

FLYING
SAUCER
REVIEW

FSI

Vol. 20, No. 1, 1974

50p



Photo courtesy of Jacques Vainstein

FRENCH MINISTER OF DEFENCE SPEAKS ON UFOs

For text of his broadcast see page 3

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An international journal devoted to the study of Unidentified Flying Objects

Vol. 20, No. 2
(published October, 1974)

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① Flying Saucer Review

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NEWS from France is that work proceeds quietly on the collection of UFO reports and related data, and the channelling of this information from its sources to Dr. C. Poher at the Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales by way of the gendarmerie and the networks of well-established investigatory groups.

We know that in France, as in the rest of the world, they do not profess to understand the UFO phenomenon, but they no longer deny its reality, or grab at every chance to laugh at witnesses. There is in France, it seems, a welcome determination to get to grips with the problem and establish a true scientific study.

Something of the same nature is seen to be happening in the United States. According to our information, Dr. J. Allen Hynek's Center for UFO Studies is busily accruing funds, and is building up its organisation.

In the United Kingdom, so often, in the past, proud of its leadership in new thinking, the choice instead is to lag behind the times, for there seems to exist here a "will-not-to-think" about this subject. This we know to our cost, for, through many of its near 20 years of existence, *Flying Saucer Review* has endeavoured to give a lead in this subject, but although it has occasionally received encouragement from abroad, at home it is invariably a case of having to face up to calumny and ridicule, and the will-not-to-think.

That this negative attitude is officially encouraged is an open question, for it seems that it is an attitude which, for example, pervades the fields of television and radio broadcasting. It is to be expected that the broadcasters will have failed to have taken note of the recent splendid example of the French with their *Radio-Inter* series, and will continue to get hold of the wrong end of the stick, or to seek a merry diversion at the expense of the subject's lunatic fringe.

And the subtle propaganda against the subject will continue, as witness the *James Burke Special* programme broadcast by BBC-TV 1 on June 6, 1974. This was an interesting presentation in which Mr. Burke launched into a digest of the possibilities of the existence of other civilisations in our galaxy. Note however that at the outset he had set the seal on his purpose by asking his studio audience if any of them "believed there are UFOs." Some did, and one or two tried to explain why. So it came as no surprise that the pattern of the programme developed into a summary of the utter remoteness of the possibility that denizens of any of these postulated 10,000,000 civilisations would find us here on Earth, or that we would find them, let alone communicate with them (for example, the principles of the old Project Ozma idea were discussed). Mr. Burke demonstrated that it would be incredible if even *once a year* an exploring extraterrestrial spaceship were to locate us out here on our limb of the galaxy.

were to locate us out here on our limb of the galaxy.

Which all added up to a gentle debunk, in the nicest possible manner, of UFO reports and reporters, and of *believers* in UFOs. All this neatly instilled in the minds of millions of uncommitted viewers the idea that UFO reports are nonsense...except for the few who might have seen through the neat little deception. It is easy enough to debunk something if one works from an unbelievable premise. Mr. Burke introduced the assumption that UFOs are *spaceships* from distant advanced civilisations although, as astronomer Dr. Hynek has stated — and he should know, after serving for twenty years as Scientific Consultant on UFOs to the US Air Force investigatory projects — UFOs have never been recorded entering the Earth's atmosphere from outside. (Carefully ignored too was the possibility that, given that UFOs might be the product of very advanced distant civilisations, their controllers might well be privy to very advanced ways of getting here, or perhaps of projecting images of themselves and their craft into our presence, non-physically and maybe even with psychic overtones. But to have speculated along such lines, or to have suggested that UFOs may originate closer to home, would have

upset the desired debunking effect of an exercise which required the assumption that UFOs are spaceships, and that those spaceships operate within the confines of terrestrial "nuts and bolts" science of the 3rd quarter of the 20th Century.)

It comes as a welcome breath of fresh air to learn that in their nightly series of broadcasts in February and March of this year — referred to earlier in this article — the French laid before a large audience most of the known aspects of the UFOs. M. Robert Galley, the Minister of Defence, declared that there had been considerable official interest in UFO reports ever since 1954 — the year of the great wave.

Let us wish the French success in their good work, for over here we are falling farther and farther behind the times, with debunkers and fun-pokers still being given the large audiences. It remains for FSR, and a handful of others, to continue to record the reported facts from all over the world, and hope thereby to encourage in our country a rational study of the persistent and perplexing UFO problem. At least we can rest happy in the knowledge that our work is being used, and our words quoted, in other countries where they keep up with the times.

REPORTING UFOs ON FILM

On Sunday, December 15, 1974, there will be a coast-to-coast TV broadcast in the United States, in which an hour-long serious documentary film on UFOs is to be featured. The film will be shown at 10.00 p.m. Eastern Time. The title has not been communicated at the time of going to press.

During his recent visit to the United Kingdom, Dr. J. Allen Hynek told me that he has been one of the advisers on the script, and that a number of recent cases are to be presented and discussed. Included among these are some which Ted Phillips and he, Dr. Hynek, have investigated. Mr. Phillips, a MUFON field investigator, will be remembered by readers for his contributions to FSR publications, and particularly his *Landing Report from Delphos*, which appeared in *FSR Case Histories*, Supplement 9 of February 1972.

