting up of a proper investigative body—would lead to an undesired public reaction. Whatever the cause for the apparent desire to sweep UFOs under the carpet, we will surely witness a degree of quietening down of the subject.

Fortunately FSR got the message long before the Condon deliberations were finished. Even though the Editor was publicly chided by a bright young scientist for having warned the BUFORA Northern Conference on November 4, 1967, that the Condon Investigation was likely to be a "dud", we continued with our warnings, implied and direct, in several of our leaders.

It seems the prospect before us now is that everyone throughout the world interested in UFOs will have to buckle down to more diligent groundwork, and co-operate just that much more in seeing that the public do not miss *our* message.

#### NOTES

<sup>1</sup> Fuller, John G. *Flying Saucer Fiasco* in LOOK magazine (issue for May 15, 1968). Reported in FSR, Vol. 14, No. 3, May/June 1968.

<sup>2</sup> Discovered by Dr. James E. McDonald of Arizona University when checking through Project Blue Book files, and revealed by him in an address to the American Society of Newspaper Editors at Washington, D.C., on April 22, 1967. Reported in FSR, Vol. 13, No. 4, July/August 1967.

## **WE HAD TO BE ABSOLUTELY SURE . . .**

before we announced the full title of the forthcoming FSR Special Issue No. 2, so up to now we have advertised it merely as **NORTH AMERICAN REPORT**.

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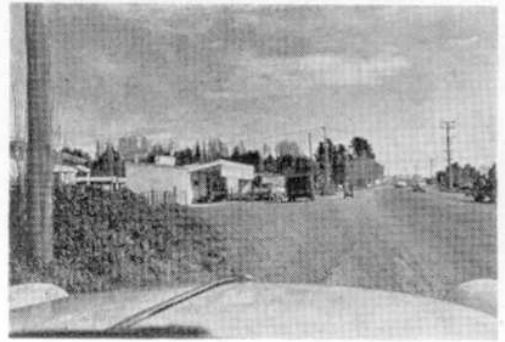
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# THE TARADALE CAR CRASH

*Henk Hinfelaar and Claude Elmes*

This article is adapted from *Spaceview*, the journal of N.Z. Scientific Space Research, edited by Mr. Hinfelaar, P.O. Box 21-007, Henderson, N.Z.



THIS case, which involved two teenagers, a brilliant white object shaped like a football, the police and an insurance company, received little publicity. The only New Zealand newspaper game enough to print the story five days after its happening was the Auckland *Sunday News*, and although its report was slightly exaggerated, the basic outline was there. The reason for this was that the two witnesses refused to talk to newspaper reporters, and the reporter who finally delivered the story was entirely dependent upon sources other than those involved in the car crash.

The first we heard about the incident was two days after it happened, on September 10, when at New Zealand Scientific Space Research, we received a letter from the two boys concerned (John Alfred Dow and Paul Franklin) in which they related how an unidentified flying object had cost them their car and caused them injury. They also asked for "observers' reports" so that they could give full details. To facilitate investigations, they were asked to get in touch with Claude Elmes, who from then on took charge. Although at this time of writing (November 26) almost every conceivable angle of the case has been covered, we are at present investigating an incident in the same area which may produce yet another witness to the Dow and Franklin affair.

## The boys' story

On Friday, September 6, John Dow (19) and Paul Franklin (17) were driving around the Taradale area and were in Springfield Road when they noticed lights hovering above the city dump. They described the lights as "dozens of reds, greens and blues darting around."

While sitting in their car watching this display, they were startled by a tremendous explosion from the direction of the dump, followed by rumblings and vibrations which shook the car. The lights then appeared to group and speed off. This was their first thought of flying saucers and they notified the Taradale constable on duty immediately. Although he appeared

interested, he was non-committal and passed no comment.

On Saturday, September 7, they again went to the area hoping to see something, but to no avail.

On Sunday, September 8, they again visited Taradale and saw an object which shot off a beacon of light, although they could not see its shape. They reported this at the Taradale police station, this time finding another officer on duty who laughed at their story and who mentioned the salt-impregnated cable theory causing the flashing as a result of the wind. The only trouble with this theory—so the boys said—was that there was no wind!

On Monday, September 9, they were in the Taradale shopping area from where they saw, over the Puketapu Hills, a light which commenced glowing and suddenly shot straight up in the sky. As they were tired of being laughed at, they did not report this to the police.

On Tuesday, September 10, wanting to get to the bottom of it all, they drove towards Puketapu via Puketapu Road, then entered Omaranui Road to motor back to Taradale. While in Omaranui Road, they saw a lighted object in the sky in the direction of Hastings. This object, in addition to frequent changes of colour from white to red to orange to blue, kept sending out a beacon of white light. They decided to drive towards the source, but the object disappeared behind cloud. The boys then turned towards Taradale, crossed the Tutaekuri Bridge and entered the Main Road which becomes Gloucester Street.

Near the Taradale camping grounds, Franklin, who was sitting at right angles, saw the object again through the car's rear window, this time across the river, from whence they had come. The object appeared to pick up speed as though it had seen them, at the same time becoming brilliantly white. Franklin called out and Dow glanced around. Franklin then shouted: "Bail out, it's got us," and both leapt from the car on the passenger's side. As the car was then doing 30-40 m.p.h. both boys fell badly, suffering abrasions and bruises.

The object was now glowing an unbelievable intense whiteness and one of the boys (Franklin), lying on his back, covered his eyes with his hands as he thought he was about to be blinded. However, after hovering about 2ft. above them, the object suddenly shot up into the sky. The object, the boys claim, was a "spheroid" about 2½ft. in diameter, and although glowing brilliantly, did not cast any light whatsoever. Instead, they had the impression of a translucent brilliance with the light pointing into the object.

Meanwhile the car, out of control, had swerved across the road and smashed into the doorway of a fruiterer's shop, demolishing the plate-glass window. A crowd had gathered as a result of the noise and found two badly frightened and shocked youths, calling out about the flying saucer which had attacked them.

Dow, in a personal report, states that the object was 2 to 3ft. away from the rear of the car when he dived out. That was the last he saw of it as he landed face down on the ground. The object was solid and made no sound—the time was 8.50 p.m.

## Investigation

### i. The boys

The immaculately dressed Franklin was found to be the spokesman, and appeared to know something of the UFO-subject. Queried on this, said he had recently read Adamski's *Inside the Space Ships*, but thought it very far fetched. He told the story, Dow occasionally interjecting with some minor detail.

Dow, although the older, was the more youthful in manner of the two. Throughout the interview he was tested on minor details, but would at any time repeat what Franklin had already said. No variation in the story was found. Both boys are definitely not the bodgie-type, but Franklin is obviously the leader.

They described their injuries, abrasions and bruises to the sides of their bodies, but said they had not sought medical attention until the following night when they attended the public hospital. The hospital staff did not



believe the story. Thinking their wounds were not serious, they had delayed examination until their clothes were "sticking" to them.

The boys also mentioned that on the Wednesday night following the accident they became very frightened and ran to the Napier police station for protection. The reason for their fright was contained in stories told them by a reporter. This reporter tried to impress upon them what happens to flying saucer victims, and advised them not to go out after dark.

## ii. Scene of accident

The tow-truck driver, who arrived on the scene half an hour after the accident, reported seeing two badly shocked boys who were "cursing and swearing" about the "so and so" flying saucer that had attacked them. He commented that if the boys were putting on an act, it was a very good one. There was no suggestion that the boys had been drinking and there was no evidence of liquor. He also mentioned that the police were there (they had arrived a quarter hour earlier) and **appeared to accept the boys' statement.**

An inspection of the scene four days after the accident failed to reveal any skid marks. This indicated that the car did crash unattended by any driver, as the natural reaction to avoid a collision would be to apply the brakes. A close examination of the shop revealed a new door jamb and a new plate-glass window: the owners had been very prompt in having repairs carried out.

The boys approached from Gloucester Street, which has a speed limit of 55 m.p.h. One-tenth of a mile from the scene, where the road has a slight bend, one enters the 30 m.p.h. zone and it is assumed that the boys were doing maximum allowable speed when entering this zone. This would explain why they were still doing between 30 and 40 m.p.h. when abandoning the car.

## iii. The car

The smashed car is an Austin A55 Mark I, 1957 model. It was thoroughly examined by Claude Elmes. There is no sign of burns or anything to indicate that this was not a normal smash. It has a lean to the right front similar to a sinking ship and is a write-off. The right front wing is wrenched off and twisted back along the side of the car, and the front axle assembly is a mess. The damage is consistent with a head-on collision at a speed of at least 30 m.p.h. Dow said that three months before the accident he had purchased new tyres for the front wheels and that after the accident one tyre was completely bald. This was found to be correct; the left front tyre looked as



Written-off, the Austin A55, Mk. I

though it was due for a retread. Both boys are quite certain that neither ignition nor lights were affected by the object. However, Dow mentioned that when they jumped from the car it was still in top gear, but when inspected right after the smash it was in third gear. The front wheels are pointed hard right, the direction of the swerve into the shop. This is consistent with the bend in the road at the time that the car was abandoned.

## iv. The police

The police clamped down on the case, but there is a strong suggestion that the officer in charge was willing to discuss the matter with somebody who knew something about the subject. However, a crank apparently called at the station, and this resulted in orders being issued that *nobody else* was to be given information. This unfortunate happening is consistent with the boys receiving all manner of correspondence from different parts of New Zealand, most of it being "crank-type" mail. The boys have been advised to ignore it.

On the night of the accident the police said *they had simply seen a fireball*, but the weather did not cater for such phenomena. The weather map for that night shows the area half way between barometric pressure 1000 and 1005. Temperature 59.6°—fine. Cool south-westerly airstream over country. Fresh gusty N.W. winds to W. decreasing. Fine and mild, cold night. Frost 2.00 a.m. On the accident night, a constable was motoring down the Taihape Road and saw a reddish light in the sky towards Taradale. When he arrived at Taradale the accident had occurred.

We are also aware that a certain Wing Commander in Wellington has received the police file and is showing much curiosity. Another unusual fact

is that three days after the accident there were four Canberras in Napier for—as the Air Force said—exercises. Napier normally does not see an AF plane for months on end.

Although the police booked the boys on a charge of dangerous driving, it would appear that they accepted the story as told by the boys but played the case down as much as possible. Constable Barry Martin-Bus of the Napier police later testified that when arriving at the scene, he found two youths in an hysterical condition. However, at the same time he conceded that the story pouring forth from the boys sounded sensible and logical in spite of their excited state of mind.

## v. The Auckland Sunday News

When compared with the story which we obtained from the boys and residents of Taradale, the newspaper's story of September 15 is indeed exaggerated. Nobody in Taradale is jittery or frightened at the prospect of travelling alone at night, nor did the boys see a "massive flashing object" rise from the ground at the dump.

The journalist who interviewed the boys is not on the staff of the *Sunday News*, but is in fact a reporter of the *Napier Daily Telegraph*. This newspaper, however, never published the story. The *Sunday News* admitted to us that the reporter's name is George Fraser and that it was he who passed the story on to them in his capacity as correspondent. Somewhere along the line Fraser "elaborated" on the facts and we have no doubt that the same reporter frightened the boys with some scary stories.

## vi. The insurance company

The insurance company involved is the N.I.M.U. When Claude called at their Napier office, he was referred to the claims manager, who, as soon as





# BALEIA ENTITIES SEEN AGAIN?

Nigel Rimes

Representative of Flying Saucer Review in Brazil

THERE are substantial indications that the Brazilian Air Force and other Brazilian authorities have lowered the customary curtain of silence over quite a number of further landings that have taken place in the region of Baurú and Lins (in the State of São Paulo) during the course of 1968. Investigation is difficult and may become much more so, and it is necessary to proceed with great caution.

In the meantime I am able to give below a preliminary outline of a remarkable case in which, as it seems, the tall type of men seen at Baleia<sup>1</sup> have again been encountered.

The single-known witness, whom I have interviewed personally and questioned in great detail, is a young Brazilian woman aged about 21 or 22. A tall, well-built country girl, she comes from a town in the State of São Paulo. I have given FLYING SAUCER REVIEW full details as to her name and address, but for obvious reasons it is most necessary that these remain confidential at present, and I am requesting that they be kept out of this account.

The young lady states that she happened to read a report in a newspaper about the "Symposium of Flying Saucers" recently held in São Paulo. This prompted her to go to the offices of the *Brazil Herald*<sup>2</sup> to tell her own story, which she felt must surely be of great importance. She was just relating it to Mr. Willi Wirz, the managing director of the newspaper, when, by chance, I too appeared at his office and so was able to take part in the interrogation.

We found the witness's manner direct and simple, and she created an excellent impression. She made it clear that she desired no publicity and that she had only come forward with this information because she felt that it was her duty to do so and that the affair must be important. She appeared throughout our interview to know exactly what she had seen and she would not be swayed in any way from her story when we tried to suggest that what she had seen was perhaps something else of a more conventional nature.

## Her story

She states that, on the evening of

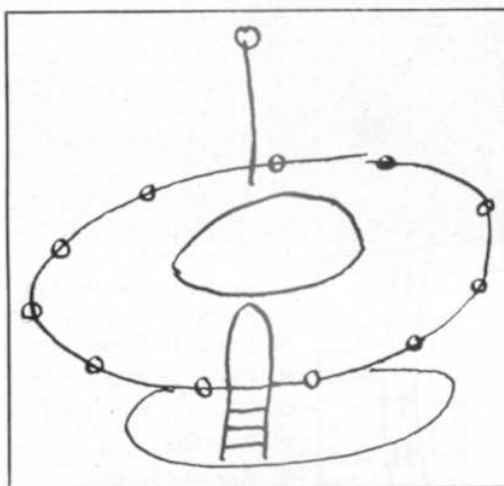


Fig. 1. Witness's own sketch.

November 21, 1968, she was a passenger on a rural bus travelling along the Via Dutra, on the "Circular Guarulhos" Line, between the towns of Guarulhos<sup>3</sup> and Vila Barros (both places in the State of São Paulo).

At 9.30 p.m. the bus halted at a rural stop near Macédo, where it is customary for the driver to "take a break" and wait a while—especially if, as on this occasion, he was perhaps a little ahead of his timetable.

There was no street lighting at the spot, but, as it was summer time, it was still quite light. To the left of the road lay a piece of waste ground and upon it, at a distance which she estimated to be about 40 metres from the bus, there was, either standing, or hovering close to the ground, "a shining metallic object of the size of an Aero Willys car" (i.e. approximately the size of a British Jaguar four-door saloon).

Fig. 1 shows the witness's own first sketch of the object, drawn in our presence.

We then showed her pictures of various alleged types of saucer for comparison, and she immediately selected, as the most similar to what she had seen, the Botucatu<sup>4</sup> UFO—although with certain definite modifications. For example, she was adamant that the thing she had seen possessed no tripod landing-gear, but a set of three steps.

Since she had now selected the Botucatu type as the nearest in general shape, I drew the outline shown in Fig. 2 and got her to fill in all the vari-

ous details such as the antenna, the dome, the number of segments (four she thought) forming the dome, the "skirt", and so on.

The witness felt very emphatically that the "skirt" with its row of circular changing lights was spinning clockwise. And yet she said that she could see the open door the whole time, and the three steps down to the ground, and that the door itself was not moving.

My personal impression is that a possible explanation for this might be that the constantly changing row of circular lights induced in her the erroneous idea that there was a spinning movement. Or, alternatively, I wonder whether the shape of the craft might not have been thus:

In such a case the lights could have been on a lower band below the level of the door, and the lights and this

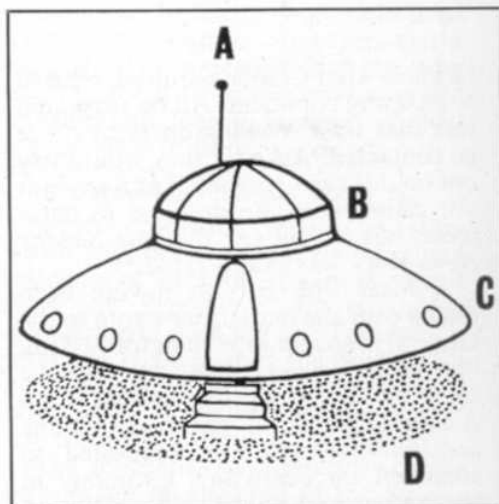


Fig. 2. A. Antenna with red light. B. Dome, in segments. C. Skirt, seemed to be spinning clockwise. D. Patch of violet light beneath.

lower band of the "skirt" might have indeed been spinning while the upper portion of the "skirt" containing the door remained motionless. I hope that she will perhaps be able to confirm this to me later without any prompting.

## The entities

We come now to the most astonishing part of the lady's story. For she claims that, standing in front of the landed UFO, there were three men about 2 metres in height. "They were

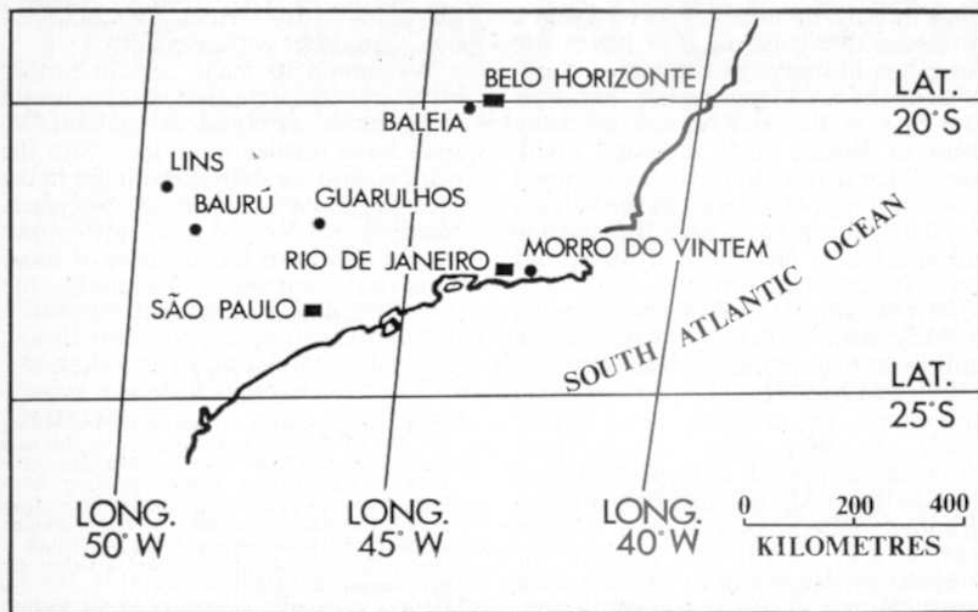


Fig. 3

wearing skin - tight shining black clothes, and black boots that were also shiny. Their suits also covered their heads, leaving only the faces bare." (See Fig. 4.)