Representatives of NICAP and APRO also appear in the film, and the theme is the "changing attitude of the public and scientists towards UFO reports."

Dr. Hynek also revealed that a second important documentary film, **UFOs, Past, Present and Future**, is being prepared to follow in the wake of the first film.

That is good news. It remains to be seen whether or not these films will get a showing in the United Kingdom. In France, and in the United States there does indeed appear to be a changed, or changing attitude on the subject. In Britain, however, it seems almost as though serious presentation and discussion of UFO reports in the press, or on TV and radio, is thwarted by something not unlike a "D-notice" situation. There is no gainsaying the fact that this country lags so far behind the times in these matters that the spirit of the fourth, and secret, "Debunk at every opportunity" recommendation of the American 1953 Robertson Committee* (supported more recently by the conclusions of the late Dr. Edward U. Condon) still prevails.

CHARLES BOWEN

* The existence of the fourth "debunking" clause was revealed when the Report, at the end of the statutory twelve year period, was de-classified. At that time the late Dr. James E. McDonald called at Project Blue Book's office to see the report; when, later, he asked to see it again, he was told that it had been re-classified.

FRENCH MINISTER SPEAKS ON UFOs

Text of a radio interview given on February 21, 1974.

Translated by Gordon Creighton

THIS is a translation of a taped recording of an exclusive interview given by Monsieur Robert Galley, Ministre des Armées, to Jean-Claude Bourret, reporter of *France-Inter*, and broadcast on February 21, 1974, at 8.30 p.m., in one of the series of thirty-nine programmes devoted to UFO research by *France-Inter* between Monday, January 28, 1974, and Friday, March 22, 1974. Widely reported next day, with big headlines, in such newspapers as *France-Soir*, *Le Parisien Libéré*, *L'Aurore*, and *Le Figaro*, this important news item was apparently totally ignored by all the British media.

* * * * *

Jean-Claude Bourret: "Monsieur le Ministre, you have granted to *France-Inter* an interview which will certainly be epoch-making, as I think it is the first time that a French Minister of Defence has agreed to talk about the UFO problem. Can you please tell us now whether you are in possession of information that will enable you to reply now to the listeners' questions — information which would otherwise be unknown to us?"

Minister: "I don't know if I can do that, because I have been engaged for a relatively limited time on this question, though it has always interested me. Consequently however I am not in a position to know all that has been said in the course of your transmissions, but I do know that certain people in the Ministry of Defence are following the series closely. My own profound belief is that it is necessary to adopt an extremely open-minded attitude towards these phenomena. Man has made a certain amount of progress by the fact that he has sought to explain the inexplicable. Now, as regards these aerial phenomena, these visual phenomena (I won't say more than that) which we have gathered together under the term of "UFO," it is certain that there are things that we don't understand and that are at present pretty well unexplained; I will indeed go so far as to say that it is an irrefutable fact that there are today things that are inexplicable, or poorly explained.

"In 1954 a department was set up in the Ministère des Armées (Ministry of Defence) for the purpose of collecting and studying eyewitness accounts of these apparitions of unidentified objects. I have read through a certain number of these eyewitness accounts (some fifty or so) covering the period up to 1970. One of the earliest of them is the account of the personal sightings, dated November 20, 1953, by Lieutenant Jean Demery of Air Force Base 107 at Villa-coublay. In addition there are reports by the gendarmerie. There are, too, other sighting reports from pilots, from the commanding

personnel of various Air Force centres, with quite a lot of details all of which agree in quite a disturbing manner — all in the course of the year 1954.

"I think therefore that the attitude of mind one must adopt towards these phenomena must remain an open one — that is to say, our attitude is not one of a *priori* denial. Our forefathers in past centuries denied all sorts of things that today appear completely elementary to us, for example such matters as piezo-electricity, say, or static electricity, not to mention a whole lot of phenomena to do with biology. In fact the whole development of science consists in the fact that at a certain point in time one realizes that, fifty years before, we knew nothing, we understood nothing, as regards the reality of certain phenomena."

J.-C.B: Monsieur le Ministre, have there been cases in which *Mirage* aircraft have pursued UFOs over France?"

Minister: "I don't think actually in France, on the basis of the considerable number of reports that I have read through. But we have had a certain number of radar sightings. In particular, we had one radar sighting in Aquitaine in the 1950s. For ten minutes we were receiving a radar echo that was inexplicable at the time and remains inexplicable today. On the other hand there have been other radar echoes that were thought mysterious at the time and that have later been explained as what we call *brouillage*, that is to say, interference. All the same, when all is said and done there remains a small residue of radar sightings that remain totally unexplained. And there are similar phenomena reported in other countries. These are well known. They have had phenomena in the United States. And there is the recent phenomenon at Turin. But, to give a precise answer to your question, the number of UFO reports from French Air Force pilots is relatively modest compared with the situation we encounter in other countries. All the same — there are even some that are classified."*

J.-C.B: "Are you in touch, Mr. Minister, with other military bodies abroad on the matter?"

Minister: "No. Since 1970 we have sent on the whole of our collection of reports to the Group for the Study of Aerial Phenomena (Groupement d'Etudes des Phénomènes Aériens), and every time something

* For details of the Turin incident, see *The Italian Scene Once More*, by Gordon Creighton, on page 27 [EDITOR]

extraordinary occurs this is what we continue to do. These are sightings by pilots, or investigations by the gendarmerie. Since 1970, in fact, the Air Force has taken the view that the UFOs represent no sort of danger — and so the job of studying these phenomena at the scientific level does not fall within their sphere. We consider that this is a job for the National Centre For Space Studies (Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales), where people like Monsieur Poher are doing what seems to us to be extremely interesting work. So we have no direct contact now in these matters. But, I repeat, every time something strange crops up, we send the report on it to this National Centre For Space Studies, whose work is of importance for the whole country."

J-C.B: All the same, Mr. Minister, unidentified space phenomena in the skies over France are, it would seem, still of concern to the National Defence authorities?"

Minister: "Oh yes, it concerns the National Defence and this is why we are studying this problem, in an attempt to see whether we can establish some correlations. Personally, I am for example very interested in this phenomenon, which Monsieur Poher has been describing, of the relationship between the variations in magnetic fields and the passage of unidentified flying objects. All this business presents a whole lot of quite disturbing phenomena which may of course one of these days be explained satisfactorily as not being due to the passage of some specific object or other, but simply as magnetic phenomena. But, so far as the present moment is concerned, we are forced to admit that here is something that escapes our comprehension.

There has also been the extremely impressive increase in the number of visual sightings of luminous phenomena, sometimes spherical, sometimes ovoid, travelling at extraordinarily high speeds. All these are phenomena that call for a certain degree of attention. But, and I must repeat this, in the Air Force we don't take the view that these matters appear to involve our national air defence."

J-C.B: "If you were asked to make the military radar sightings available to the scientists, what would be your reply?"

Minister: "If anomalies were registered on the national aerial defence radars, there would be no reason why we should not communicate such sightings to the scientists. In fact that is precisely what we are already doing at the present time. I get all the reports that are coming in from the Air Force, and from the gendarmerie, and we send them on directly to the scientists who are dealing with these matters."

J-C.B: "Mr. Minister, you have mentioned the gendarmerie. Now, our listeners on *France-Inter* have heard, several times in this series, the conclusions reached in the investigations conducted by your gendarmes — spectacular conclusions: when a witness declares that he has seen a saucer land and that he has seen small humanoids near the saucer, very frequently the gendarmes reach the conclusion

that the witness is speaking the truth. What do you yourself think about this?"

Minister: "Well, of course I should no doubt be a great deal more cautious. But all the same I must say that if your listeners could see for themselves the mass of reports coming in from the airborne gendarmerie, from the mobile gendarmerie, and from the gendarmerie charged with the job of conducting investigations, all of which reports are being forwarded by us to the C.N.E.S. (National Centre For Space Studies), then they would see that it is all pretty disturbing.

My view about the gendarmerie is they are serious people. When they draw up a report, they don't do it haphazardly. If there were only one or two such reports, one might indeed think that perhaps the gendarmerie's good faith had been deceived. But I must tell you that in fact the number of these gendarmerie reports is very great, and they are very varied. The whole thing is of course still very fragmentary but I must emphasise that, in this UFO business, it is essential to preserve an extremely open mind. On the one hand one cannot doubt the good faith of eyewitnesses who are clearly entirely sincere. And, at the same time, it is at present still far too early to draw the least conclusion from it at all."

For those of you who read French
TWO EXCELLENT BOOKS FROM FRANCE . . .

LA NOUVELLE VAGUE DES SOUCOUPES VOLANTES

Le dossier OVNI de France-Inter

(The New Wave of Flying Saucers: the UFO dossier of France-Inter)

by JEAN-CLAUDE BOURRET

The account, with transcriptions, of the 39 broadcasts — and of those not broadcast

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CURIOUSER AND CURIOUSER

Gordon Creighton

CHRONICLED in brief below are the main features of an affair that FSR readers may find peculiar, interesting, and also... instructive.

Early in 1973 Monsieur Michel Texier of the French ORTF (Office de Radiodiffusion-Télévision Française) arrived in London as their Délégué Permanent, to take charge of the London Office. He has been for many years a close friend of Aimé Michel. In due course I had the pleasure of a most agreeable meeting and lunch with Monsieur Texier, having in the meantime learned from his office that the French Radio people were planning a serious study of the UFO problem. I was invited to participate, and went along on January 28 of this year and gave a taped interview in French to Monsieur Henri Di Donna, ORTF's talented "No.2" in London — whom I found, incidentally, to be fluent in Chinese, so I had the unusual experience of talking with him at some length in that language as well as in French.

Monsieur Di Donna asked also for the names and addresses of one or two eyewitnesses in recent British cases, so he was given details of Anthony Russell,¹ Stephen Gill,² and Roderick Baird.³

In due course the series of radio transmissions in this series on UFOs went out, on the Paris radio channel *France-Inter*, at 8.30 p.m., covering a period of no less than thirty-nine days (!), from January 28 to March 22, each day's broadcast lasting some fifteen minutes or so. Many important witnesses and investigators and scientists were interviewed, and the series was an instant and tremendous success.

The ORTF — unlike certain folk we can think of nearer home — have earned the thanks and gratitude of all serious UFO research students throughout the world for the *honesty* and *sincerity* and thoroughness with which they put out these remarkable broadcasts.