Fig. 4

One of the entities "was holding a sort of tube under one arm." This tube, she estimated, was about 60 centimetres long and about 7 centimetres in diameter. Around the main barrel of this (weapon?) there was another tube, spiral in form, and of what looked like shining aluminium. The witness was moreover quite positive that, as shown in Fig. 5, there were two thin projections at the rear end of the tube.

Between her and the entities, at a distance of some 20 metres or so from her bus, and consequently with their backs towards her, she said there was moreover a crowd of possibly 20 people grouped behind three Brazilian policemen, all of them confronting the entities. And on the road, just ahead of the bus, and behind the policemen and the Brazilian crowd, there were

two stationary police radio-patrol cars numbered RP 1 and RP 2. (RP = "radio-patrolha": radio-patrol) (see Fig. 6). The policemen had guns in their hands.

For a time, the witness continued, the two parties stood there facing each

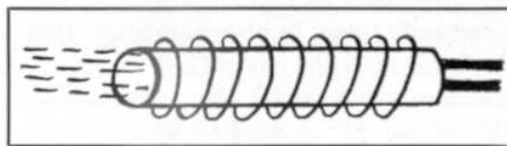


Fig. 5. Estimated length 60 cm; Diameter 7 cm.

other. Then, suddenly, from the tube held under the arm of one of the UFO entities, there shot forth a brilliant concentrated beam of silver-coloured light, like a flame. The beam was directed at the party of Brazilian police and bystanders, the front ranks of whom (including the policemen) immediately ceased all movement and were "paralysed". She noticed however that a number of the others who were not in the forefront were also affected, and she saw several fall as though in a faint. She also particularly noticed that the entity did not swing the tube itself, but swung his whole body round, still holding the tube in position under his arm.

The three UFO entities had, as she put it, "seemed very calm throughout", and they now walked slowly back to their machine and entered it via the door. The craft then took off and rapidly climbed away until it was lost in the overcast.

The witness estimated that these events had lasted about 15 minutes.

Such, then, is our preliminary report on what would appear to have been a prodigious episode. If it lasted as long as the witness says, and there were

other passengers with her on the bus, then there must be a considerable number of witnesses in addition to the large crowd of bystanders and the three radio patrol car policemen, and it is immensely frustrating that, so far, we have not managed to hear anything from any of them. On the other hand it is important for us to note at this juncture that the young woman's story is not entirely without corroboration. For there was in fact a brief mention of the case in the newspapers of November 22, which are being forwarded to FLYING SAUCER REVIEW.

#### Comparison with the Baleia case

When shown (in FSR Vol. 4, No. 6, which had just arrived) the account of the landing at Baleia and the sketches of the entities and their tube seen at that place, she immediately recognised them, claiming that they were identical with the men and the "weapon" that she had seen. (It is, I hope, needless to emphasise that she was only shown the report of the Baleia case *after* the whole of her own account and description had already been given.)

On two points she was adamant. Firstly, she said that none of the three beings seen by her had an antenna on the top of his head as is shown in the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW's illustration. But here it must be pointed out that the witness at Baleia, Fábio José Diniz, stated quite clearly that *only one man*—not the one holding the tubular device—bore the antenna on top of his helmet, and this point was emphasised in Gordon Creighton's translation of Dr. Húlvio Brant Aleixo's article. Since one of the entities seen at Baleia also had no antenna on his head, it cannot be said that our lady witness's story is at variance with what was said about Baleia.

Secondly, she maintained very emphatically that the UFO seen by her

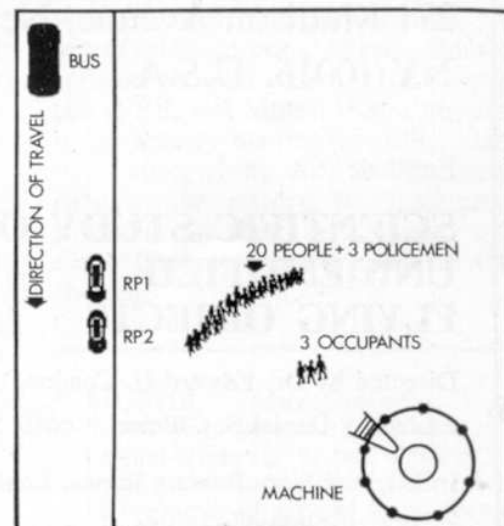


Fig. 6



was "quite different" from the drawing of what was allegedly seen at Baleia. On the other hand—apart from the matter of the three steps instead of the tripod landing-gear—she was strongly inclined to identify the machine seen by her with the one allegedly seen by the boys at Botucatu and reported by me.

#### Provisional conclusions

Our young lady seemed to be an entirely sincere and truthful person. At no point did she waver in her story, although as already stated she did admit to puzzlement on the one point of whether or not the "skirt" of the saucer and its row of changing coloured lights was spinning. (At any rate, I think I can say that we certainly had not unconsciously "fed" to her the idea that it was spinning in a clockwise direction. Such was certainly not what we "wanted to hear", as our own pet theory had tended towards the idea that such "spin" on UFOs was always *anti-clockwise*.)

Some sceptical readers in a small country like Britain may find it strange that a bus should halt for 15 minutes at an isolated rural spot [Why should we be surprised? Our public transport, particularly Southern Region trains, often halts *inexplicably* for long periods

even in built-up areas!—EDITOR], but I am sure that anyone who has made long bus journeys in the larger countries of the world will realize that, as is the case in the U.S.A. and certainly here in Brazil, such regular "break stops" for drivers and passengers are a normal thing. Moreover, as the witness explains, the place where the episode occurred is in fact the half-way point on that particular run.

If it be claimed that our witness had already seen drawings of the Baleia entities and device, and of the Botucatu UFO, and had then decided to concoct this story, we can only ask: *Where could she have seen them?* These drawings appeared only in Professor Húlvio Brant Aleixo's privately mimeographed bulletin and *FLYING SAUCER REVIEW* and not, to the best of our knowledge, anywhere in the Brazilian press. Moreover, if she *had* seen them, and was basing her concocted story on them, why did she not insist that the three entities had antennae on their heads (the only sketch in FSR showed the man with the antenna) and that the machine had three legs, as shown in FSR's reproduction of the sketches accompanying my article on the landing at Botucatu?

Our conclusion so far is that this case certainly seems to be genuine, and that

the military authorities have clamped down on other witnesses of it.

We intend to make certain further investigations, details of which it would be wiser to withhold at present. We shall have further interviews with the witness, and we shall go with her to the spot where she claims it all took place. Needless to say we shall also make careful efforts to locate some of those numerous witnesses—including the three Brazilian policemen.

#### NOTES

by Gordon Creighton

<sup>1</sup> By an all-too-easy oversight, when translating Dr. Húlvio Brant Aleixo's report on this case for inclusion in FSR for November/December 1968, I forgot that I was working from Portuguese and not from Spanish, and so called the place *La* Baleia. The feminine singular article in Portuguese is not *la* but *a*. Hence the place should be called *A* Baleia. Or perhaps simply Baleia.

<sup>2</sup> Brazil's only daily newspaper in the English language, with offices at Avenida São Luiz 153, Lj.13—Térreo, São Paulo. Mr. Willi Wirz, its managing director is a reader of FSR and took part with Mr. Nigel Rimes in the investigation of the Botucatu case. He is a member of Dr. Buhler's SBEDV, and has also recently founded in São Paulo a new UFO investigation group known as ABECE. (In English: The Brazilian Association for the Study of Extraterrestrial Civilizations.)

<sup>3</sup> Guarulhos lies approximately due north of the city of São Paulo, at 23° 28' S. Latitude, 46° 32' W. Longitude.

<sup>4</sup> See *The Landing at Botucatu* by Nigel Rimes. In FSR for November/December 1968, p. 21

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# THE "MEN IN BLACK" REPORTS

Should they be taken seriously?

John Harney

Our contributor is Editor of the *Merseyside UFO Bulletin*, an independent journal which, until recently, was produced for the sole purpose of exchange.\* In this excellent endeavour he is assisted by Alan W. Sharp and John A. Rimmer. This article has been adapted from a longer item which appeared in the September 1968 issue of MUFOB.

PEOPLE who witness UFOs and those who attempt to investigate their reports often report strange experiences which appear to have some connection with the UFO mystery. This article is mainly concerned with one aspect of the problem, which is at present being much discussed among ufologists, that is the stories of witnesses or investigators who claim to have been threatened or warned to keep silent about their sightings and/or theories by mysterious visitors and telephone callers. The main questions to be dealt with are:

1. How serious is the problem?
2. What are the best methods of attempting to discover the cause of such reports?

## The two main attitudes to the problem

These may be briefly stated thus:

(a) Genuine reports of witnesses being silenced, having photographs confiscated, etc., are due to the activities of government security agencies or individuals posing, for some unknown reason, as government agents. All other such reports are hoaxes or delusions.

(b) Some of the reports are genuine, but theories about government agents or people impersonating them are inadequate to account for important details given in the reports. The exact nature and purpose of such incidents remain a mystery.

## Brief history of MIB reports

The first report of the "Men in Black" (MIB) variety in the post-war phase of UFO activity is generally agreed to have been contained in statements made by

Harold A. Dahl to Kenneth Arnold during the latter's investigation of the alleged Maury Island sighting of June 21, 1947.<sup>1</sup> According to Dahl, the day after his sighting a man called at his home early in the morning and invited him to breakfast. Dahl said that he was not surprised at this, for men often called on people in his type of work early in the morning for the purpose of buying salvaged logs. The man wore a *black suit*, was of *medium height*, and there was nothing unusual about his appearance. *He appeared to be about forty years of age*. Dahl accepted his invitation and noted that the man drove a 1947 *Buick Sedan*. The man suggested that Dahl should drive his own car and follow him. On the way downtown Dahl *failed to get the licence number* of the car he was following. The two men went to a cafe and ordered breakfast. As soon as they sat down the man immediately began telling Dahl, in minute and accurate detail, the events of the previous day when he and others had witnessed the UFOs. The man then told Dahl that *if he loved his family and didn't want anything to happen to his general welfare, he would not discuss his experience with anyone*.

The items italicized in the above account refer to details which recur again and again in more recent MIB reports. The Maury Island case, which is much too involved and complicated to summarize here, is still argued over today, but the U.S. Air Force claims that it was a hoax, devised by Harold Dahl and his colleague, Fred L. Crisman. Ruppelt has described it as "the dirtiest hoax in the UFO history."<sup>2</sup>

Dahl and Crisman are said to have confessed to the Air Force investigators.

The fullest account of the Maury Island affair is given in *The Coming of the Saucers*, by Kenneth Arnold and Ray Palmer. If any open-minded person reads Arnold's account carefully, he will find it very difficult to believe that Crisman and Dahl were able to arrange all the mysterious incidents described by him. Hoax or not, the whole story contains elements which crop up again and again in later incidents, quite apart from the MIB incident described.

The classic MIB case is that involving Albert K. Bender, who closed down his organisation, the International Flying Saucer Bureau, on the orders of "three men in black". The story circulating at the time was to the effect that Bender was studying his collection of UFO data when the solution to the mystery suddenly occurred to him. The MIB visited him, assured him that his guess was correct and warned him not to divulge the secret to anyone else. Bender refused to give reasons for closing the IFSB, but hinted that a government agency was responsible. Bender's case, along with other stories of a similar nature, received great publicity in the UFO world, and Gray Barker wrote a book on this theme.<sup>3</sup>

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\* MUFOB, Mimeographed, bi-monthly, is now also available in a limited quantity at one shilling per copy (post paid) from—Mr. John Harney, 53 Woodyear Road, Bromborough, Wirral, Cheshire, L62 6AY.



In 1963, Bender published his own account of the affair.<sup>4</sup> Far from clearing up the mystery, Bender's story only served to create more confusion, for in it he claimed that the MIB were beings from another planet who were visiting the Earth at that time for the purpose of extracting a substance from sea water to take back to their own planet for use as food. Anyone who discovered too much about their activities was silenced, in order that the aliens could work undisturbed.

Naturally, even the most eager UFO believers found the story unconvincing, and it seems to have been generally assumed that Bender had—possibly through overwork—become the victim of an elaborate delusion, a delusion made worse by his interest in horror stories and occultism.

However, stories of witnesses and investigators being "silenced", either by sinister, black-garbed figures or, more convincingly, by ordinary-looking men who purported to be government officials persisted through the years until the vast increase in UFO reports since about 1964 brought with it some quite convincing reports of attempts to intimidate witnesses.

At the present time controversy rages concerning the findings of John Keel, who claims that the MIB are very real and very active. Keel has published a number of articles on the subject<sup>5</sup> and reports which tend to support his claims are available from other sources.<sup>6</sup>

#### **A local appeal for information**

In the July/August issue of our Bulletin we appealed for unpublished information concerning reports of visits by the MIB and other odd experiences in connection with UFO sightings and events. This appeal for information was published in the Liverpool *Echo*<sup>7</sup> and broadcast on BBC Radio Merseyside. Only three letters were received in response and these were merely requests for information.

However, the possibility that some victims of such experiences may be deluded was mentioned in the *Echo* and in the radio interview. Nobody likes to think that he is subject to delusions, so to begin with we are at once faced with an obstacle to any serious enquiry into

this matter. An obvious question is: Why did we receive no local reports of the MIB or suchlike, in view of the adequate publicity given to the appeal? Possible answers are:

1. Because there were no such experiences to report.

2. There were such incidents but the victims did not report them (a) because they did not want to be thought of as being deluded, or because they were afraid of possible damaging or undesirable publicity, or (b) because the MIB would not let them!

Needless to say, the first alternative is likely to prove to be the most popular explanation, but it must be pointed out that the technique used locally is very unlikely to be successful, whichever of the alternative answers given above happens to be the truth. The approach favoured by John Keel, that of personally interviewing many UFO witnesses, listening sympathetically to them and gaining their confidence, seems more likely to pay dividends.

#### **Different aspects of the problem in the U.S.A.**

Although stories about the harassment of UFO witnesses and investigators have come from various countries ever since 1947, they have been particularly persistent in the U.S.A. Such stories often sounded very convincing. Witnesses claimed to have been visited by men purporting to be FBI agents, or dressed in Air Force uniform. These men confiscated UFO photographs and warned witnesses to keep quiet about their sightings. Naturally, many of the UFO groups took these reports seriously and complained bitterly to the Air Force.

In January, 1967, however, ufologists got quite a shock when Colonel George Freeman, the Pentagon spokesman for Project Blue Book, revealed that the U.S. Air Force was just as annoyed about the mystery men as the ufologists were.<sup>8</sup> Colonel Freeman cited several cases. A man bearing credentials from the North American Air Defence saw Mr. Rex Heflin, who had taken a series of UFO pictures in California in 1965, and demanded the originals. The photographs were never returned and NORAD denied any knowledge

of the incident. In February, 1960, Mr. Joe Perry, of Grand Blanc, Michigan, took a similar set of pictures and was visited by two men posing as FBI agents who confiscated his photographs. Colonel Freeman denied that these incidents were connected with the Air Force UFO investigation and was quoted as saying: "We haven't been able to find out anything about these men. We would sure like to catch one."

On the other hand, investigators have recently brought to light many incidents of a more unlikely character. These include stories of visits from mysterious "men in black", who are said to drive about in black cars which are very old models but are nevertheless said to look brand new. These cars either have false licence plates or none at all, yet are completely successful in evading the police. The MIB are also said to drive up to witnesses' homes at night and take flash pictures of their houses with the aid of cumbersome - looking cameras mounted on tripods. In other words, most of the reported actions of the MIB appear to be completely nonsensical.

One of the contributing factors to the present confusion about this problem is the very conservative approach to the UFO mystery by many of the more influential American enthusiasts. Such a statement will seem incredible to anyone with little knowledge of the subject, but it is this conservatism which has probably led to the loss of many interesting reports and has succeeded in distorting the true picture of the world-wide UFO mystery through the years.

Published accounts of the work of Project Blue Book have made it plain that reports of UFO occupants were either thrown into the nearest wastepaper basket or placed in a file marked "C.P." (Crackpot). The more serious UFO organisations tended to adopt a somewhat similar policy with the result that the more bizarre aspects of the mystery were for long neglected or left to groups which were notorious for their lack of competence and objectivity. However, it seems that the situation has recently improved, although one suspects that the amount of weight which investiga-

tors give to each report depends overmuch on how far the report fits in with their theories. It appears that some ufologists, many of them comparatively new to the subject, have now almost completely discarded the popular approach of collecting data to support a particular theory (e.g. UFOs are spaceships from other planets; UFOs are occult phenomena; otherwise inexplicable UFO reports are hoaxes and delusions, etc.). The present fashion seems to be a recognition of the fact that the UFO phenomena are extremely complex and have apparently endless ramifications.

#### How serious is the problem?

Critics will say that in embarking on this article I have fallen into the trap of being side-tracked from the main UFO problem by apparently giving credence to reports which are merely the results of hoaxes, paranoid delusions, exaggerations and plain lies. It is true that the problem of assessing the reliability of the reports is a formidable one,

in view of the lack of physical evidence and the unpredictability of the reported phenomena. In the field of psychical research, Hansell<sup>10</sup> has described in detail how highly intelligent people, with scientific training and experience, can be fooled by faulty memory, cheating and trickery in experiments, wishful thinking and other factors which make psychic experiences and experiments seem more impressive than they really are. As many of the alleged MIB experiences seem to involve phenomena of the kind familiar to psychic researchers, Hansell's criticisms could no doubt profitably be borne in mind when investigating such reports.

Whatever the cause of MIB and similar reports, they should be studied seriously along with all the other phenomena associated with UFOs.

#### How should the problem be tackled?

The reports by John Keel concerning the MIB and other strange occurrences have attracted a good deal of criticism and, in some

quarters, amusement. FLYING SAUCER REVIEW reports that there is said to be a group of scientists interested in UFOs who burst into fits of uncontrollable laughter whenever they see a John Keel document. It also seems that some of the criticisms have been couched in terms more appropriate to the wilder extremes of politics than to scientific enquiry. There is only one way to deal with the startling claims of John Keel and others who have written in similar vein and the Editor of FLYING SAUCER REVIEW has summed it up neatly thus:

"If chair-borne critics, writers, UFO-buffs or laughing scientists are urged to say Mr. Keel is wrong, then it is incumbent upon them to get out and about and to thoroughly investigate his claims. If they do not do this they will find themselves on insecure ground."<sup>11</sup>

When enquiring into such reports it should of course be realised that some of them can be quite easily explained. On the one hand, there are people who become mentally ill

(continued on page 20)

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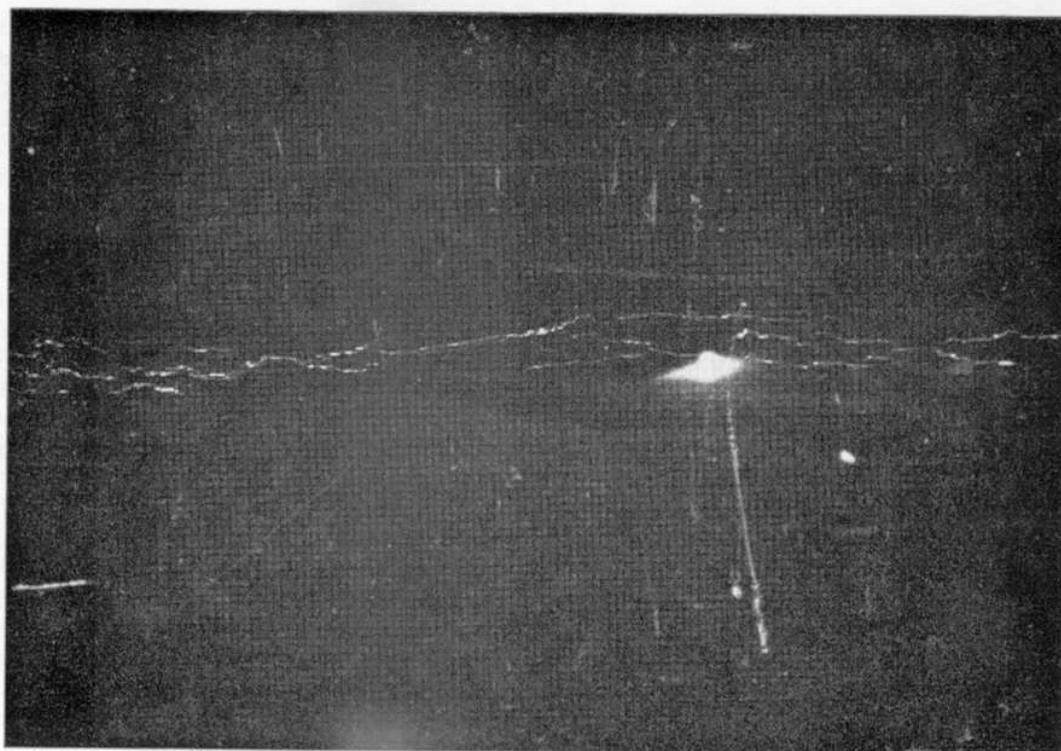
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# UNUSUAL PHOTOGRAPH FROM 14,000 ft. ANDEAN OBSERVATORY

**Prof. Gabriel Alvial**

Conducted by the Centre of  
Cosmic Radiation of the  
Faculty of Physical Sciences  
and Mathematics of the  
University of Chile.



SINCE October 1967, the technicians operating the cosmic ray instruments of the "El Infiernillo" Observatory have been observing a series of luminous phenomena which need to be explained. To each of these phenomena we have given the code "FPE" (Fenomeno por explicar) or PRE (Phenomena requiring explanation). These have the appearance of stars of magnitude zero to one, which move and which halt in space. Some photographs taken during the static period of these luminous foci show luminous rings of Fresnel diffraction.

The "El Infiernillo" Observatory forms part of the Faculty of Physical Sciences and Mathematics of the University of Chile and is located at a height of 4,343 metres (more than 14,000ft.) in the Cordillera de los Andes, whose geographic co-ordinates are latitude  $33^{\circ} 10' S$ . and longitude  $70^{\circ} 17' W$ . Its altitude allows a probable geometrical observation of a meteorite 150 times greater than that of any ordinary city.

The attached photograph was taken from the Observatory at 01.35 hours G.M.T. on May 17, 1968, and is one of three photographs taken over a period of 60 minutes of a flickering light. The smaller light appearing above and to the left of the FPE (PRE) corresponds to that of the "El Roble" Observatory which is almost 100 kilometres distant from "El Infiernillo" and is at a height of 2,000 metres.

The "Centre of Cosmic Radiation" prefers not to use OVNI, UFO, or other such terms in its search for an explanation of these possible natural phenomena.

As a result of the photometric analysis of the observations carried out, a project has been developed for the installation of a space scanning camera, the cost of

which, inclusive of a year's operating, is U.S.\$35,000. This amount is being canvassed from various foreign and international institutions.

Acknowledgement: I have to thank Prof. Ricardo Vergara for his co-operation, and to express my appreciation of his experience, in which, as Public Relations Officer of the University of Chile he has distributed the details of the "observations" in such a way that the public may be informed and an objective opinion may be reached.

\* \* \*

[Our thanks are due to Mr. J. Dennis Llewellyn for bringing this item to our attention—EDITOR.]

\* \* \*

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# A FATAL ENCOUNTER

Charles Bowen

PILAR de Goiás is situated in the upland interior of Brazil. Not very far away is that remarkable act of federal faith, the new capital city of Brasília. The incident which is the subject of this article took place at a fazenda situated in the district at approximately Long. 49° 45' W., Lat. 14° 30' S.

The report of the incident arrived from FSR representative Nigel Rimes in mid-January. My account is taken from that report, which is a translation by Nigel Rimes of a transcription from the original report, made by Sr. Willi Wirz, managing director of the *Brazil Herald*. The transcription and translation are both dated January 11, 1969.

## The alleged incident

On August 13, 1967, at about 16.00 hours (Br. St. Time), Inácio de Souza, 41, and his wife, Dna. Luiza de Souza, the parents of five children, were returning to the fazenda where Inácio was employed. They had been on a shopping expedition to the nearest village. Inácio is described as illiterate, simple, honest, trustworthy and reserved. He had worked at the fazenda for six years.

The owner of the fazenda is well known, and an extremely wealthy man; he has asked for his name not to be revealed. (Both his name and that of his fazenda are on file with FSR.)

As Inácio and his wife approached the house they saw three persons playing about (brincando) on the fazenda landing strip (the owner possesses a number of aircraft). Inácio's immediate impression was that these persons were naked, but Dna. Luiza says they were wearing skin-tight clothes of a pale yellow colour. When the three strangers saw Inácio and his wife, they started to move towards them.

It was at that point that Inácio saw a strange "aircraft" at the end of the landing strip. This object was touching, or almost touching, the ground. It looked like an inverted

wash-basin. Inácio suddenly became very frightened.

Inácio was carrying a 0.44 calibre carbine, and it is stated that he took aim at the nearest person and fired. Almost immediately the "aircraft" emitted a beam of green light which hit Inácio on the head and shoulder. He fell unconscious, and Dna. Luiza ran to help him. In some alarm she watched the three "persons" enter the "aircraft" which thereupon took off vertically, and at high speed, with a noise like the humming of bees.

## Aftermath

The owner of the fazenda described the sequel. He had been informed about the incident three days after it had happened. It seems that on the first and second days Inácio had complained of numbness and tingling of the body, and of headaches. He also experienced severe nausea. On the third day the same symptoms were present, plus continuous tremors of the hands and head. The owner took the sick man to a doctor in Goiania, more than 300 km. from the fazenda.

The doctor discovered burns on the trunk and head, such as might have been caused by some poisonous plant, and indeed tried to establish whether or not the patient had eaten any poisonous plants. When the fazenda owner told the doctor the story of Inácio's encounter, he showed surprise and suggested an examination of faeces, urine and blood. He prescribed "Unguento Pierato de Butesin" (friend Nigel shrunk from translating that, and settled merely for a "?") which I presume is an ointment.

The burn marks were in the form of a perfect circle 15 cm. in diameter (Dr. Bernard Finch has suggested they might have been like a severe nettle rash).

The doctor thought Inácio had suffered an hallucination, and was suffering from some disease, for he had no time for flying saucer stories, did not believe Inácio's

story, and advised all concerned to "keep silent on the matter".

Inácio and his boss stayed on in Goiania for four days, during which time treatment continued. The patient was then discharged to the fazenda with the diagnosis "leukaemia". The prognosis was very poor, the patient being given about 60 days to live.

Surprised at receiving the bill so soon, in view of the serious condition of his employee, the owner asked the doctor about it and was told: "His case is a fatal one, because it is cancer."

According to information given by Dna. Luiza, Inácio, once he had returned to the fazenda, wasted away to "skin and bone", and was covered with white, or yellowish-white blotches, the size of a fingernail, which lay just beneath the skin. He suffered much pain, and died on October 11, 1967.

In accordance with her late husband's wishes, Dna. Luiza burned all his clothes, the bed, mattress, bedclothes and so on.

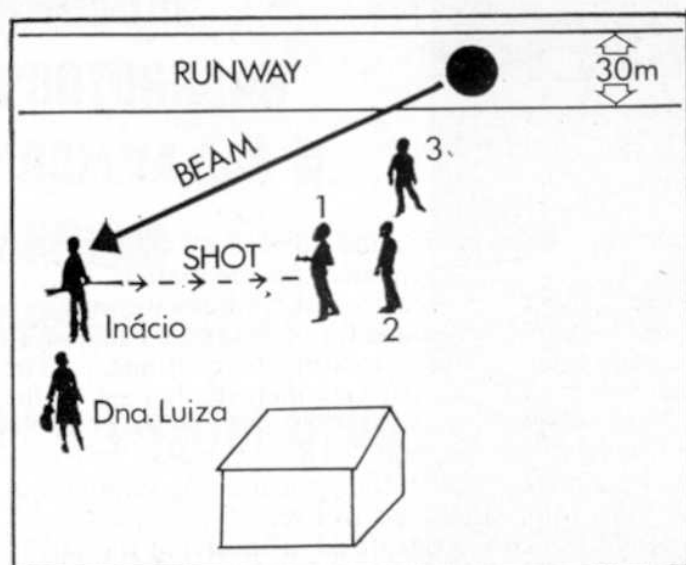
On being asked about the case, the doctor at Goiania commented: "So far as I am concerned it was just another case of cancer. I advised the fazendeiro to "forget" what he said his employee had said had happened, since he (the fazendeiro) had not been an eyewitness."

## Comment

Now that I have published details of this alleged incident, I shall no doubt receive the usual letters from well-meaning folk who will howl indignantly that I am a scare-monger, and a wicked, misguided person for daring to suggest that our "visitors" wish us other than well; for even thinking they are other than goodness and light. There may also be one or two correspondents who suggest that I am as "nutty as a fruitcake" for believing such a tale.

So let me state here and now that a much closer investigation will be required before the story can be





either accepted without question as true, or dismissed as false. This, however, does not mean that the case should not go on the record, so I suggest we now take a closer look at the "facts" we have been given.

Here are a few possibilities that stare at us out of those facts:

(i) The unfortunate Inácio was at the time suffering from leukaemia, and the things he said he saw were the result of an hallucinatory experience brought on by his deteriorating condition. As his wife said she saw the same things, I suppose this would mean she had the same hallucination (but due to another cause?). It is also possible that she saw nothing, yet dutifully supported her husband's strange story.

(ii) The whole story was a fabrication by Inácio—or Dna. Luiza—who for reasons best known to themselves in the lonely, remote hinterland of Brazil, 300 km. from the nearest doctor, were seeking publicity. The onset of the killer disease was in no way connected with the burn marks, and was completely coincidental.

(iii) Inácio did eat a poisonous plant—or one affected with Strontium 90 fallout—and having realised his error, invented the flying saucer story as a cover-up (!). Being illiterate, he had not read about UFOs, but he had heard of them from the radio, and from gossip in the village when on shopping trips, and his memory was so good that he got the details absolutely right when he invented the story!

(iv) The victim and his wife had a very real experience and reported it

accurately. Inácio's subsequent condition may or may not have been attributable to things that happened on the fazenda landing strip. The Goiania doctor was very rightly concerned about the possible wild-fire circulation of such an alarming story, and did his best to seal it off.

There may be other possibilities, but I haven't the space to consider them here. As for those mentioned above, *ii* and *iii* seem wildly improbable. As for possibility *i*, it seems unlikely that a man so sick that his condition could bring on hallucinations of such magnitude would be able to make a shopping trip, presumably on foot, to a fairly distant village. Then, again, his widow says she saw the same thing. We know it is generally accepted that two individuals cannot have the same hallucination, unless . . . and here we return to thoughts which Max Cade and I have entertained, and nurtured,<sup>1</sup> during the past two or three years . . . unless those hallucinatory-type images were imposed on the minds of the "witnesses" from the same source.<sup>2</sup> If we are to accept the stories of Inácio and his wife in terms of possibility *i*, then it stands to reason that the hallucinatory experience could not have been due to the disease. If we tie it in with our more recent speculations, then it is possible that there was a machine or agency on the landing strip directing radiation (like radar waves, for example) at the witnesses and causing them to "see" things. When poor Inácio got scared and popped off a shot with his gun, could some sort of defensive mechanism have

come into play, and intensified or changed the type of beam already directed on Inácio, while the "creatures" were withdrawn? Dr. Finch has pointed out that the beam must have been highly directional for its effects not to have been felt by Dna. Luiza as well.

Let us not forget that this is just speculative "thinking aloud", although we do know that excessive exposure to radiation can cause leukaemia.<sup>3</sup> And if the beam of green light focused on Inácio de Souza was the cause of the onset of the killer disease, then it must have been a very intense radiation, for I have never heard of a victim being carried away so quickly after exhibiting the first symptoms of the disease.

As for the details of the sighting, I would very much like to know *how* the entities returned to their craft. I wonder if the investigators pressed Dna. Luiza on this point . . . it is very important.

Finally, if this account is to be believed—and I do not think it should be dismissed out of hand—then the warning inherent in the story is that if anyone is unfortunate enough to come within striking range of one of these objects and its attendant entities, then they should not take any offensive action. In a slightly different context, Dr. Bernard Finch once warned us to "Beware the Saucers";<sup>4</sup> it is good advice in any context.

#### NOTES

<sup>1</sup> Cade, C. Maxwell: *A Long Cool Look at Alien Intelligence*, FSR, Vol. 13, Nos. 2, 3, 4, and especially Vol. 13, No. 6 (November/December 1967) and Vol. 14, No. 2 (March/April 1968).

<sup>2</sup> Bowen, Charles: *Few and Far Between*, FSR Special Issue, THE HUMANIDS, *Strangers about the House*, FSR, Vol. 14, No. 5 (September/October 1968), *One Day in Mendoza*, FSR, Vol. 14, No. 6 (November/December 1968).

<sup>3</sup> For example, I understand, on good authority, that before adequate safeguards were taken, early colour-TV sets in the U.S.A. were the probable cause of a number of cases of leukaemia. The combination of wide-angle TV tubes and multiple cathode guns required much higher anode potential than in ordinary "black and white" sets. The resulting higher incidence of higher-velocity electron beams was impinging—at the end of each scanning sweep—on the unguarded metal framework of the sets. This caused a "splashing-off" of X-rays which played in particular on the fringe viewers. If something as innocent as a TV set can generate lethal radiation, then imagine what a laser-like beam of concentrated gamma particles could do—a view with which Dr. Bernard Finch concurred when I discussed this case with him.

<sup>4</sup> Finch, Dr. Bernard E.: *Beware the Saucers*, FSR, Vol. 12, No. 1 (January/February 1966).

# FURTHER REPORTS OF UFO BASES

Gordon Creighton

**M**ENTION has been made in *FLYING SAUCER REVIEW* from time to time<sup>1</sup> of the belief, apparently widely held in some parts of South America, that the operators of the UFOs possess bases or landing sites of predilection, be it beneath the sea along the Atlantic coastline of Brazil and Argentina, or in the uninhabited uplands, the *puno*, of the vast Andean Cordillera.

During the great wave of 1965, for example, there were reports that a mysterious ravine in a certain extremely secluded valley, some 60 kilometres to the south-west of Córdoba, in North-Central Argentina, might be serving as one of these bases.

## Loretani valley incidents

On September 7, 1965, the Buenos Aires publication *Así* carried the following report about it:

"A flying saucer base exists at a spot some 60 km. SW of Córdoba. Some 50 farm workers, three lawyers, a hotelkeeper, a rancher, members of the Rosario Meteorological Service, and even a captain of the Navy, have been witnesses to the flights of many saucers which seem to have taken the Valley of Loretani as the centre for their operations, and a nearby ravine as their special base and hiding place.