Not long after the termination of the series, our correspondent Jean Bastide of Aix-en-Provence sent me on loan, so that I might make my own copies, six tape cassettes containing all the interviews. I take this opportunity to thank Monsieur Bastide again for his very kind and thoughtful piece of assistance.

When I sat down to play the cassettes through, I found that Messrs. Russell, Gill, and Baird were all included, and all three came over very well, the former in English with French translation superimposed, and the other two in French. With some surprise however it was noted that, while such names as Vallée, Poher, and Guérin figured among those interviewed and broadcast, other names, such as Hynek, Michel, and Saunders, were missing. So too was my own. The cassettes did not contain the interview I had given in London.

I wrote therefore to the ORTF enquiring how this had come about, and was astonished to receive in due course from Monsieur Jean-Claude Bourret, producer of the series, the letter of which I give an English translation below. (Jean-Claude Bourret, I should add, is 32. Extremely energetic, he is the "grand reporter" on *France-Inter*, and he has covered the *Apollo* launchings for the French public from Cape Kennedy and the Houston NASA Centre. He says he was a total sceptic about UFOs right up to the new "Wave" over France and Italy in the autumn and winter of 1973. What changed everything for him, as he admits, was the famous case over Turin on November 30, when not only pilots of aircraft, but also the radar, registered the passage of the mystery object.)

France-Inter
Bureau 3431
Maison de la Radio
75016 PARIS
May 10, 1974

My very dear Mr. Creighton,

There has occurred here a scarcely believable event, which I authorize you to publish in your excellent Review. My office at the ORTF was broken into, and the recordings of various people (yourself included) have been stolen.

The accounts of Messrs Gill, Baird, and Russell were broadcast on *France-Inter* on Thursday, February 14, at 8.30 p.m. The interview which you yourself had very kindly given to Henri Di Donna was due to be broadcast on some date after Monday, March 11, that is to say, in the *second part* of the Programme, which was reserved for the views of the scientists and specialists on the UFO Problem.

Unfortunately however, on Monday, March 18, a mysterious burglar carried off all the tapes which were still waiting to be broadcast. That this was an act of deliberate malevolence is beyond question. In the metal press where these taped recordings had been stacked, there were two piles side by side: those interviews that had already gone out, and those that were still to be broadcast. *Only this second pile was taken.*

Consequently they carried off not only your interview but also the interviews that had been given by Dr. Hynek, Dr. David Saunders, the astronomer Pierre Kohler, Cardinal Daniélou, and other scientific notabilities, particularly Swiss and Belgian scientists. Who did this, and why? That is the question.

However, as it turned out, by a surprising chance, and almost as though I had had a presentiment, I had already asked my secretary to make a transcript

of your interview as soon as we had received it. So I still have the written text of what you said to Henri Di Donna. The only interviews that we had in fact thus transcribed were yours and those of Dr. Hynek and Dr. Saunders, and if you will now give me your authorization I shall be very happy to publish your interview in the book which thousands of radio listeners have been demanding from me ever since this series of programmes went out, making a considerable impact in the world, and particularly after the exclusive statements made to me by Monsieur Robert Galley, the Minister of Defence. ("It is incontestable that there are phenomena which are unexplained!")

I hope you will forgive me for not having advised you immediately after the theft of the tapes, but I was anxious at the time not to give too much publicity to the affair, hoping that in this way our enquiries would be facilitated.

Unfortunately however the thief has not been identified and is still at large.

Yours very cordially,
Jean-Claude Bourret

Monsieur Bourret has indeed lost no time. For the book in question⁴ is already out, and is a real blockbuster. I hope that all who read French will not fail to see it. It will certainly rank among the very few books — perhaps twenty or thirty — that are of capital importance for the study of our subject. The statements by Messrs Hynek, Vallée, Michel, Poher, Saunders, and Guérin will be of exceptional interest, and I hope to translate some or all of them in the near future. (As for the crucial statement by Monsieur Robert Galley, French Minister of Defence, I have dealt with that already, and the translation appears elsewhere in this edition of FSR.)

With regard to the actual UFO cases, humanoid encounters, etc., given in this book, I ought perhaps to emphasise here that most of them (Valensole;⁵ the UFO that buzzed Angelo Cellot and his tractor;⁶ the little "black devils" of Cussac,⁷ and so on) are probably already known to FSR readers, having already appeared in either *Lumières Dans La Nuit* or *Phénomènes Spatiaux* and subsequently in translations made by us from those two excellent French journals. As I have already suggested, the great value of this book for our readers will therefore lie rather in the statements of the various scientists and researchers and, obviously of course, most of all in the revelations now made by the French Minister of Defence. (Incidentally, these revelations only bear out what we were saying years ago in FSR, namely that France had a government department studying the UFO problem ever since 1954.)

The Sky Watch

Before we move on to deal with other matters arising out of the *France-Inter* broadcasts, this seems the appropriate moment to mention something else which will in all likelihood give as much pleasure to many FSR readers as it did to me.