"It all started on July 15, 1965, in an idyllic spot. The Loretani Valley, so named in memory of the grandfather of the present owners, is in the foothills of the Sierra Grande, some twenty kilometres from the dam at Los Molinos. Leaving the Alta Gracia—Rio Tercero road, a dirt track winds off through the mountains to the spot. Around about are pine tree nurseries and plantations, some of the trees just sprouting, others now over 3ft. These are lands that are fertile even if not under cultivation, and a forestry concern, the COFINCO, has bought about 7,000 hectares here and is gradually putting it all under trees. In charge of these plantations is Sr. Rubén Busquets, who lives in the valley with his wife Diana Loretani, a descendant of the original owners. They have a fifteen-year-old daughter Marcela, a woman to help in the house, and her twelve-year-old daughter, and about

fifty hired hands who work on the tree plantations. There are few other settlers in the area, apart from one or two cattle and sheep farms. There are a couple of inns, and near the road leading off to the Valley of Loretani stands the modern Hotel de la Entrada, which serves as the social centre for the population gradually developing around here in what is called Villa Ciudad de America.

"Such then is the setting for one of the most extraordinary stories that it has ever fallen to us to report.

"It all started on July 15, and the Busquets family themselves were the first to see the saucers that are now throwing this whole region into an uproar. Sr. Busquets told us: 'I had been up to the bar of the Hotel de la Entrada with my wife and daughter Marcela, to collect the mail, as we usually do two or three times a week. Besides getting our mail we also do any telephoning that is necessary, as it is the only place in the region with a telephone.

"It was about 8.00 p.m., and we were returning to our home in the Valley. Marcela had got out to open the gate. And then we saw it.

"The gate in question is on the top of a hill. From there, across to the East, we could see the profile of the Sierras Grandes, towards the North and West other hills also, and, away towards the South-West, the waters of the Los Molinos Dam.

"The object was big and very luminous, of a bluish colour, but varying from moment to moment, sometimes to orangish-red. Its shape was that of a truncated cone, though we were unable to see clearly where the upper part of it ended owing to the beam of light directed upwards out of the object. The lower part was circular and convex. Taking the nearby hills as my gauge, I reckon that it was some ten to fifteen metres in diameter. It was motionless and made no sound. At one moment it shone a beam of light on to us. At that moment we became certain that it was something out of the ordinary. There are no houses and no roads over in that direction. It could not be any powerful light or any illusion caused by car headlights. It was "something" which was above and also behind the hill. After a long pause, it dropped down vertically, and the terrain hid it from us, but we could still see the glow

from it. Then finally the glow went out.

"We went on up to the house, but before we reached it we met one of our *peones* who was lying on the ground, having been thrown by his horse. He was pretty dazed, and covered with mud and dried grass. As a *mestizo* can never accept that a horse has thrown him, he told us that the horse 'had thrown itself belly-upwards, so as to see them better!' From which we realized that we were not the only ones to have seen that light in the sky; this peasant had seen it too, and his horse had been so terrified by it that it had thrown him."

## Frequent visitations

But what had at first seemed exceptional became a regular occurrence later, for the Busquets saw the objects daily. It became a common thing for them to observe a UFO flying about over the Valley and dropping down into the ravine. One day a circular mark, some 7 metres wide, was found at a spot where evidently a craft had landed momentarily, and on another occasion Señora Busquets was able to see clearly windows on one of the craft. By now the hired hands were seeing them every night and had come to regard the situation as something quite normal.

One day, Señor Busquets was sitting in his car beneath some power-lines, and was watching one of the UFOs. He received a severe shock. Bethinking himself of the danger that the UFO might bring the power-lines down on top of him, he started the engine and moved the car away from there. The UFO, which he estimated to be at a distance of some 300 metres from him, promptly turned off its own light, leaving only a reddish glow, which seemed to revolve around it for a while and then this glow also faded.

On the night of July 24, 1965, the Busquets were again over at the Hotel de la Entrada, and were telling their friends about these happenings. A group of strangers who were present thought it all a





KEY

1. Córdoba, Argentina. 2. Loretani Valley.
3. Approx. position of Lakes Yanacocha and Pumacocha in Peru. 4. Lake Titicaca.
5. Approx. position of Chumo, Peru.

huge joke, so the Busquets invited them there and then to come home with them and see for themselves, which they did.

#### Landing witnessed by sceptics

Arriving at the Busquets' home-  
stead, the party beheld an object  
described as "like a shining cigar  
with a black band around it, the  
apparent size of the cigar being  
twice the diameter of a full moon".  
For about 10 seconds this object  
remained stationary above the  
horizon. Then it descended for 3  
seconds, rose up again for 4  
seconds, and finally plunged down  
into the Ravine. After that a glow  
was seen emanating from the  
ravine for a while, and then total  
darkness. The visitors, who had  
said that UFOs were all a big joke  
but had now seen this astonishing  
phenomenon with their own eyes,  
were a Dr. Felix Cocheró (lawyer)  
from La Plata; a Dr. Fortunato  
Colomba (also a lawyer), and  
Señor Miguel Carlos Cuesta, man-  
ager of the COFINCO Enterprises.

When Señor Busquets was inter-  
viewed to get this story, he was  
found to be very unwilling to  
discuss the matter. He did not like  
publicity, and did not want to be  
taken for a madman. Dr. Cocheró

subsequently told the story to a  
journalist in Rosario, and in due  
course the affair was causing a  
sensation throughout the Buenos  
Aires press.

#### Sightings virtually to order

The manager of the Hotel de la  
Entrada and his wife, Sr. and Sra.  
Obregón, recall that a Belgian guest  
who was at the hotel recently was  
highly sceptical about UFOs. But  
he was awakened by one at mid-  
night, and stood there in his  
dressing-gown at the window,  
watching it move above the nearby  
Sierras. Sr. Obregón said the man  
had not laughed about UFOs after  
that.

On Saturday, September 5, the  
Argentine naval officer, Captain  
Pagani,<sup>2</sup> who has seen three UFOs,  
was at the Loretani Valley to see  
the phenomenon for himself. He  
returned in a hurry to Buenos  
Aires to fetch a whole team of  
observers.

Señora Busquets claims to have  
seen a whole flotilla of five of the  
smaller saucers. Two members of  
CODOVNI, the UFO investigation  
group in Buenos Aires, also had a  
strange experience. They are Sr.  
Jorge Barquero and Sr. Alberto  
Schuster, and both are meteorolo-  
gists. They were in the Loretani  
Valley at the same time as Captain  
Pagani. They had a UFO in sight,  
and had a telescope trained on it.  
Suddenly, the UFO approached  
them, dazzled them, blocking out  
the whole area of vision of the  
telescope, and then vanished.

#### Later reports of bases

An EFE report of July 31, 1968,  
from Urcos, Peru, appeared in the  
Spanish newspaper *Sur* for August 1.  
The report stated that the rural  
populace in the Peruvian Andes  
were now so terrified by the "flying  
saucer apparitions" that the autho-  
rities of the district of Huaró had  
despatched a commission to inves-  
tigate reports that the saucers were  
using as a base a particular area  
close to Lake Yanacocha, in the  
central part of Peru.

The farmers of the area in ques-  
tion claim to have seen luminous  
objects shooting downwards at  
great speed, as though to land, and  
a group of the principal personali-  
ties in several of the nearby towns

and villages have called upon the  
competent authorities and have  
testified that the UFOs are using as  
a landing area an extensive plain  
lying between Lake Yanacocha and  
Lake Pumacocha. Twice weekly,  
so it was claimed, the saucers were  
appearing there in broad daylight,  
and then vanishing at great speed  
leaving behind marks on the ground.  
The rural populace were in an  
uproar, fearing lest their crops and  
herds might suffer damage from the  
apparitions. Hence the decision of  
the authorities to send the Com-  
mission, which would also be  
accompanied by armed police.

Further press reports from Lima  
dated September 27 and 29, 1968,  
also appeared in the Spanish press.  
They stated that according to an  
announcement made by Sr. Carlos  
Paz, President of the Peruvian  
Institute for Interplanetary Rela-  
tions (IPRI), in an exclusive inter-  
view in the Peruvian daily *Expreso*  
of Lima, a "saucerdrome" (*platillo-  
dromo* in Spanish) had been found  
at Chumo, a place two days distant  
from Cerro de Santa Bárbara, in  
the Sicuani area. This region lies in  
the Departamento of Cuzco, in the  
southern part of Peru, and therefore  
right in the Peruvian Andes.

The report stated that the dis-  
covery of the landing area had been  
made by Sr. Antonio Ponce de  
León, an engineer who is the  
president of the IPRI branch in  
Cuzco. He had come to Chumo to  
investigate in view of the numerous  
reports received from the inhabi-  
tants of that district, all of whom  
are South American Indians.

#### A base beneath the waters of Lake Titicaca?

According to an Agence France-  
Presse despatch<sup>3</sup> of November 11,  
1968, from Buenos Aires, published  
in Spanish newspapers that same  
month, a report had been received  
from Lima, capital of Peru, to the  
effect that the flying saucers seen so  
frequently over South America had  
a base in the depths of Lake  
Titicaca. People living near the  
shores of this large Andean lake  
between Peru and Bolivia had  
reported that saucers were con-  
stantly seen heading towards the  
lake and vanishing there.

(continued on page 19)



# GHOST-BOMBS OVER SWEDEN

Björn Överbye

Our contributor, a regular correspondent of FLYING SAUCER REVIEW in Norway, prepared his article in English.

**DURING** the Summer of 1946 numerous strange objects were seen in the night skies of Sweden. Their origin was certainly not earthly, because the highly technically developed countries find no explanation for the phenomena, and those who might have known said nothing. The objects appeared suddenly and disappeared as mysteriously as they had come, leaving people wondering. . . . The first time anybody saw one was, as far as I know, in the very beginning of July.

**July 2; Gevle:** At 20.00 hours an object of unknown origin was seen in the sky. The altitude was estimated at 30,000ft. "The body was greyish and at the rear a bright light was seen." (*Svenska Dagbladet*.)

**July 8; Norrköping:** This time a sphere-like object appeared, moving eastwards. "The object was like a sphere, diameter about 2ft. The colour was grey. No sound was heard." (*Dagens Nyheter*.)

**July 9; Norrby:** Something surrounded by fire fell from the sky. Nothing more was said about the incident. (*Dagens Nyheter*.)

**July 9; Bjorklund:** At 14.30 hours several people observed a luminous sphere travelling towards the North-East. (*Dagens Nyheter*.)

**July 10; Orebro:** At 14.30 hours a new sphere appeared, moving towards the North-East. (*Dagens Nyheter*.)

**July 10; Stockholm:** At 14.30 hours a similar object was seen, but this time the size was bigger and its body was more like a cigar . . . "its breadth was a half-moon diameter and its length was ten or perhaps twelve times the diameter of the moon. It was bluish like a comet." The object was travelling in a westerly direction. (*Svenska Dagbladet*.)

**July 11; Orebro:** In the middle of the day a triangular-shaped "thing", about 60ft. in breadth, fell into the sea towards the East. (*Dagens Nyheter*.)

**July 11; Otterslettan:** At 7.30 p.m. "a

shining object was seen in the sky. Somebody said it was about 3ft. long. It left a trail of smoke." (*Dagens Nyheter*.)

**July 11; Lindköping:** "Late in the evening a rocket-like thing was observed by numerous people. At the rear one could see a line to which a copper-like sphere was fastened." (*Dagens Nyheter*.)

Until then there had been just a curious interest in these "meteors" and nobody considered them to be anything of special interest. However, on this particular day a meteor fell to the ground at Njurunda and left the witnesses wondering, for it was nothing like any meteor seen before. In fact it was unlike *anything* seen before. . . .

"We were just having our tea, when a luminous object like a sphere, so big that it nearly overshadowed the sun, came from over the treetops at about 40 degrees and hit the ground just a few feet from some children playing on the beach. The object emitted a fiery trail at the rear, which extended for some 100ft. or so. This was very much like a welding torch flame. This happened at 2.30 p.m. Naturally we both hurried to the hole which the 'bomb' had made on the beach. It was just a few inches deep, but about 6ft. across. We started to gather up bits which were left of the bomb. They looked like some kind of porous slag. The colour of the stuff varied from brownish to black. Some of the bits were almost like dust, and when touched, our fingertips started to ache as if the dust were acid. These pieces also left a peculiar smell. . . ."

This is a part of the story the Swedish pilot, Linden, told the Norwegian newspaper, *Arbeiderbladet*. Later the bits were sent for analysis to Dr. Becklund of Cellulosebolaget at Kubikenborg, who found that the material contained some carbon and a considerable amount of organic matter. In addition he found a small metal cylinder, just an inch long, which contained something not unlike a tiny chessboard. Conclusion: Just some

driftwood and iron-slag commonly found on beaches.

Organic matter? Was it, I wonder, some kind of advanced civilization conducting a survey that had lost one of their pilots that day? The general opinion was that it might have been a secret Russian weapon since there existed real evidence that something very material was "up there". An article in the distinguished Norwegian newspaper, *Aftenposten*, carried the heading: "New fireballs seen over Sweden". The article dealt broadly with the phenomenon:

"The fireballs seen in the sky are becoming a growing mystery in Sweden. Some people believe them to be meteors, while others believe them to be bombs of unknown nature directed towards Sweden. . . ." (July 11, 1946.)

The following day the same newspaper carried a new story:

"The Swedish Army informs our correspondent that some of the observations may be explained. *Aftenposten* has been in contact with bomb experts who can tell that the phenomenon has been observed so regularly that meteors can certainly be excluded . . . ! However, one cannot be quite sure . . . there is much to indicate that the objects may be guided missiles that do not contain explosives."

But why should anyone have been interested in despatching secret weapons over Sweden? Better to have gone to a deserted place to test them. In addition one might ask who was capable of making such weapons at that time? The German experts had fled to the U.S.A., and those few who had been captured by the Russians were known not to be capable of making such weapons, a fact known to the Swedish Army.

Despite all the speculation:

**July 12; Rasunda:** At 7.00 p.m. a really strange object was seen. "It was very much like a huge soap bubble with drops on its brim. It sailed slowly towards the North-West." (*Dagens Nyheter*.)

I think this indicates rather new principles of propulsion and construction. Said *Aftenposten* on July 17, 1946: "A large number of rockets have been observed during the past few days. They have been seen all over Scandinavia, and even from Finland we have received stories about objects moving with tremendous speed in the night skies. It is now believed that they are rockets constructed on entirely new principles."

#### Norway too

In the morning edition of *Aftenposten* for July 20: "Is someone experimenting with a flying-X in Norway?"

In the middle of Norway there is a big lake called Mjøsa. At a small farm at the southern end of this lake a farmer and his family had witnessed a strange object at short range. He and his son were working outside the barn, while his wife and daughter were working at a small hill-top just near the farm. It was 12.00 noon, the sky was clear, the lake completely calm, and everything as it should be on a warm summer's day. Then suddenly his wife heard something:

"A strange sound was suddenly heard in the air", continued the newspaper account. "Perhaps an aeroplane was coming at low altitude. The sound, however, was not like the noise from an aeroplane. Instead, it was more like a mighty wind blowing. Soon afterwards they saw two rocket-like things that passed over their heads at such high speed, and so low that they threw themselves to the ground. They

could see the treetops swaying from the air pressure.

"In the yard, Sigvat Skaug and his son were standing and watching the flying-X from a somewhat greater distance, perhaps 150ft. Skaug says that they were very much like the V-1 that he had seen in pictures. Ordinary aeroplanes they certainly could not have been. They were cigar-shaped and appeared to be about 7ft. long, with wings extending 3ft. from the body and fastened 3ft. from the nose, almost at the middle. *The wings fluttered as if they had been made of material.* They did not see any kind of fire. The missiles passed overhead close together, one just a little ahead of the other, on a parabolic course. They then fell simultaneously into the lake, throwing the water several feet up in the air."

There were still those who maintained the objects must have been meteors. A professor claimed they were only a *fata morgana*, and that such things usually do not fall from the sky. The Army was serious about it, but like the majority they could say very little.

#### More objects seen in Sweden

**July 22; Norbotten:** "The Swedish Army was searching for an object which fell into a lake. The thing had left a large hole in the mud at the bottom, which should indicate it had been something real." (*Göteborg Handel & Sjöfarts Tidning*.)

**July—Norrländ:** "A silvery-coloured torpedo was seen in the sky. It moved

at an almost uncanny slow speed, and its altitude of flight was very low. After a time it disappeared behind some clouds." (*Dagens Nyheter*.)

**July 23; Melaren:** "A ball of fire left a bluish light in the sky . . . it was very much like a swan without a head." (*Dagens Nyheter*.)

**July 26; Oslo, Norway:** "At 00.53 hours an explosion was heard all over the town, and some saw a light. The police believed it came from the air." (*Aftenposten*.)

**July 29; Övrekallix:** "The Army reports that a ghost-bomb had entered the lake, Kölmjervsjön. The object was rocket-like, about 9ft. long, and some painted letters had been seen on its side." (*Dagens Nyheter*.)

The Army, having made a semi-official investigation during July, promised at the beginning of August to produce a report on the observations. This report never materialised, possibly because of so-called "national security"; or perhaps the investigation led to results that they did not dare publish either for fear of not being believed, or of creating mass hysteria. The theory that the objects were comets or asteroids had been rejected by so many scientists that it was no longer of interest. All that remained was wild speculation mingled with the feeling that these things were not of earthly origin.

[Mr. Överbye's article will be concluded in our next issue—EDITOR.]

## DESIGN FOR A FLYING SAUCER

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# MAIL BAG

Correspondence is invited from our readers, but they are asked to keep their letters short. Unless letters give the sender's full name and address (not necessarily for publication) they cannot be considered. The Editor would like to remind correspondents that it is not always possible to acknowledge every letter personally, so he takes this opportunity of thanking all who write to him.