During several of the evening programmes leading

up to March 22 (the concluding broadcast of the series), *France-Inter* announced to their vast listening audience that, on the following night, i.e. Saturday, March 23, 1974, they proposed, in collaboration with *Lumières Dans La Nuit*, to hold a skywatch throughout the whole of France, from 9.00 p.m. until midnight. The participating public were urged, in several of these announcements, to remain alert on the night in question, as many as possible with loaded cameras at the ready to snap a UFO, and to send in their photos and reports of their sightings to the ORTF as soon as possible.

By the time that Saturday, March 23 arrived, millions of people throughout France knew about the skywatch, and tens of thousands took part in it, clutching their cameras.

And the result? "Not a single sausage!" as the saying goes. Throughout the length and breadth of France not one single person claimed to have seen or photographed a UFO that night.

So much, then, for the thesis, often advanced by our critics, that talk of UFO sightings generates other UFO sightings, and that the phenomenon snowballs, folk seeing UFOs everywhere through suggestibility and "because they want to see them."

The purpose of ORTF and LDLN in holding the skywatch was to test this thesis. (Naturally they did not say so until afterwards.)

A Tragedy

Passing now to the other aspects which I mentioned, it is necessary to record that, to the mystery of the filched tapes and the fun of the skywatch that proved its point, there is added tragedy.

One of the influential "interviewees," whose opinions on the UFO Problem "somebody" evidently thought it necessary to suppress, was the eminent Cardinal Jean Daniélou of the Roman Catholic Church: a man noted for his great scholarship, his enormous integrity, his courage, and who was one of those Cardinals already rated — to employ the Italian term — as *papabile*, i.e. of such a stature as to be capable of being made Pope one day.

This profound philosopher and eminent Hellenist, who (while I cannot say that we know what ideas he actually held on UFOs) at any rate believed in the Universality of Life and Spirit, the Plurality of Worlds, and the existence of Higher Intelligences in the Cosmos, was to die of a heart attack — so it stated on May 20, 1974, just a few weeks after the radio series and, so it is claimed, in strange circumstances for a Cardinal of the Church. For, according to a version published by the newspaper *Le Canard Enchaîné*, he died in the Paris apartment of one of those ladies who are described as being not of the highest virtue, and it seems moreover that he was carrying a large sum of money upon his person at the time.⁸

Naturally the Cardinal's reputation has been ruined, and the floodgates opened for a mass of speculation, much of it slanderous. What seems quite certain is that, had the Cardinal been in search of the mere pleasures of the flesh, he would scarcely

have needed to have recourse to this particular type of lady, nor is it conceivable that he would have conducted his activities in quite so vulnerable and indiscreet a fashion.

Far more likely is it (as I am assured from a very competent source) that Cardinal Daniélou was carrying the large sum of money because he was trying to rescue somebody else, maybe a friend or colleague, from a blackmail trap, and thus fell into disaster himself. A campaign is now under way in France to discredit him and to dishonour his name, his memory, his writings.

The motive for stealing the tapes

One French UFO investigator, whose opinion is valued highly, thinks that it is all of no importance, and merely due to "rivalry between journalists."

But another eminent French investigator considers that the motive for this "mini-Watergate" lies far deeper than that. In his view, whoever lifted the unused pile of tapes evidently had no objection to the earlier airings of remarkable UFO experiences by many witnesses, or to the broadcasting of the views of such prominent scientists as Dr. Pierre Guérin, Dr. Claude Poher, Dr. Jacques Vallée, the radio-astronomer Dr. Jean-Claude Ribes (of CNRS, the French National Space Research Centre), Patrick Aumedieu (also a CNRS researcher), Dr. Rémy Chauvin, Professor of Biology at the Sorbonne, and the palaeontologist Jean-Michel Dutuit (also of CNRS). Presumably the views of all, or some, of these folk — at any rate certainly those of Vallée, Guérin, and Poher — were already so well known throughout France that any further ventilation of them now was not held to be particularly dangerous or inconvenient. What — according to this theory — the theft was designed to prevent was the dissemination to millions of French, and other European listeners, of the fact that similar views about UFOs are held by foreign experts of the calibre of Dr. J. Allen Hynek, late consultant to the U.S. Air Force on UFOs, and Dr. David Saunders, psychologist and dissenting minority view holder who was sacked from the Condon Commission because he had laid bare some dirty tricks.

Aimé Michel's tape was also taken, despite the fact that his views are already so well known throughout the world.

However, a third theory is also possible. For it is an interesting point, worth noting, that running through no less than three⁹ of the statements on the stolen tapes there is a certain common theme. This theme relates to a possible source of the UFOs, or of some of them. Is this why the tapes were taken? (So far as I can see, none of the speakers on those tapes which did get broadcast had touched upon this particular possible source for the UFOs, or some of them.)

If this third hypothesis is correct, does it then mean that "somebody" already knew in advance what the tapes contained? Has not John Keel suggested¹⁰ that "somebody" might have the whole of our electromagnetic field under permanent surveillance? If this admittedly speculative reasoning is correct, then it looks as though "somebody" is

mighty anxious that we Earthlings do not learn the truth about "something," which, I suggest, might relate to the 64-billion-dollar question: *who owns and controls this planet...and us?*

Seeing that such a key figure as the French Minister of Defence himself had quite cheerfully let the cat out of the bag during the programme by admitting not only that UFOs exist but that the French Government has been studying them since 1954, it is hardly sensible to argue that the pilferages of the tapes can have been the work of the French Intelligence or Security authorities (who are, anyway, themselves under the Ministry of Defence).