## UFO photographs

Sir,—Referring to the article *The Ufoscope* in the November/December FSR, I made some photographic experiments a few years ago to find out what quality of image one could expect to get with an ordinary camera, given a UFO-sized object at two to three miles' distance. Using a very moderately-priced miniature camera, I obtained pictures of aircraft very similar to the Tiger Moth example printed on p. 27.

This makes it all the more mystifying why most UFO photographs are so bad.

One interesting fact observed was that when the aircraft appeared light against the sky it sometimes could not be detected on the negative at all, but when dark against the sky it photographed well. The images, of course, had to be greatly enlarged.

W. J. MacLean, Craigmount Grove North, Edinburgh 12, January 4, 1969.

## Interesting comparisons

Sir,—The article *Humanoids Encountered at Baleia* in Vol. 14, No. 6, in its excellent presentation reveals and stresses the importance of comparisons in detail in our bibliographical researches. Throughout the years I have constantly searched for comparative and corroborative evidence, particularly in "contact" material.

I feel you made the right decision in publishing *One Day in Mendoza*, notwithstanding the hoax aspect. There were many details revealed which withstand easy comparison with previous cases of the humanoid type. In particular the paragraph:

"There next appeared, close to the hovering object, a circular screen, not unlike that of a television set. On this there appeared a series of images. The first was a scene of a waterfall in lush country; the second a mushroom-shaped cloud; the third the waterfall scene again, but no water."

From *The Secret of the Saucers* by Orfeo Angelucci, page 7:

"The twin discs were spaced about three feet apart. Now the area between them began to glow with a soft green light which gradually formed into a luminous three-dimensional screen as the discs themselves faded perceptibly. Within the luminous screen there appeared images of the heads and shoulders of two persons as though in a cinema close up."

No doubt further close study of earlier material would reveal similar or identical comparisons to these. Certainly the Mendoza description of the beings "ascending" to their machine along the light beam is one more example of the many we have of this type of entry into near landed objects.

Regarding the markings on the car appearing as Gordon Creighton states "childishly unsystematic". This surely seems to be quite common in humanoid communication attempts. If we accept more highly intelligent and evolved beings communicating to a lower level this compares, does it not, to the quite common failing of adults in oversimplifying explanations to children. As an example, I had studied the markings before reading the article, and it had conveyed an understanding of our Sun with three attendant planets, in particular the Earth with its classical symbol of orbiting vehicles. I had not understood the rest as indicating the Jupiter system, but mention of the planet Io immediately recalled *My Contact with Flying Saucers* by Dino Kraspedon.

John D. Llewellyn, Masons Road, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire, January 9, 1969.

## That report

Sir,—With regard to the findings of the Colorado Project on UFOs, it is quite apparent even from newspaper reports that the conclusions of the Condon Committee are based not on the evidence from the investigation, but instead on current scientific opinion.

The following extract from the report was quoted by the *Daily Express*:

"It is regarded by scientists today as certain that intelligent life elsewhere exists, but with no possibility of contact between the communities on planets associated with different stars."

"We therefore conclude that there is no relation between life on other solar systems and UFO phenomena as observed on earth."

Dr. Condon then goes on to say:

"Travel of men over interstellar distances in the foreseeable future seems now to be quite out of the question."

Dr. Condon, it seems, is suffering from the usual delusion that what is not possible for men in the foreseeable future is not possible at present for other creatures in the Universe.

It seems these conclusions are based on Dr. Condon's personal assumption that UFOs could not be extraterrestrial craft; conclusions which could have been reached two years ago (if indeed they were not).

The Condon Committee would do well to remember that in Copernicus' day, it was regarded by scientists that the Earth was the centre of the Solar System and the Universe.

T. E. Hilder, 74 Sutherland Avenue, Welling, Kent, January 12, 1969.

## A matter of gullibility

Sir,—So there are no flying saucers. It seems to me that the man (or group of men) who can believe that *all* the evidence is either fraud or mal-observation will believe anything. In other words their approach is as unscientific and gullible (with far less excuse) as that of the indiscriminating enthusiast who at once accepts without question the story of a banana-shaped UFO disgorging little green men with teeny plastic buckets, to refuel from Kensington Round Pond at 4 o'clock in the morning.

J. P. Jackson, Grenville Road, New Addington, Croydon, Surrey, January 13, 1969.

## FURTHER REPORTS OF UFO BASES

(continued from page 16)

The report went on to say that the presence, on the Bolivian side of the lake, of a French scientific expedition led by the well-known underwater exploration expert Commander Cousteau had produced much speculation, and was adding strength to the rumours about a saucer base in the lake. In fact many local inhabitants were convinced that this was what Commander Cousteau was there to investigate.

## NOTES

<sup>1</sup> See my articles *Argentina 1962* in FSR, July/August 1964, and *Argentina 1963-1964* in FSR, November/December 1965, January/February 1966, March/April 1966 and May/June 1966. (Since 1964 the volume of South American cases has become so great that it has not been possible to compose comprehensive reports on individual years.)

<sup>2</sup> Captain Pagani is understood to be the head of the Argentine Navy's department which studies the UFO problem.

<sup>3</sup> We are indebted to Sr. Antonio Ribera of Barcelona for this interesting report.



(continued from page 11)

and suffer from delusions; on the other hand, there is evidence that in some countries government agencies do interfere with amateur UFO investigations.

### Conclusions

The foregoing article is just a brief summary of the "associated phenomena" situation, with particular reference to MIB reports. We have not probed deeply into the subject but the following conclusions may be tentatively stated:

1. Some of the reports are worthy of serious investigation.

2. Investigation work already carried out should be checked by

other investigators, where possible.

3. Attempts should be made to find rational explanations for individual reports.

4. Newcomers to the subject should be warned of the possible psychological dangers in becoming involved with this aspect of the subject.

### NOTES

<sup>1</sup> Arnold, Kenneth, and Palmer, Ray: *The Coming of the Saucers*. Privately published by the authors, 1952.

<sup>2</sup> Ruppelt, Edward J.: *The Report on Unidentified Flying Objects*. Ace Books Inc., New York.

<sup>3</sup> Barker, Gray: *They Knew Too Much About Flying Saucers*. Tower Books, New York, 1967.

<sup>4</sup> Bender, Albert K.: *Flying Saucers and the Three Men*. Neville Spearman, London, 1963.

<sup>5</sup> Keel, John A.: *The Sinister Men in Black*. FATE (Douglas, Isle of Man), August 1968.

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*book*. FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, Vol. 13, No. 3, May/June 1967.

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<sup>6</sup> Steiger, Brad, and Whritenour, Joan: *Has the UFO Invasion Started? The Allende Letters*. Tandem Books, New York, 1968.

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Sanderson, Ivan T.: *Uninvited Visitors*. Cowles Education Corp., New York, 1967.

<sup>7</sup> "The Men in Black Puzzle Experts." *Liverpool Echo*, September 12, 1968.

<sup>8</sup> Mallan, Lloyd: "What Happened at Wanaque, N.J.?" *Science & Mechanics*, May and June 1967.

<sup>9</sup> Faulkner, Alex: "Mystery Men in 'Flying Saucer' Probe." *Sunday Telegraph*, London, January 29, 1967.

<sup>10</sup> Hansell, C. E. M.: *ESP—A Scientific Evaluation*. Macgibbon & Kee Ltd., 1966.

<sup>11</sup> *No Polemics*. FSR, Vol. 14, No. 5, September/October 1968.

YOUR CLIPPINGS of newspaper items are very welcome. We apologise here for being generally unable to acknowledge these items as the pressure of work on our tiny staff and on our postage resources is too great. However, please do not be deterred by this seeming lack of courtesy. We really do appreciate anything you care to send.

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# LANDING AT SAN PEDRO DE LOS ALTOS

A multi-witness case from Venezuela

*Horacio Gonzalez Ganteaume*

Señor Ganteaume is the veteran and doyen of all UFO investigators in South America, and is well known for the high quality of his work, and for the important enquiries he has conducted. He is President of the Sociedad Venezolana Investigadora del OVNI of Caracas, Venezuela, and representative of APRO in that country. His article was written in English, and sub-edited by Gordon Creighton who prepared the notes and comments.

THIS incident, which occurred on the late afternoon of August 7, 1965, was never published in any Venezuelan newspaper, due to the high reputations, in social and economic circles, of the three witnesses involved, one of whom is a well-known gynaecologist, while the other two are owners and administrators of a long-established concern engaged in the manufacture of gold and silver trophies.

Two most important points to be noted are that, unlike so many cases in which there is only one witness, we here have *three*, and that the incidents described are stated to have occurred in bright daylight, namely at 4.00 p.m. on the day in question.

I personally conducted the investigation of this case, and I interviewed the three witnesses, whose names however I must withhold. I regard this as an almost incredible report. Had I not spoken personally with the witnesses, I would have discarded it. However, at the present time of writing (August, 1968) one of the three witnesses is still suffering a psychological traumatic shock due to his experience. He is in mortal fear that they will return to "speak" to him, and he is constantly watching the skies apprehensively. (And, by the way, I might add that UFOs are constantly being seen, all over Venezuela.)

This case was the very first, in my 18 years of investigation and research, in which any Venezuelan citizen had declared that he had spoken with beings from outer space. I know my fellow-countrymen, and their general attitude towards the "UFO phenomenon", and when three of them, men of good reputation, of ample economic means, well known in Venezuelan society (and one of them a professional man of high standing to boot), all admit and lay claim to such an experience as this, then I believe that their claims must be granted the fullest consideration and be made available for study.

The original report on the case, based on my personal interviews with the three witnesses, was written by Senor José Rolas under my instructions and was forwarded to Mrs. Coral Lorenzen, Director of the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization (APRO) in Tucson, Arizona. The full details of the case are as follows:

The two industrialists and the gynaecologist were visiting the thorough-bred horse-breeding establishment

owned by friends of theirs at San Pedro de los Altos, a place in the district of Los Teques<sup>1</sup> and distant some 50 or 60 kilometres from the Venezuelan capital, Caracas.

They were out inspecting the grounds, pastures, and surrounding terrain, and had arrived on a low-lying plateau. Their conversation was concentrated entirely on economic and financial matters, investments, and thorough-bred horses, and on the beauty of the surrounding countryside. As already mentioned, the time was 4 o'clock in the afternoon.

Suddenly a brilliant flash of light in the sky attracted their attention. Then this flash of light resolved itself into a ball which began to increase in size as it slowly descended and moved towards them. They thought at first that it must be an aircraft or a helicopter, but they could hear no sound.

The object continued to descend, and when it was at a height of approximately 300ft. they could see that it was a huge discoid apparatus, emitting a brilliant yellowish glow, with a round dark patch underneath (see sketches by one of the witnesses). They could still hear no sound of the kind made by aircraft but were aware of a peculiar humming, almost inaudible, which penetrated their ears.

At this point the youngest of the three men turned with the intention of running away, but the gynaecologist seized him by the arm, saying: "Don't run away, man! Let us all three stay here and see what this object is going to do."

The huge disc was now swaying slowly downwards, until it became stationary at a height of hardly 5ft. from the surface of the ground.

By this time they knew they were witnessing something extremely unusual. They were frightened, but as the disc was still at a distance of some 100ft. or so from them, they wanted to see what it was going to do.

Suddenly, from the underside of the apparatus (which they estimated to be about 90ft. in diameter) a shaft of light shot out, and it seemed to them that in this light, which contacted the ground, two beings were descending.<sup>2</sup> These beings were about 7 or 8ft. in height. They had long yellow hair which fell to their shoulders, large penetrating eyes, and were dressed in a type of one-piece

suit which showed no seams and shone with a metallic lustre.<sup>3</sup>

Still standing their ground, but trembling with fear, the three witnesses now watched the two tall beings approach to a distance of some 10ft. from them. Here the two beings halted and simultaneously all three witnesses heard a voice telling them: "Do not be afraid; calm yourselves."

The peculiar feature of this voice was that the witnesses did not perceive any movement of the lips or of any other part of the bodies of the two strange beings. *They heard the message inside their heads—or, rather, inside their brains.*<sup>4</sup> This confused them, and the two blond creatures seemed to perceive their confusion, because they now began to hear a second voice saying: "We are speaking to you *directly*." The three witnesses then understood that they were receiving a telepathic communication.

The following are the replies which the three men heard inside their own brains in reply to questions asked by the gynaecologist. (He had recovered his composure more quickly than the other two, who simply stood there passively watching the proceedings.)

Q. Who are you? Where do you come from? What do you want here?

A. We are from Orion. Our mission on this planet is one of peace. We are studying the psyches<sup>5</sup> of the humans, to adapt them to our species. There are seven<sup>6</sup> inhabited planets: namely Earth; two satellites of Saturn; Epsilon; Kristofix (of which none of you know); Kelpis; Orion; and a small planet in the Outer Dipper<sup>7</sup> (*Ursa Extrema*)<sup>8</sup>

Q. Can you tell us how your flying saucers<sup>9</sup> operate?

A. (In an imperative tone of voice as though irritated.)<sup>10</sup> They are **not** "flying saucers". They are *Gravitelides* and operate by means of a nucleus of concentrated solar energy which produces an enormous magnetic force.

Q. Have you managed to master gravity?

A. Undoubtedly.

Q. By whom are these ships piloted?

A. Some are piloted by *Espacitomeles*<sup>11</sup> and others by *Mecanisoteles*.<sup>12</sup>

Q. What do these names mean?

A. Beings from Outer Space, and *Mechanical Automata*.<sup>13</sup>

Q. Are the inhabitants of all seven planets equal or alike?

A. No. There are the *Morphous* and the *Amorphous*.<sup>14</sup> We, the *Morphous*, possess greater similarity among ourselves, with the exception of those that originate in the Outer Dipper, who are diminutive beings approximately 35in. in height.<sup>15</sup>

Q. Have you bases on Earth?

A. Each planet that sends an expedition to investigate the Earth has a ship almost half the size of your Moon, which they leave behind<sup>16</sup> the planet Mars. This is the reason why more of us are seen when this planet is near to Earth.<sup>17</sup>

Q. Are there any beings like you living among us?

A. Yes. Two million, four hundred and seventeen thousand, eight hundred and five (2,417,805).<sup>18</sup>

Q. Have you undertaken interbreeding with us?

A. No.<sup>19</sup> But we are studying the possibility, which will

create a *New Species*.

Q. Have you interbred among yourselves?

A. Yes.

Q. Have you carried any beings from Earth away with you?

A. No. Only animals. On Kristofix there exists the *Fitozooloplanetologeico*<sup>20, 21</sup> which is the richest in the Galaxy, and in which there are species of animals totally unknown to you.

Q. What do you use for food?

A. Prepared artificial elements.

Q. What did you mean to say when you mentioned *Amorphous* beings?

A. You will not understand this form of life.

(The gynaecologist insisted at this point on some further explanation, and the following reply was given):

They are entities, *living* by means of crisostelic ascending neural evolution.

(Due to the fact that this explanation was also not understood by the witnesses, no further question was asked on this.)

Q. What do you think of our achievements as regards Space-flight?

A. They are primitive experiments.

Q. Have you any powerful weapons?

A. Yes. We possess a wave-compressor capable of disintegrating the Moon with only one discharge.

Q. Have you brought this compressor with you?

A. No. We repeat that our mission is one of peace; but we have brought diminutive portable ones powerful enough to halt a plutonium explosion.<sup>22</sup>

At that point the general conversation ceased, but the witnesses remember snatches of other things that the beings said, such as:

(i) That we (here on Earth) are *their beginning*, and that they in turn are the beginning of the *Amorphous*.<sup>23</sup>

(ii) That outside of the Galaxy, *the Life of Contrasts exists*.<sup>24</sup>

(iii) That they will continue to leave evidence of their presence in various parts of the world.

#### Notes and Comments by Gordon Creighton

<sup>1</sup> Due south of Caracas.

<sup>2</sup> There are several other cases on record in which it is alleged that entities from hovering UFOs have descended and ascended on shafts of light. See for example, *The Humanoids in Latin America*, case 30 (THE HUMANOIDS), and the recent case of the "bald-headed dwarfs of Mendoza", described by Charles Bowen in *One Day in Mendoza*, FSR, Vol. 14, No. 6, November/December 1968.

<sup>3</sup> For alleged beings resembling these, see the claims of Eugenio Siragusa of Sicily in the early 1960s. Also the case of Professor Guimarães in Brazil (case No. 19 of *The Humanoids in Latin America*); the case of Resistencia (case No. 31 of *The Humanoids in Latin America*); the case at Mexico City (case No. 54 of *The Humanoids in Latin America*). Others can also be quoted.

<sup>4</sup> The alleged "hearing" of a message "*inside the head*" is now familiar to us from a number of cases. The total would be found impressive.

<sup>5</sup> "Psiquis" is the word used by Señor Ganteaume, since of course the Venezuelan witnesses allegedly "heard" in their own language, Spanish.

<sup>6</sup> This seems to me to make a total of not seven but *eight*—unless we are to count the "two satellites of Saturn" as one unit? There is reference later to our Galaxy, but



nothing whatever is said about other galaxies, nor about any intelligent life in them. If all this has any meaning, perhaps we should take it to mean that there is a total of seven (or eight) inhabited planets in our Galaxy, nothing being said about other galaxies since these might very likely be entirely and for ever beyond the reach of even the most advanced of creatures, and inter-galactic travel therefore totally unattainable. The question of whether or not other galaxies might contain advanced life is consequently disregarded as irrelevant. Such would naturally be the view of all astronomers.

<sup>7</sup> "Big Dipper" or "Great Dipper" are popular names for a group of seven stars in the circumpolar constellation of Ursa Major in the Northern Hemisphere. The two end stars of the dipper's "bowl",  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$ , are called the Pointers. An imaginary line drawn through them and extended about five times toward the North Pole will pass approximately through *Polaris*, the Pole Star.

<sup>8</sup> *Osa Extrema* as given by Sr. Ganteaume. (*Osa*, Spanish for female bear = Latin *Ursa*.)