If John Keel's thoughts about the "permanent monitoring of our electromagnetic field" are well-founded, then could some of the "others" — one can think, for example, of the so-called MIB — be behind the pilfering of the tapes? Do certain terrestrial government agencies do their bidding (be it consciously, or unconsciously, makes no great difference) having long ago been taken over?

As has been patent throughout all the years since the famous Robertson Panel of scientists was set up by the CIA in January 1953 to supervise and speed the process of "debunking the UFOs at every opportunity" in the public mind,¹¹ the CIA have conducted themselves with notable ruthlessness against UFO eyewitnesses and UFO investigators, and have been prepared to go to great lengths to secure their ends. (In this respect they are no different from their much more formidable and much more professional rivals, the KGB, and it is worth recalling that while they fight one another on the general world scene, they could well be in close collaboration on UFO matters; after all, Dr. Condon was in touch with his opposite number at the Soviet Academy of Sciences in 1968 after wide publicity had been given to UFO research activities in the Soviet Union, and the clamp-down by the Academy of Sciences on discussions of UFOs — announced in *Pravda*¹² — came just a few months before the attempted Kiss of Death of the Condon Report.)

The lengths to which the CIA have gone have been brought out in Major Donald Keyhoe's books, and nowhere better than in the last one,¹³ which can be strongly recommended to all who desire to know more about the Dirty Tricks Brigade, and their campaigns of slander and menace designed to ruin the reputations, careers, and lives of "dangerous" witnesses. The case of the airline pilot Captain Killian is a prime example. Also the cases of Captain Ruppelt, himself formerly in charge of Project Blue Book, who was obliged to re-write the later chapters of his book *The Report On Unidentified Flying Objects* (1956) and totally reverse his conclusions! Then, too, we have the example of Vice-Admiral R.H. Hillenkoetter, USN, Ret'd., (*himself a former Head of the CIA!*) who was forced to sever his connexions with NICAP and give up his position on their Governing Board.¹⁴

Ralph and Judy Blum's new Bantam paperback¹⁵ (another blockbuster) which came out early this year also has some forthright things to say about these matters, and about the notorious Condon Committee.

Publicity for the French broadcasts

As will be clear, the whole series of broadcasts, and especially the revelations of the French Minister of Defence, had quite a *retentissement* in France. To our own knowledge, the Minister's statement figured under banner headlines in the newspapers *France-Soir*, *Le Parisien Libéré*, *L'Aurore*, and *Le Figaro*, and doubtless it was also reported in a host of French provincial papers of which we have no record. All of which shows conclusively that France is not merely the country where (as we knew already) the best calibre of brains and intellectual quality has been recruited to UFOlogy but also the country where the highest standard of honesty about the UFO Problem is displayed by the radio and television media and press, as well as the highest degree of honesty at governmental level, as is exemplified by Monsieur Robert Galley.

All of which does great honour to France, home of intellectual liberty, inheritor *par excellence* of the Mantle of Hellas.

And what was the effect here in Britain of the thirty-nine-day series of broadcasts and the Minister's statement?

Answer: Precisely nil. Obviously the matter was "very well taken care of" here, because we have not seen, up to the date when I write this (July 20), the slightest shred of indication that either the broadcasts or the Minister's declaration have been reported or mentioned in any of the British Media.

Notes and References

- 1 *The Russell Photographs*, in FSR Vol. 13, No.1 (January/February 1967.)
- 2 Charles Bowen: *The Annapurna-Pokhara UFO "Ballet"*, in FSR Vol. 19, No.4 (July/August 1973).
- 3 Jean-Claude Bourret (editor): *La Nouvelle Vague Des Soucoupes Volantes*. Editions France-Empire, 68 rue Jean-Jacques-Rousseau, 75001, Paris. (English translation of title: *The New Flying Saucer Wave*.)
- 4 Charles Bowen: *A Significant Report from France*. FSR Vol. 11, No.5 (September/October 1965), and Aimé Michel and Charles Bowen: *A Visit to Valensole*, FSR Vol. 14, No.1 (January/February 1968).
- 5 *UFOs with Multiple Beams of Light*, FSR Vol. 18, No.3. (May/June 1972).
- 6 Joel Mesnard and Claude Pavy: *Encounter with "Devils"*. FSR Vol. 14, No.5 (September/October 1968).
- 7 From one of our most trustworthy sources in France I have also received a clipping from another newspaper, *Le Figaro*, of July 5, 1974. The article, headed *A Martyr*, is signed by Claude Mauriac and contains the following extraordinary story which will interest students of parapsychology:

A few weeks before his death, when Cardinal Daniélou was dining with friends in Paris, a lady guest had "read his palm" for him. There were no less than ten witnesses. After gazing for a long time at his hand, the clairvoyante said: "You will be martyred...No. You will be calumniated."

- 8 The statements of Dr. Hynek, Dr. Saunders and myself. In discussing the possible *manipulation of Space and Time*, Dr. Vallée was also not far from the same theme.