<sup>9</sup> The usual Spanish term, which the gynaecologist no doubt used, is *plato volador* (flying plate), or *platillo volante* (flying saucer).

<sup>10</sup> There are on record one or two other seemingly ridiculous episodes like this, in which alleged "Space entities" are described as having taken strong objection to the term "flying saucer". (Evidently our terrestrial critics have some powerful allies on this knotty point!)

<sup>11</sup> Here again, it must be remembered that the alleged communication is said to have been heard inside the brain, in Spanish. Speakers of Spanish find difficulty in pronouncing "sp" without an *e* in front of it. Consequently the Spanish words for space and spatial are *espacio* and *espacial* respectively, and the word *Espacitomeles* also comes through with an initial *e*. The nearest English rendering for *Espacitomeles* would, I think, be "*Spacitomeles*" (whatever that means).

<sup>12</sup> Likewise the English equivalent here would be "*Mechanotomeles*" (whatever that means).

<sup>13</sup> Here we have a claim that the "Space beings" use mechanical robots. See in this connection C. Maxwell Cade's articles, *A Long Cool Look At Alien Intelligence*, in FSR for November/December 1967 and March/April 1968. Also Ivan T. Sanderson's book *Uninvited Visitors*, as well as a few cases in the literature, particularly the famous *Cisco Grove incident*, which is described in detail in Mrs. Coral Lorenzen's *UFO Occupants in United States Reports* (FSR Special Issue, THE HUMANIDS).

<sup>14</sup> The concept that there could be, or are, intelligent beings that are literally "without form" is certainly a bizarre one for the usual Western mind. The Sanskrit terms *rupa* रूप and *arupa* अरूप form and non-form, are however fundamental in certain religious, spiritual and cosmophilosophical systems of India, in which it is taught that the "planetary chains" (containing twelve spheres or globes) each have five higher spheres or globes which are *a-rupa*, formless (not, however, as it turns out, because they actually possess no material form, but only because they would appear to be formless—and therefore non-existent—to our physical senses, but not to those of beings of that particular kind of matter. On the other hand the seven lower globes or spheres of a "planetary-chain" are called *rupa* worlds because their bodies are of substantial natures more akin to our own and hence perceptible to us. (He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.)

<sup>15</sup> Whether or not it be mere coincidence, it may be noted here that many investigators, including myself, seem to have reached the conclusion that there are perhaps roughly eight or nine main categories of entities reported by witnesses. This number is thus very close to the number of "inhabited planets" allegedly mentioned in this Venezuelan case. Furthermore, the height of the tiny creatures, 35in., is very near indeed to what has been reported by witnesses in a very considerable number of cases, especially in the great French Wave of 1954 and the South American Wave of 1965.

<sup>16</sup> This reminds us of the curious case of the American, Truman Bethurum, whom Desmond Leslie said he found, when he interviewed him, far too stolid and unimaginative ever to have invented his fantastic UFO contact story. It will be recalled that Bethurum said the fetching little lady-skipper of the landed "space-craft", encountered by him a dozen or so times, told him that they came from a "planet", unknown to us, called "Clarion", which, very conveniently, "lay behind the Moon", so that we could not see it.

If Bethurum's story was true it seems clear that, wherever they may have hailed from, his little space-crew men and their frisky little female "skipper" certainly did not pertain to our particular order of matter.

<sup>17</sup> The sceptic will argue that the Venezuelan witnesses would have had no difficulty in hearing of the famous "26-month Mars cycle" in UFO sightings.

<sup>18</sup> This precise figure of 2,417,805 "Space beings living among us" seems totally absurd. But, as Aimé Michel pointed out in his article in THE HUMANIDS, we have many UFO reports that are veritable "festivals of absurdity"—a factor which, as he argues, we should expect to encounter in any meeting with truly alien or super-human beings.

<sup>19</sup> Evidently, then, the "A.V.B. Project" was carried out by one of the other groups. As this party of visitors did not seem to know about it, one must conclude that their "interplanetary liaison" is not too good on such details!

<sup>20</sup> Another composite Spanish word allegedly transmitted in Spanish. An English equivalent would perhaps be "*Phytozoological-Planeto-Logy*", which, if it means anything, would suggest a combined super-zoo and botanical gardens in which the phytozoology (*botany*) and the zoology of planets are studied. (Personally I take vast comfort from the thought that they have the dodo, the moa, and the sabretoothed tiger there.)

<sup>21</sup> Let us only pray that, in the event of our being taken over, this agglutinative type of vocabulary will not be made compulsory in our schools.

<sup>22</sup> A comforting thought for many, but unlikely to bring much cheer to the leaders of certain of our more "advanced" and "democratic" bully countries.

<sup>23</sup> In Spanish: *Nosotros somos el principio de ellos, y ellos son el principio de los Amorfos*. Horacio González Ganteaume comments: "This requires considerable thought, due to its implications." I concur. We may have here a faint clue to something important and quite extraordinary, but also quite beyond any grasping by our minds.

<sup>24</sup> Another nice poser.

#### Final comment

As readers will see, Señor Ganteaume is impressed, and I feel rightly so, with the truthfulness of the witnesses, three Venezuelan gentlemen of standing in their community, and  
(continued on page 30)

**IN OUR NEXT ISSUE . . . an exciting new hypothesis on UFO visitations is propounded by John A. Keel. The full impact of this will only be apparent to those who have studied BEYOND CONDON . . . (see p.2).**

# MORE LIGHT ON THE HEFLIN UFO CASE

*John R. Gray*

Our contributor, who hails from St. Petersburg, Florida, is a member of the Los Angeles NICAP subcommittee. He holds degrees in Aeronautical Engineering and has been engaged in Aerospace engineering for sixteen years, including four years on the Apollo Programme at North American Rockwell Corporation, Downey, California. Mr. Gray is currently employed on communications satellite work as Senior Assoc. Engineer at Hughes Aircraft Co., Aerospace Systems Division.

THE last three years have seen much speculation and confusion concerning the Heflin UFO sighting of August 3, 1965. This situation is understandable since most of those pondering the various aspects of this case have had very little valid information on which to base conclusions. Inasmuch as the case has not, to my knowledge, been resolved (Project Blue Book's conclusion of "Hoax", notwithstanding), it might be appropriate to examine the technical elements and to dispel one or two misconceptions.

I wish to state at the outset that all references herein to the photograph, or "photo", pertain to Mr. Heflin's No. 1 photograph unless otherwise stated (for reprint of photo 1, see May/June 1968 edition of FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, p. 20) (reproduced below).

The half hour's driving time between my residence

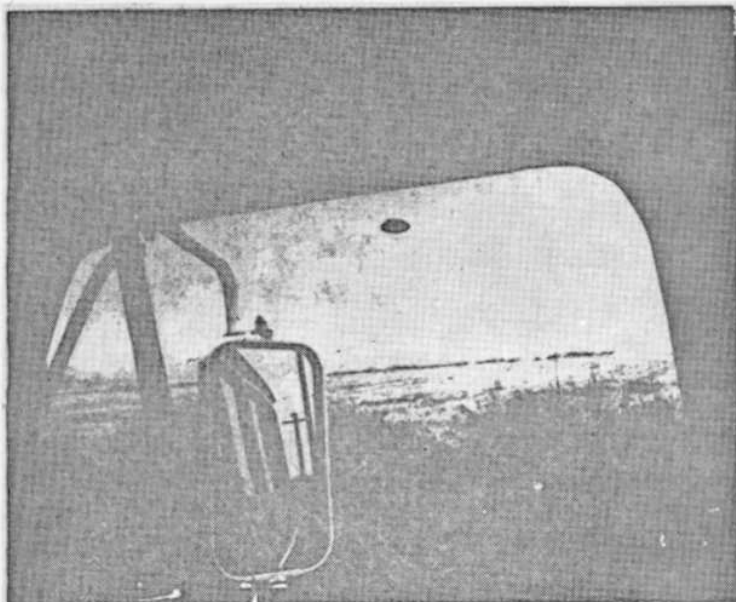
and the vicinity of the sighting has presented many opportunities for personal inspection of the area. This, coupled with my possession of an enlarged, uncropped copy of the photograph, was instrumental in uncovering significant evidence. Trigonometrical computations based on the conjunction of the measurements recorded at the site with those scaled on the enlarged print, revealed that: (1) The elevation and azimuth of the sun at the time of the sighting were  $72^{\circ} 46'$  and  $162^{\circ} 51'$ , respectively; (2) The time of the sighting was subsequently established as 12.38 p.m. P.D.T. (Pacific Daylight Time) as compared to 11.30 a.m. P.D.T. originally given by the witness; (3) The absence of any shadow cast by the aerial object or vehicle on to the pavement or left-hand road bed precludes the possibility of the object being in the diameter range of 10.5 in. to 6 ft. No

(Below) Slightly-cropped copy of the first Heflin photograph, August 3, 1965.

(Right) Detail from photo 1. Note round dome and reflection of sun above black areas







Reproduction of Xerox copy of uncropped photo 2 to show large amount of dark interior of cabin, and bushes

attempt was made to determine the actual size. This effort, motivated by the desire to refute Project Blue Book's allegation that the object was between 1 and 3ft. in diameter, was the basis of a 17-page analytical report which was submitted to NICAP in the summer of 1966.

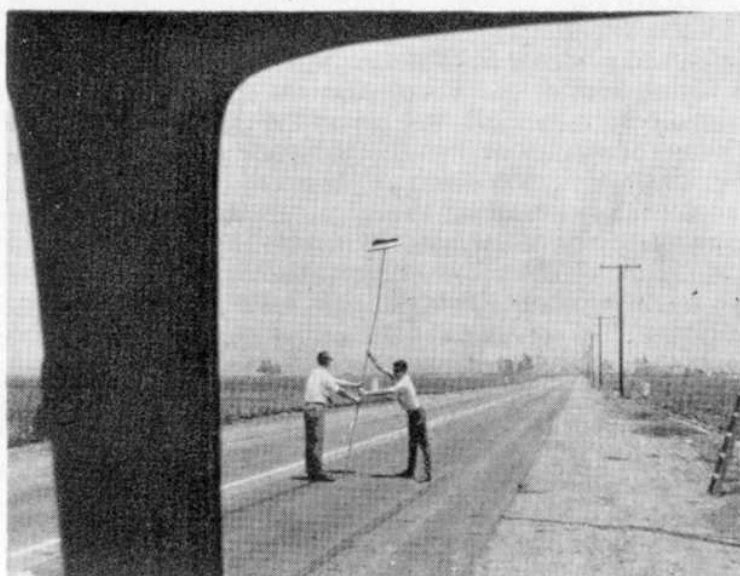
The discovery in early 1966 by another NICAP member of a private source for obtaining copies of the photograph displaying the image of the shadow of the nearest utility pole was a significant break in the case. The emergence of this clue directed attention to the physical dimensions involving the pole. Its height (33ft.), its distances from the edge of the pavement (13ft.) and from the witness (26ft. parallel to the pavement), and the length of the crossbar (10ft.) were all indispensable in the calculations to pinpoint the approximate position of the sun. A written inquiry to the Los Angeles Griffith Observatory in July, 1966, elicited a reply confirming that the elevation of the sun was  $72^{\circ} 45'$  (a difference of one angular minute!) and establishing the time at 12.38 p.m. P.D.T. based on the azimuth submitted. This time was finally verified at the site on the second anniversary of the sighting (August 3, 1967) in the presence of three members of the scientific staff from the Jet Propulsion Laboratory of Pasadena, California, who were investigating the sighting on their own initiative. It was a simple matter to record the moment that the shadow of the utility pole in question moved into the identical position seen in the photograph. The discrepancy between the actual time and that given by Mr. Heflin is probably due to his being forced to "guesstimate" as he had no watch.

Utilizing the azimuth and elevation of the sun in conjunction with the angular width of the vehicle (determined to be  $2^{\circ} 21'$ ), it was possible to plot on a map of the immediate area of the incident the distances of the object as well as the locations of its shadows for the hypothetical diameters of 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6ft. The horizontal distances in feet of the object from the camera for the diameters stated were 23.8, 47.7, 71.6, 95.4,

119.3, and 143.1, respectively. The distances for the corresponding shadows were 25.9, 50.6, 75.4, 100.1, 124.9, and 149.6ft., respectively. As a comparison, the distance to the irrigation pipe, seemingly below the object, was 245ft. The minimum distance visible in the photo (at the bottom border) was found to be 22.6ft., at which point the hypothetical size of the shadow would have been 0.5in.; and for this position, the object would have been 21.1ft. away at an altitude of 8.4ft. The corresponding altitudes for the 1 through 6ft. diameters were determined to be 8.9, 12.9, 16.8, 0.8, 24.7, and 28.7ft., respectively. The elevation of the object, incidentally, was approximately  $9^{\circ} 18'$  above the horizon. For the 30ft. diameter estimated by Mr. Heflin, the position of the UFO was established at 723ft. away, horizontally, and 134.5ft. altitude. These last two figures are quite in agreement with his estimate of one-eighth mile (660ft.) and 150ft. altitude. In contrast, the overpass of the Santa Ana Freeway at Myford Road, as seen in the photo, was measured at 3/10 mile (approx. 1,580ft.).

The reader may possibly have taken note of the disagreement between the distances stated above for the hypothetical 1, 2, and 3ft. sizes and those quoted by Ralph Rankow in his article on this sighting (see *Fate*, August, 1966, or *FSR*, January/February, 1968). Mr. Rankow obtained his figures from a previous analysis I had prepared on the basis of the 11.30 a.m. time and a cropped copy of the photograph. This copy, or version, was acquired through the courtesy of *The Register* of Santa Ana, California, who, in the process of enlarging the image of the UFO for publication purposes, duplicated only about 50 per cent of the total exposed area of each of the three polaroid originals. This unfortunate cropping omitted, among other things, the shadow of the utility pole. Since the NICAP investigators had never seen the polaroid originals, they had no inkling at that time that prints displaying the shadow in question ever existed.

It has been suggested by some critics that the image in all three photos is that of a painted (silver) straw hat tossed into the air. Whether this is facetiousness or scepticism, it is subject to dispute. A study of the three pictures presents some persuasive arguments to substan-



August 3, 1967. A model held aloft: note shadow on road below

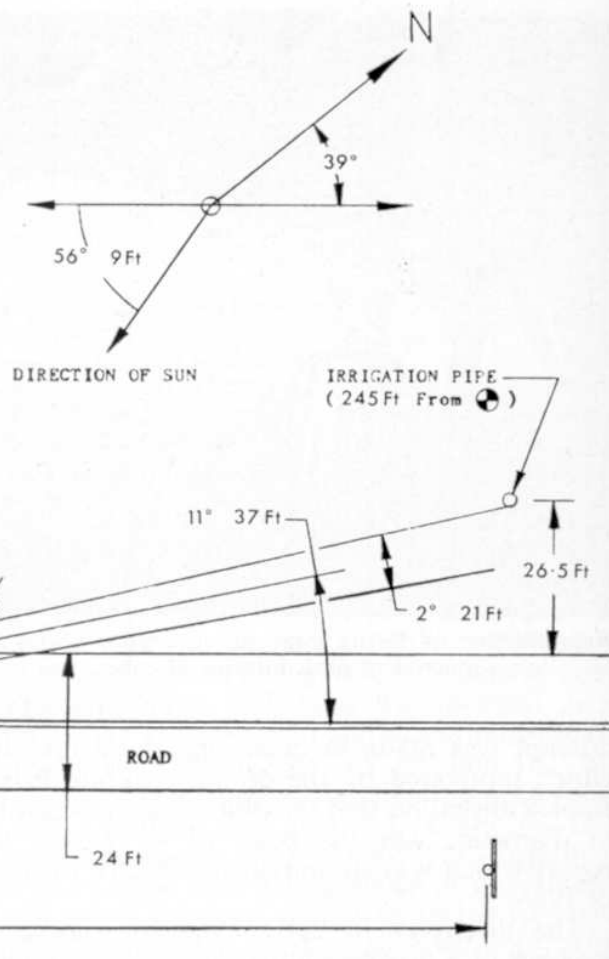


DISTANCES (In Feet)							
DIAMETERS	1 Ft	2 Ft	3 Ft	4 Ft	5 Ft	6 Ft	30Ft*
UFO(☉) From ☉	23.8	47.7	71.6	95.4	119.3	143.1	723
SHADOW(☉) From ☉	25.9	50.6	75.4	100.1	124.9	149.6	-----
ALTITUDE**	8.9	12.9	16.8	20.8	24.7	28.7	134.5

\* 30 Ft Size Not Shown

\*\* Due To Crown Contour Of Pavement, Altitudes Are From The Medium Level Of Total Surface

☉ Location Of Witness



LOCATIONS OF SMALL HYPOTHETICAL UFOs AND SHADOWS

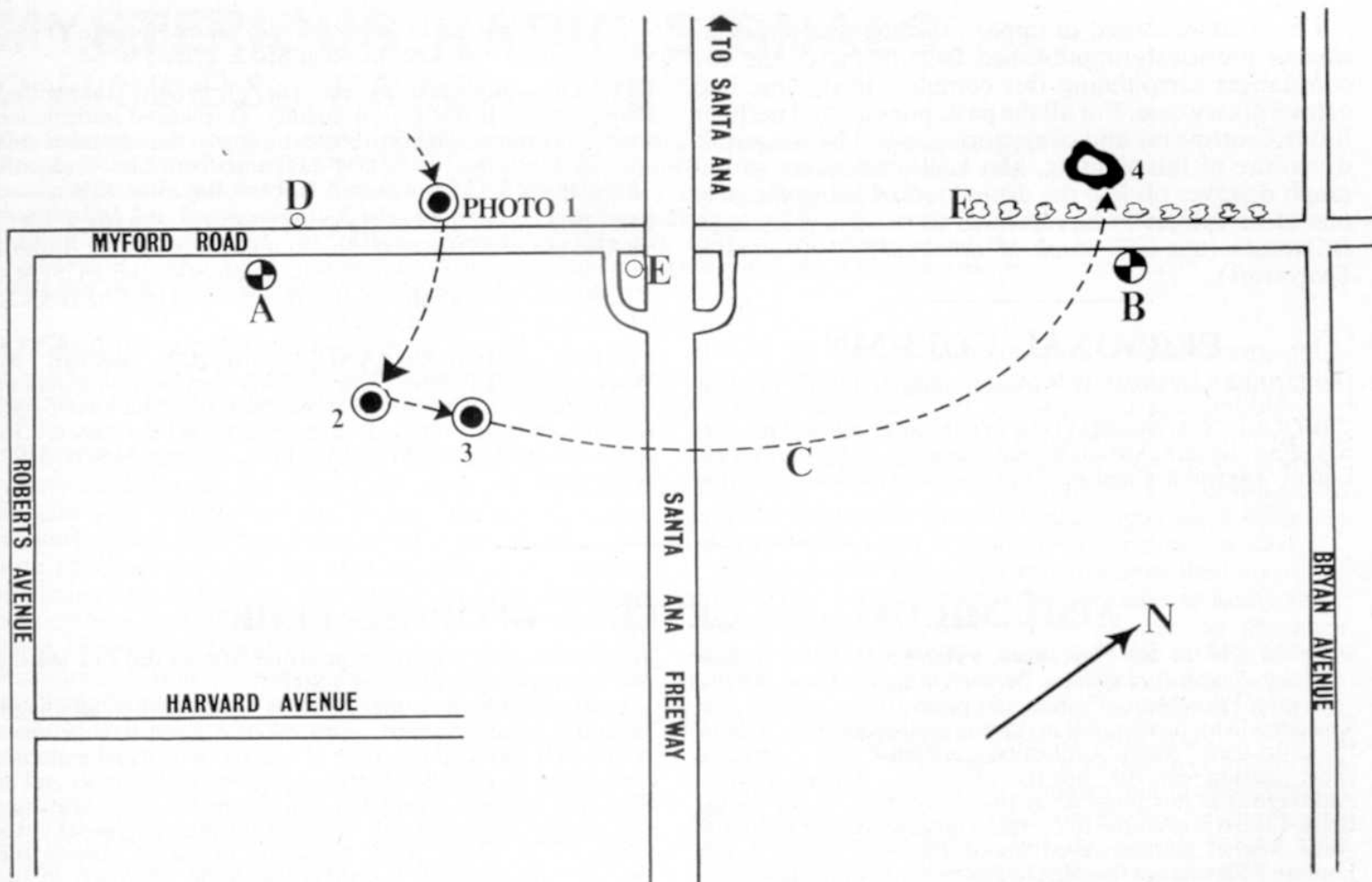
tiate their authenticity. A researcher comparing the three photos will note the apparent consistency of altitude of the object. Acquiring such uniformity would be very time consuming and would almost certainly require repeated attempts to accomplish this result (assuming the hoaxer should think of it), not to mention the expense in accumulating useless polaroid prints. The hoaxer would undoubtedly be in need of an assistant for the "off-stage" duties. Perhaps the most convincing pictorial evidence is that discernible in an enlargement of the photo (No. 1). An examination of the image of the object, or vehicle, will reveal the upper contour of a round dome, as well as the reflection of the sun, protruding above the enveloping band of black cloud. One could safely conclude the configuration of the whole vehicle to resemble that of an American World War I "doughboy" helmet or, to put it another way, to that of a conventional "flying saucer". The question arises: For an individual who had previously ignored the subject of UFOs, where or for what reason would he, in the attempt to perpetrate a photographic hoax, conceive the idea of partially enshrouding the model (or straw hat) in a black vapour, much less achieve the effect?

The appreciation by such a person of the natural manifestation of this effect—known as ionic attraction—readily occurring in such atmospheric conditions as the haze or pollution prevailing in Southern California is a rather remote possibility. To carry the argument further,

the proponent of this sighting could rationalize that the creation of a slipstream from right to left by the leisurely rightward motion of the vehicle would tend to blow most of the particles of the black vapour or pollutant to the left, or aft, where they appear thickest, but that the velocity of the craft was insufficient to overcome the attraction of the particles to its exterior.

Taking together photos 1 and 4 (see reprint in Rankow article in *Fate*, August, 1966, or FSR, January/February, 1968), one can see perfect examples confirming the contention of Dr. Bernard E. Finch that the observer can see the existence of a cloud of ionized particles concealing the saucer as well as seeing it left behind (from *Can They See Us?* FSR, March/April, 1968). However, if his statement is to be interpreted to mean also that the observer never sees the physical saucer, then it would stand in contradiction to these photos, particularly with regard to the image of the sun's reflection on the apparently solid craft and the beam of light detected on the underside by the witness and perceived in the polaroid original No. 2.

The appearance of the unbroken, mis-shapen black vapour ring in photo 4, suggests that the vehicle suddenly departed vertically upward thereby forcing the ring down and out over the rim. This photo, incidentally, was taken two-thirds of a mile up Myford Road from the spot where Mr. Heflin stopped his truck to expose the first three pictures. The vapour ring was



on the same side (left) of the road as was the object for the first photo, but beyond (north of) the Santa Ana Freeway. In relation to North, Myford Road lies in the  $39^{\circ}$ - $219^{\circ}$  direction on the Orange County maps; the section of the freeway in this vicinity runs almost at right angles, or more precisely, in the  $131^{\circ}$ - $311^{\circ}$  direction. The azimuth of the object in the photo was  $27^{\circ} 23'$ , or  $11^{\circ} 37'$  left of Myford Road. Considering the obliquities of the roadways in relation to the four points of the compass as well as to the sun, one shouldn't wonder at the possible perplexity confronting Mr. Heflin during his attempt to judge the time of day.

Two remaining points of interest thought by some to have possible bearing on the case should not be overlooked. One is the image in the photograph of a light, or white, patch on the left road bed before the irrigation pipe. This area, contrary to the supposition that it was a dust disturbance created by the craft seemingly overhead, was nothing more than dried, faded vegetation or weeds. Test photographs (polaroid) of the site, taken two months later by Mr. Heflin, with NICAP investigators and a geodetic engineer in attendance, showed the same light area but with a less faded appearance. A similar light patch can be seen in photo 1 adjacent to the irrigation pipe in the background.

The second point is the appearance in photo 4 of the cloud-like atmospheric conditions above the vapour ring. That this condition is not visible in the first photo, even though that area of the atmosphere is within the

exposed area of the picture, has been a source of consternation in scientific circles. Being much less oriented in the philosophy of science than in engineering, I believe the explanation for this inconsistency is simple. The camera (Polaroid Model 101) used by Mr. Heflin is fully automatic, with a built-in light meter (aperture:  $f8.0$  to  $f42.0$ ). Granted that clouds did indeed exist, they would have appeared as they did in photo 4 since the camera was employed by Mr. Heflin outside his truck where its operation was unhampered. This was not the case with the first three photos. The camera light meter reacted to the dark interior of the truck thereby causing over-exposure of the scenery. This condition was particularly severe for photos 2 and 3, in which case at least 50 per cent of the exposed areas included the overhead interior of the truck while another 15 per cent (photo 3) to 25 per cent (photo 2) included the dark bushes outside the truck window (these uncropped versions have not been published). The consequent over-exposure almost washed out the distant trees seen through the door window and also exaggerated the density of the prevailing haze. While the over-exposure of photo 1 was less severe, it apparently was sufficient to wash out any clouds in the distance. Approximately 25 per cent of this picture originally included the interior of the truck, specifically the windshield post and the area overhead (even the "uncropped" version submitted by Mr. Rankow and published in the May/June FSR is missing exposed areas along the top and left borders!).



I have endeavoured to impart, through the presentation of previously unpublished facts, some of the circumstances surrounding this complex, intriguing, and extraordinary case. For all the past, present, and perhaps future controversy and conjectures evoked by the public disclosure of this sighting, Mr. Hefflin's famous photograph deserves no less the distinction of being the only one of its subject to be reprinted in the Encyclopaedia Britannica (see 1966 *Book of the Year*, p. 701, under *Spacecraft*).

## PERSONAL COLUMN

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## AIMÉ MICHEL v. GÉNÉRAL GEORGES LEHR

**Pour ou Contre les Soucoupes Volantes** (*For or Against Flying Saucers*): Editions Berger-Levrault, 5 rue August Comte, Paris 6ème, France. 160 pages, 6 Fr.

This excellent new addition to the well-known paperback "back-to-back" series "Collection pour ou Contre" carries a short section on the history of *Flying Saucer Review*. Although it is not possible at this early stage to review the book, I feel it is essential to correct a mistaken impression that Aimé Michel has conveyed about the early days of our journal. FSR was **not** founded to disseminate Adamski stories. Certainly the late Waveney Girvan published the first Adamski book, but it was the remarkable success of that book rather than its contents that persuaded him that a quality magazine on flying saucers could be made to succeed.

FSR was launched by Mr. Girvan and a few friends as a reporting medium and an open forum for debate, and the first of its *four* editors—over a span of nearly fifteen years—was Derek Dempster, wartime R.A.F. pilot, aviation journalist, and joint author of *The Narrow Margin*, an authoritative history of the Battle of Britain. Mr. Dempster's was a brave pioneering endeavour of objective reporting and challenging

journalism; it is possible that Aimé Michel did not see the first seven or eight issues of FSR.\*

Later, although some dubious articles on seemingly "absurd contact stories" appeared, and some strange viewpoints were paraded at a time of marked paucity of material, a leavening of good factual accounts was still to be found in the pages of FSR. Thereafter, as M. Michel says, Waveney Girvan took FSR in hand. This was during even leaner years—the UFO "Dark Ages"—and he gradually steered the journal back towards a critical, scientific approach to the subject. Waveney retained an open mind and looked at all aspects of the UFO enigma.

Hoping I have put the record straight, I assure readers that in all other respects I am thoroughly enjoying my friend Aimé's argument!

CHARLES BOWEN.

\* There has been a tentative suggestion that we publish lithographed reprints of the first two years' issues of FSR. While I will bear the idea in mind, it must be realised that this would be an expensive venture unless we are guaranteed a good measure of support.—C.B.

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# MYSTERIOUS RADIO SIGNALS

G. Elliott, B.Sc., F.R.I.C.

Our contributor is a Member of the Radio Society of Great Britain, who operates on Amateur radio station G3FMO. His article was submitted in June 1968, and the postscript was added in August 1968. The possible connection with the ideas suggested by C. Maxwell Cade in his *A Long Cool Look at Alien Intelligence* was immediately apparent; as follow-up articles like the Editor's *Strangers about the House* were in course of preparation, it was decided to hold back Mr. Elliott's article until the new ideas had been carefully presented.

READERS may be interested in details of some mysterious radio signals which have recently been observed, and which may or may not have some bearing on the great UFO enigma.

Nearly a year ago, Mr. A. O. Milne, in a letter to the editor, published in the July, 1967, issue of the *RSGB Bulletin* (the Journal of the Radio Society of Great Britain), called attention to pulses of interference which were spoiling reception on the 10-, 15- and 20-metre amateur radio bands. At that time I had just begun to notice them myself, but because of lack of time for much listening, I could not be sure on what date the phenomenon first appeared. Mr. Milne states that the interference has been present for "a considerable time", but I think it has probably appeared within the last two or three years.

The signals were described as a double pulse of approximately 1 mS duration with a space of 2 mS between. The amplitude varied considerably from pulse to pulse, some being quite faint while others were of enormous strength. The signals were aperiodic and audible over about 2 Mc/s at any one time; they appeared in the early mornings around 10 metres, spread to 15 metres by 13.00 G.M.T. and to 20 metres by dusk, lasting for about an hour. They are reported to have been heard all over the world. The loud pulses were coincidental when received on three separate receiver and aerial installations and displayed on a single oscilloscope, but the weaker pulses were not. The signals apparently come from a north-easterly direction.

Exhaustive enquiries failed to provide any clues for identification. My own brief observations confirm Mr. Milne's reports, except that I have the impression that the pulses arrive in groups of two, spaced at about  $\frac{1}{4}$  second, with variable time intervals in between groups.

## Cambridge and Cornell University discoveries

More recently *Electronic Design* of New York have reported a similar and possibly related phenomenon. In their feature "News Scope" for April 1, 1968, under the heading "Clock-like space pulses puzzle astronomers", they reveal that scientists and astronomers throughout the world are still speculating on the origin of regular and rapidly-pulsating signals emanating from outer space. These were first picked up at Cambridge University's Mullard Radio Astronomy Observatory, but are now also being monitored by Cornell University's giant radio telescope near Arecibo, Porto Rico. The signals occur at precise intervals of 1.337 seconds; the intensity of each pulse varies considerably over a one-minute period, the signals disappear for three or four minutes, then reappear for another minute of variable intensity,

and so on in a continuous cycle. Measurements show that these signals are one of the strongest radio emissions yet discovered in the sky, and are audible only between about 40 and 200 Mc/s (8 and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  metres). The pulses are in fact really triple pulses, 0.012 seconds apart. The pulse "coding" of the signals has cast doubt on an original suggestion that the signals may have been due to the pulsations of a white dwarf or neutron star.

Both types of pulse transmission described above do not fit in with any known system of radar or ionospheric sounding, which would not be allowed to use such excessive bandwidths or (as in the case of Mr. Milne's report) cause interference to a large number of broadcast, communication and amateur wavebands: complex military radars operate effectively and secretly without causing such a widespread disturbance. My impression is that the signals in the 10-20 metre region are probably generated in or near our own ionosphere, giving rise to very high field strengths, but the signals in the  $1\frac{1}{2}$ -8 metre region are obviously coming from outer space, and are very much weaker.

## Earlier reports

These reports are by no means the first of mysterious, apparently extraterrestrial signals. Going back to 1956, J. D. Kraus of Ohio State University Radio Observatory, reported in *Nature* the reception of strange signals, apparently from the direction of Venus (*Nature*, 178, 33). He first observed burst-like signals with durations of one second or less, lasting for periods of up to 12 hours, but later another type of emission was found (*Nature*, 178, 159), which had a bandwidth of only 2 Mc/s with apparently superimposed modulation frequencies of 15, 60, 125 and 150 cycles. Later observations suggested that the phenomenon was even more complex, but did not help to decide the origin or mechanism of the radiations. It was noted that signals may have been associated with large solar flares and possibly with the position of the moon. Because attempts by others to detect the radiations were unsuccessful (H. J. Smith, *Astro. J.*, 64, 41—1959), Kraus finally published a vaguely-worded partial retraction of some of the reports (*Nature*, 186, 462—1960). However, considerable uncertainty remains, and the retraction looks very unconvincing, being based only on the inability to reproduce the original results in later experiments.

## Observations in 1927

A similar situation prevails in an even better documented case, which commenced in 1927 with the observation by a radio amateur, J. Hals of Norway, of radio echoes of long delay. The investigations of C. Størmer



(*Proc. Roy. Soc. Edinburgh*, 50, Part II, No. 15—1929-30) in collaboration with many other workers, showed that echoes might be delayed up to 30 seconds or more from the time of transmission of the original broadcast signal, corresponding to a reflection at a distance of about three million miles. The intensities of the echoes were sometimes as great as one-third of the intensities of the directly received signals, but more commonly were about one-tenth as strong. Størmer showed that the echoes were most strongly received during the period of the equinoxes, and suggested that the signals were reflected from an electron shell, which extended around the earth, far out into space, in the shape of a toroidal ring.

The period in which most of this work was done was around the time of the sun-spot maximum of 1928, and the frequencies used were in the band 10-12 Mc/s. Strangely enough, in spite of the opportunities given by the sun-spot maxima of 1937, 1947, and 1958 or the intervening periods of the last 40 years, nothing further has been heard of these echoes. Fortunately, too much evidence was collected from too many observers, for the question of retracting the reports to be raised. It has been suggested that the signals may have been produced by a messenger probe, sent into the solar system to test for the presence of life and communication signals (R. N. Bracewell, in *Interstellar Communication*, Ed. A. G. W. Cameron).

Thus, we see that repeatability and predictability of phenomena are not necessarily criteria of genuine observations, although without them logical conclusions are very much more difficult. Bracewell suggests that we should in fact keep a careful watch for random radio signals, as this will be one indication that attempts at communication are being made.

The sceptics of unorthodox phenomena would of course have us believe that all the observers were suffering from delusions, or deliberately misinterpreting the results from their equipment. However, if we take into account the fact that the people involved include amateur radio operators with considerable experience, university workers, professors of radio-astronomy and an expert on the aurora, such an explanation can be laughed out of court.

### Communication with aliens?

Other reports of alleged reception of intelligible messages via extraterrestrial radio signals can still be regarded with grave suspicion. Mr. David Middleton of Springdale, Utah, U.S.A., Radio W7ZC, has investigated the majority of alleged radio or infra-red communications with aliens, reported in the U.S.A. since 1951, but has been unable to accept any of these as genuine. One possible exception is the case of Lyman H. Streeter, W70JQ, whose experiences have been publicised in the book *The Saucers Speak* by G. H. Williamson. Unfortunately, the method of presentation of the events in the book and the odd nature of the messages themselves make it difficult to accept the account on its face value. Middleton, who interviewed Streeter before the latter's death, is convinced that some communications were made on the 40-metre amateur band under very peculiar circumstances. He reports that Streeter was a very frightened man at that time, and lived in fear

of losing his radio licence because he had made illegal radio contacts; his job with the Santa Fe Railroad as radio technician depended on his holding this licence. Streeter apparently died of an unusual condition brought about by severe mental strain or disturbance. Middleton has spent a considerable amount of time himself trying to make radio contact with aliens, but with no result.

Acknowledgements are due to information published in *RSGB Bulletin* (now re-named *Radio Communication*), *Electronic Design*, *Nature*, *Earth*, *Radio and the Stars*, *Interstellar Communication* and a long and helpful letter from David Middleton.