- 10 John Keel: *Operation Trojan Horse* (1970).
- 11 Revealed by the late Dr. James E. McDonald 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).
- 12 See "World Round-up" in FSR Vol. 14, No.3 (May/June 1968) on page 29: a report extracted from the *Glasgow Evening Times* of March 12, 1968.
- 13, Major Donald Keyhoe, USMC., Ret'd: *Aliens from Space...The real story of Unidentified Flying Objects*, Doubleday & Co. Inc., Garden City, N.Y., Autumn 1973. \$7.95.
- 15 Ralph Blum and Judy Blum: *Beyond Earth: Man's contact with UFOs*, Bantam Book paperback T8734, price \$1.50. (Bantam Books Inc., 666 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10019.) A British edition is due soon from Corgi Books.

PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT

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WANTED URGENTLY personal accounts of actual out-of-body experiences, preferably with awareness of vibrations, sense of powerful energies, and humming or other sounds. Object is pooling information, conscious development, research into possible link with UFO activity. BM/ASTRABEAM, London, WC1V 6XX.

WANTED: FSR Vol.13 No.3, Vol.14 Nos. 4 and 6, Vol.16 No.4 Offer: 75p each. Also required are earlier FSR issues featuring articles by John A. Keel, Yvonne Hegstad, 18, Rodenhurst Road, London, S.W.4 8AR.

UTs: CAN ANYBODY inform me as to whether there exists in London, a club/research association working on the problem of UFOs and related phenomena within the ultra-terrestrial framework? Yvonne Hegstad, 18, Rodenhurst Road, London, SW4 8AR.

WANTED: FSR SPECIAL ISSUE NO. 2 in good condition. Your price paid. D. Smith, 7, Broadhead Road, Deepcar, Sheffield, S30 5PL, Yorks.

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SOME RECENT WELSH CASES

F. W. Holiday

THE prevalence of UFOs over Wales seems to be widespread and — according to Vincent Kane, “anchor-man” of BBC Wales — is increasing. Several sightings and what seems to have been a landing have occurred within the last year or so particularly in the Cwmbrian area. Vincent Kane says: “Whatever they are — flying saucers, UFOs — they’ve been seen in all parts of Wales. A sighting was reported recently in Prestatyn, another off the west coast of Wales and another was seen in Monmouthshire. Many sightings have been near military establishments such as Aberporth. The latest in Wales was at Croespenmaen above an empty advance factory. There had been an earlier sighting at Croespenmaen by a group of local people a few months ago and then a further sighting by Mr. Glanmor Bebb.”

Kane continued: “Mr. Bebb had been working in the stables near his home, which is isolated. On this occasion it was in the evening of a very clear night. Mr. Bebb set off for home and then paused and sat on a bank to watch the sunset. It was then he saw his unidentified flying object — just above the government advance factory about 400 yards away.”

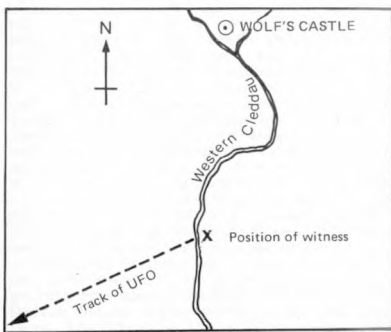
Mr. Bebb said: “What made it very funny to me was the way it was hovering quietly. It went down, rising...it seemed to be exerting pressure as it was going down and suction as it was rising up. I was watching it for ten minutes just going up and down and then, all at once, it flashed across the sky at tremendous speed and I counted...in four seconds it reached the horizon. You couldn’t define an actual object — it was more like a haze. I called the wife

and she described it as a yellow light like a saucer.”

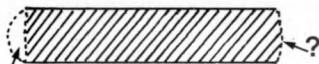
David Allen, the BBC’s representative in West Wales, told me that he found the reports interesting and impressive because of the confirmatory evidence. For instance on January 6, 1966, several fishermen, including myself, were at Saundersfoot harbour when we saw a strange illuminated object skimming a few feet above the waves heading towards Ireland. A woman lying in bed looked out of her window and also saw this object. An aircraft coming over from Shannon observed an unidentified light over the southern Irish Sea a little later in the night, as did the crew of a London plane heading for Shannon. When these reports were radioed back to shore, a minor alarm was raised enough to cause the Fishguard lifeboat to turn out. Mr. Allen himself was put on the alert at the prospect of a news story. The lifeboat however found nothing, and Mr. Allen expressed the belief that the entire incident was inexplicable.

Lights in the sky should obviously be regarded with some caution. There is no doubt that reflections coming off the contrails of high-flying aircraft have been mistaken for UFOs and a case of this sort occurred in South Wales recently. The researcher however has no need to waste time on reports of what may in fact have been sightings of Skylab, satellites and helicopters when there are plenty of much harder cases in the files. I found it impossible to get this point over to Dr. Phil Williams, the physicist of Aberystwyth University, who argues that all of us have our flying saucer stories and that these always turn out to be objects or phenomena that can be explained in normal terms. Two recent cases show that this can hardly be so.