### POSTSCRIPT—The Pulsars

Events have a habit of marching on, and since I wrote my article, more information has been published on the outer space radio pulses, mentioned in the *Electronic Design* article. Several sources of such radio pulses have now been observed, and are called "Pulsars". The first four pulsars were discovered by Pilkington, Hewish, Bell & Cole (*Nature*, 218, 126—1968) in April. On August 10, Cole & Pilkington of the Mullard Radio Astronomy Observatory reported three new pulsars (*Nature*, 219, 574—1968). A discussion in the same issue of *Nature*, on p. 558, shows that no really reliable explanation has yet been put forward.

The radial vibrations of hypothetical neutron stars are now discounted as possible sources, as they would pulsate too rapidly (in about 1 millisecond). White dwarf stars are more favoured, as the astrophysicists calculate that they might have periodicities of the order of one second. Physicists have seriously considered the signalling hypothesis amongst many others, but naturally they consider it to be the least likely. However, in the absence of any agreement amongst the experts, it still seems as good an explanation as any. No correlation with visible sources or light pulsations emitted by distant galaxies has yet been established. There is of course the problem that we now have a number of "signalling" sources with different pulse patterns to explain.

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(continued from page 23)

he does not doubt that they certainly underwent some strange experience which has left its mark on at least one of them.

What, in my view, makes this case unusually interesting is the large amount of "information" allegedly imparted by the entities. This "information" may be all true, or part may be true, or it may all be hogwash. The fact that we now choose to publish the case does not by any means imply that we necessarily accept the "information", or any part of it, as true (on that score, as always, every reader will have to form his own opinion). What it does mean however is that we do not lose sight of the importance of publishing every scrap of material which may eventually throw some light on the great mystery with which we are grappling. And should we eventually be inclined to conclude that this "information" is all part of a policy of deliberately hoodwinking and bamboozling us, it does not thereby cease to have its own value or cease to deserve a place in the record. In time, even a collection of spurious parcels of "information"—provided that they have been doled out in genuine encounters with "UFO entities"—may obviously come to have its own very real sort of value.

# COMMENTS ON CONDON

THE immediate effects of *Scientific Study of Unidentified Flying Objects*, the report by Dr. Edward U. Condon, Director of the U.S. Air Force-sponsored University of Colorado Project (Bantam Books, New York, in association with the *New York Times*, 965 pages, \$1.95 paperback) have been demonstrated in this issue's Editorial article. Since those lines were written, a copy of the book has come my way. I confess that my spare-time chores, such as managing, editing and publishing this *Review* have so far permitted me little time for a detailed study of the work.

What I have seen, however, has shown that Aimé Michel hit the bull's-eye with most of his observations which were recorded in the Editorial *While We Wait* (FSR, November/December 1968). The report is long, tedious, thick, and almost entirely negative: the anticipated psychological considerations, however, have fallen by the wayside.

Dr. Condon gets right in at the start with the assertion that "... nothing has come from the study of UFOs in the past 21 years that has added to scientific knowledge"—which fact does not surprise me, for most scientists who have evinced any sort of interest in UFOs have invariably gone in fear and trembling of the reactions of their colleagues and superiors, with the inevitable result that only a few have taken more than a clandestine look at the subject. What does surprise me is that the good doctor is then quite capable of insisting that no further study is justified, and that in spite of the fact that, even in the hand-picked sample of cases that follows, there remain some that are unexplained, among them the McMinnville, Oregon, sighting and photograph of May 1950.

This has not escaped Dr. J. Allen Hynek who, in a review published in the *Bulletin of Atomic Scientists*

(April 1969), says that even after the hoaxes and mis-identifications of common objects have been explained, "... there remains the same strange, inexplicable residue of unknowns that has plagued the US Air Force investigation for 20 years. In fact, the percentage of 'unknowns' in the Condon report appears to be even higher than in the Air Force investigation (Project Blue Book)—which led to the Condon Investigation in the first place."

In a private communication, Aimé Michel writes that an interesting point is Dr. Condon's imperious assertion that nothing remains hidden—which is hardly in accordance with the facts. Asks M. Michel: "Why does he not mention the liability of U.S. service personnel to 10 years imprisonment and \$10,000 fine, under JANAP-146, for disclosing details of UFO reports? Why does he not quote the most striking military cases such as Migot, N. Dakota? He should have worked on the best cases, not the most publicized ones."

Nevertheless it is only fair to say that many of the limited number of investigations appear to have been very well-conducted, and have cleared out some of the dead wood. Generally, however, I am left with the impression that the Colorado Project was concerned with a phenomenon only partly related to the one which interests us.

FSR will publish a selection of views on the Report. John Keel was first off the mark with many pertinent points, so he takes "first knock" while Bryan Winder ploughs his way through the 965 pages. Also in hand for our next issue is an excellent article by Donald Hanlon, who looks at both the Condon Report and Dr. David Saunders' book *UFOs? Yes!*

CHARLES BOWEN.

## REVIEW OF THE FINAL REPORT OF DR. EDWARD U. CONDON

John A. Keel

I AM a prejudiced reviewer and must admit this at the outset. I have been deeply involved in the investigation and study of unidentified flying objects for the past three years and have arrived at very definite opinions and conclusions about the phenomenon. I have seen innumerable objects during my travels ... some at very close range. Objects which I could not explain, and which displayed characteristics and executed manoeuvres radically different from known natural phenomena and conventional aircraft. In recent years, I have written and published many detailed newspaper and magazine articles on the UFO controversy. The Condon Report has singled out two of

those many articles for criticism—I'll comment further on those items later on.

From the very beginning of the project I adopted a "hands off" policy and refrained from making public comment on the effort until the final results were in. I have now read the entire report and feel that the following comments are valid and worthy of notice. They are based upon a reasonably objective study of the data offered and I have tried to suppress my own personal attitudes in making that study. I will try to examine here the successes and failures of the report as seen by a reporter with extensive scientific, in-

vestigative and journalistic experience.

### The Contents and Objectivity of The Condon Report

#### Cheap padding

At least 50 per cent of the Condon Report (CR) consists of "padding", in the form of assorted Air Force documents and scientific papers on mirages, radar signals, meteorological phenomena, collected at little or no cost to the project. A large portion of this "padding" material has been published in other UFO books over the past twenty years and cannot be considered a significant contribution to the



subject. While it was to be expected that some material of this type would be included in the CR, it was also to be expected that such material would have been *updated* and that correlations with specific cases would have been drawn to demonstrate the possible validity of these various natural phenomena as potential explanations of some UFO sightings. Instead, most of this material is presented in an unrelated, almost irrelevant manner. Again, I must stress that *50 per cent of the Condon Report is based upon material which was obtained at little or no expense.*

### Participants

In Appendix X, 38 people are listed as having participated in the preparation of the report. Of these, 17 were involved with the Project in the beginning, but only six were directly involved with the CR from its inception to its conclusion. A number of the contributors were brought into the Project after all investigations had been concluded. Most of the original participants had left the Project in early 1968, following the controversy which erupted over the sacking of two members. In other words, the CR was not assembled by those who had worked hardest on the collection of the materials.

One would naturally expect that any purportedly scientific document prepared by a major University, commissioned by the U.S. Air Force and financed by government (tax-payers') money would be very dry, very objective, and very well organized. Yet, incredibly, the report largely lacks any objectivity at all and it is obvious that the various contributors were not even superficially familiar with the work and findings of their own colleagues. The document is filled with amazing—and needless—contradictions. It conveys a sense of haste and disinterest. It was apparently assembled by individuals who knew little about the investigations and efforts of their predecessors, and cared even less.

This reflects the well-known conditions that prevailed at Colorado University in March 1968. Although the Project's investigations were not formally ended until June 1968, the staff had been reduced to three by March. Apparently a new staff was thrown together, outside help was enlisted, and the report was completed in the quickest and easiest possible way. Old Air Force releases were collected, various specialists were called upon to throw together papers on their specialties, and it was all tossed into one big stew.

We are told in the acknowledgements that Dr. Condon appealed to the publisher of the *Scientific American* and that he "helped secure the

services of Mr. Daniel S. Gillmor". Gillmor, a long-time science writer, was given the unenviable job of trying to mould this morass into a publishable book.

### Feuds and vindictiveness

A scientific report prepared at a cost of \$600,000 should have little or no room for personal feuds and controversy. It would have been acceptable for one paragraph . . . or even one chapter to be devoted to the much-publicized personal problems encountered by Dr. Condon. But the controversy is touched on again and again in the early parts of the book. Major Donald Keyhoe is repeatedly criticized. In some places the CR reads like a cheap novel. The general tone makes it clear that Dr. Condon is an angry and vindictive man. If he wanted to defend himself and attack his attackers, he should have written his personal memoirs. The tax-payers haven't paid him to express his personal irritations. Considering all the help extended to the Project by Keyhoe and NICAP, Condon's numerous negative comments, all based on carefully selected items lifted out of context (i.e. Captain Ruppelt lent Keyhoe much support, but Condon chose to publish one lone Ruppelt quote which criticized Keyhoe's speculations), add up to a calculated attempt to "get back" at Keyhoe and NICAP and discredit their efforts.

### No new, detailed study

The majority of the "papers" published in the CR are based upon a superficial knowledge of the general UFO situation and would not merit publication in a pulp magazine, let alone a scientific journal.

Since the Condon group had two years in which to collect and study new sightings, and since it was receiving the full cooperation of the public, the press, the civilian UFO organizations and the Air Force, we expected that the final report would at least include detailed charts and graphs analysing the UFO reports of 1966-67. The Project certainly had the personnel, the equipment and the money to prepare such a study. No such study is presented, however. Even more baffling, I could not find any reference to the total number of reports received by the Project. Perhaps the total is included and buried in the fine print somewhere, but I searched carefully for this kind of basic figure. Instead, the report serves up the ancient Air Force tables even though we are told ". . . only about one-eighth of sightings were reported anywhere, and not all of these were reported to the Air Force" (p. 45). You would think that this basic discovery would have led to an inspired effort to determine the full

scope of the phenomenon and that more accurate and responsible tables would have been compiled.

In earlier press statements from Colorado we were promised that hundreds of cases and incidents would be reviewed and analysed in the final report. Instead, a mere 59 provide the foundation for the study. Many of those are rehashes of earlier events from the 1950's.

Overall, the CR fails on two very important counts: it lacks the total scientific objectivity to be expected from such a project, and it failed to summarize and analyse the quantity and quality of the reports it received. Both failures are not only inexcusable but scandalous.

### SPECIFIC STUDIES

#### Polls taken

Buried within all of the deceptive and irrelevant material are several reports which deserve careful study by ufologists. I was particularly interested in these reports because they confirm my own research and findings. The polls taken by the Opinion Research Organization under a contract to Colorado University are an interesting contribution, albeit a dull one to those researchers who do not understand the value of such efforts. The thorough examination of the EM effect as related to automobile malfunctions is of great meaning to us. The CR blandly admits that the car-stalling effect is "perhaps the most puzzling".

#### Old explanations

Although the report deals with a number of cases in which the Air Force apparently refused to cooperate with the Project as fully as might have been expected, the CR openly accepts many of the early AF explanations without attempting to ascertain the full facts. The Maury Island "hoax" is dismissed on the strength of Ruppelt's comments and criticisms. The celebrated Walesville, N.Y., plane crash of 1954 is glossed over by repeating Blue Book's vague explanation.

Appendix V is devoted to a 10-paged reprint of a speech delivered by one R. V. Jones on "The Natural Philosophy of Flying Saucers". While this little essay is amusing, it was hardly worthy of inclusion. It does, however, discuss a startling "obfuscation" incident which took place in England in 1946 (pp. 927-928) and was identical to the things still taking place nationwide in the U.S.

#### Expensive historical naïveté

Chapter 1 of Section V is devoted to an essay on "UFOs In History" by Samuel Rosenberg. I was particularly interested in this item since Pentagon informants told me several months ago



that Mr. Rosenberg was being paid the unheard of sum of \$10,000 to write it. However, in his book *UFOs? Yes!* Dr. David R. Saunders claims that Rosenberg was paid only \$3,200. Mr. Rosenberg's chief claim to fame is an article he published on Frankenstein in *Life* several years ago. His contribution is a tired rehash of items from Trench, Thomas, Wilkins and Fort. He opens with the not-very-original conclusion that everything early man saw in the sky was a UFO. Much of the CR has a tone of embarrassing naïveté, but Mr. Rosenberg is the most naive of all when he tries to analyse the well known "Tulli papyrus" which was unearthed in the Vatican in the late 1930s. He makes an amateurish effort to compare the contents of the papyrus with the biblical description of Ezekiel's wheel. Apparently he never realized that the papyrus was first translated from ancient Egyptian into Italian by Catholic translators working in the Vatican. Then it was translated from Italian into English and the phrasing was, of course, religious-oriented ("flying saucers" weren't a "subject" in the 1930s). The only way to make the kind of comparisons he attempts is to obtain both the original Aramic text of Ezekiel's encounters (the Bible was, as you know, mutilated and misinterpreted by the early translators) and match it to the original ancient Egyptian of the papyrus. He did try to track down the papyrus, but it is lost. So his only remaining criticism is that Professor Tulli and translator Prince de Rachelwitz were "amateur Egyptologists". I lived in Egypt for six months and count a number of first-rate Egyptologists among my friends. Traditionally, the best work has been done by dedicated "amateur" Egyptologists because there is very little room for professional (i.e. salaried) men in this narrow and unprofitable field. Egyptology demands excessive scholarship, a wide range of historical and scientific interests, and, above all, great dedication to the subject. Mr. Rosenberg's analysis of the "Tulli papyrus" is not even remotely valid. He uses it as the "clincher" for his argument that historical documentation is suspect. It costs us \$3,200 (or \$10,000) to find this out.

#### Astronaut sightings; Keel attacked

Chapter 6 of Section III is concerned with sightings made by the American astronauts. I have published two articles on those sightings, using extensive material given to me by officials at NASA in Washington, D.C. CR contributor Franklin E. Roach virtually confirms my own statements and repeats, though in somewhat greater depth, my findings both pro and con. He also carefully points out

that at least three of the astronaut sightings are inexplicable.

In keeping with the general policy of the report to downgrade the literature on the subject Roach attacks the opening paragraphs of one of my articles in which I raised doubts about the suggestion that four luminous objects "standing in a neat row", observed by the Gemini 12 mission (Lovell and Aldrin), were three plastic bags of debris and a bag of ELSS (probably faecal matter) which the astronauts had discarded at random into space a number of orbits earlier. Although I was limited by space, and the impracticability to go into technical details in a popular magazine piece, I was really questioning the explanation on the basis of orbital mechanics. Would four small plastic bags tossed at random into space later align themselves in a "neat row" and would they be reflective enough to glow like stars? The explanation simply doesn't work.

Roach implied that I was deliberately making much ado about nothing, and he thereby obliquely tried to discredit the whole article just as other sections of the report attempt to discredit Keyhoe and others through insinuation.

I suffer a few more lumps in Roy Craig's article on *Direct Physical Evidence* (pp. 89-90). My tongue-in-cheek observation that the UFOs may be using the earth as a garbage dump is given a serious treatment. I went through considerable effort and expense to check out the "falls" of "space grass" in 1967. After my article on the subject was published, I received additional samples from all over the country, many of which were accompanied by intriguing UFO reports. Eventually I did obtain actual samples of Air Force "chaff" in the original packaging, as well as a map showing precisely where such materials were being dumped by AF training missions. Air Force "chaff" is aluminium-coated fibre glass. "Space grass" is almost pure aluminium with a slight trace of magnesium. Both substances are almost identical in appearance. The Condon group received similar samples but they chose to analyse and investigate a sample which had been collected in 1957!

My article on "space grass" went to some lengths to explain my efforts to get the Air Force to explain it to me. But Craig's essay implies that I am a gullible "believer" hell-bent on proving that ordinary substances are from outer space.

APRO's famed magnesium sample is also picked apart in the CR and rejected. Dr. Saunders was involved in the testing of those samples and his conclusions in his book are contrary to those in the CR.

## Conclusion

### End product does not justify cost

A new and useless controversy will undoubtedly rage around the Condon Report for some time to come. The report raises more questions than it answers. First of all, it does not offer sufficient material to justify the great cost. Colorado University should be forced to give a public accounting of its expenses. Eighty per cent of the final report could have been assembled by any other publisher for \$5,000 or even less. The remaining 20 per cent could have been assembled by a small group of three or four competent investigators, over a period of six months on a budget of, perhaps, \$25,000.

We must, therefore, question the basic integrity of the project and of the man who led it. We must question the methods used. We must question the qualifications of the people who assembled the final report. We must question the scientific validity of the report. We must object to this report's use in expressing the personal attitudes, opinions, and peevishness of the men involved. We must question its overall objectivity.

At best, it is a slipshod attempt to slap together a "product" which would meet the requirements of the Air Force contract but nothing more. We are told that the Ford Motor Company conducted experiments in the EM effect at *their own expense*. It is implied that many other companies and organizations contributed *free* research to the project. During the course of the investigations (February 1967/March 1968) only twelve people were employed by the project full-time. Some were hired months after the project began. We are asked to believe that this project cost \$2,000 a day! The Air Force allotted \$13,000 for accounting and book-keeping alone. Let's see that record.

### Attacks by innuendo

Many long-time researchers and experts in the field were not even consulted. Neither Ivan T. Sanderson nor Ray Palmer are mentioned in the report. Other leading UFO researchers such as Dr. James McDonald, Coral Lorenzen, John Fuller, and Major Keyhoe are repeatedly attacked by innuendo. It is doubtful, however, if any of them will have grounds for a law suit. Colorado University formally withdrew all legal support from the Project in June 1968 but in the acknowledgements several lawyers are named "for valuable advice on legal problems related to the study". It seems that someone has carefully checked the text and watered-down statements which might have led to a law suit.