Michael Browning, an industrial chemist aged 44 was fly-fishing on the Western Cleddau river in Pembrokeshire one evening in early August, 1972. He was having trouble with his casting and in consequence was glancing at the tip of his rod as it went up above his head. Suddenly he became aware of an object in the sky overhead. At first he paid little attention, being absorbed in the fishing, until he glanced a second time and saw it was still there. It appeared to be cylindrical, and was a dark grey or dark brown in colour. At one end it seemed to have an orange spot and, while he watched it, it suddenly started to move. It accelerated and moved away rapidly in a south-westerly direction. Mr. Browning stressed the fact that the object was stationary and that the acceleration began slowly and increased rapidly. He described the object as “something not normal” and says he had never seen anything like it before. He heard no sound of any sort from the object. He says he finds it hard to estimate the length of the cylinder because its altitude was unknown and there was no point of reference. Even so, he feels it was not very high and he was able to



Map showing the location of Michael Browning's sighting



Orange spot (was in trailing position before departure)

Wolf's Castle UFO after sketch by Michael Browning. He was not sure whether the leading edge was pointed or not.

follow the first part of its departure over the landscape before it flashed out of view. He had no subjective sensation of being watched or observed.

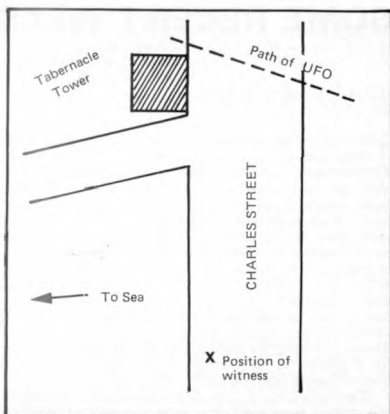
The witness in this case is a personal friend and I know the location of the sighting, near Wolf's Castle, very well indeed. The experimental rocket station at Aberporth is about 25 miles away to the NE. If this station has been able to develop a soundless missile able to hover over the earth and is prepared to fire such a projectile over populated areas, contrary to all regulations, then the Wolf's Castle object may have been one of these. This seems to me most unlikely. It seems even more unlikely in view of the fact that I used to know the Lt. Colonel in charge of the Aberporth rocket-pads socially some years ago, and he told me of various puzzling objects that had been detected by his radar scanners at various times. Details of course were hidden under the Official Secrets Act and it is under cover of this sort of censorship that sceptics such as the U.S. Air Force, Dr. Phil Williams and the Nuffield Radio Astronomy Laboratories at Jodrell Bank are able to do their negative sniping.

However the problem may be more complex than we suppose as another Welsh case shows. Upholders of the "nuts and bolts" theory are urged to study it with great care.

On a mid-summer morning in 1959, Mr. D. J. Harris, an area insurance agent, was walking down Charles Street in Milford Haven at about 11.00 a.m. About a hundred yards ahead of him, on his side of the street, was the 70 foot high tower of the Tabernacle chapel. Suddenly he heard the sort of whispering sound one would associate with a low-flying glider. Simultaneously an object appeared above



Milford UFO after sketch by D.J. Harris



Location of D.J. Harris at the time of his sighting at Milford Haven

the buildings on the right hand side of the street, roughly opposite the chapel, and he had a very clear view of it. It was following a downward path and was about 50 feet from the ground. He describes it as enormous, and says it must have been 150 feet in diameter. It was a metallic grey in colour rather like weathered aluminium. This object was travelling quite slowly and was spinning equally slowly, so much so that Mr. Harris thinks he saw only a part of one revolution while it was in view. The object was in the form of a flattened ellipse and around the widest part of the diameter appeared deep scallops or fluting. Although the object was rotating it didn't alter the profile it was presenting to the observer, and Mr. Harris agrees that this suggests that the plan-view must have been circular. This object was in plain view for at least 10 seconds as it sailed low over the street before disappearing behind the Tabernacle tower. The amazed witness at once ran down the street believing that the thing, whatever it was, had crashed into the waters of the Haven, since this is where its downward track must have ended. However when he reached the chapel and could look at the sea there was nothing whatever in sight. Nor was anything ever reported.

This case seems to me to be one of particular interest. I have interviewed Mr. Harris at great length and am convinced he saw what he describes. However I am quite unable to believe that an object of this size, moving almost at street level, was generally visible at Milford that summer morning. There are just too many people around and too many pairs of binoculars on ships for it to be possible. Mr. Harris agrees about this. We are really forced to the conclusion that no-one saw this UFO except the witness and that, in fact, it was visible

only to him. If so, this invests flying discs with a curious new quality. Like the ghost which may be visible to some witnesses but not to others, the Milford UFO may be offering us a gratis clue as to its real nature.

In the course of conversation I found that Mr. Harris had certain psychological qualities such as the ability to dowse. He was also keenly interested in the possible implications of what he had seen. However he had never seen a UFO before, nor has he seen one since; nor has the sighting affected his way of life. One wonders therefore how the observer comes to be selected as an observer, and what laws are involved. Is it what T. C. Lethbridge called resonance — a question of being on the right mental waveband at the right time? Are saucers in fact devices for lowering the frequency of beings normally existing on a much higher frequency-band in the scale of cosmic existence? Do the hard landing cases followed

by the eventual flying away and disappearance simply show the process going through a full cycle?

The investigator in Wales is impressed by the fact that so many people have had UFO experiences of one sort or another; yet these are reported outside the family only rarely. One wonders how many thousands of such encounters occur with no-one being any the wiser. The unknown flying object is still with us and probably has always been with us. My latest report is from a dentist who told me that he was standing with friends overlooking St. Brides bay when they saw a UFO in the form of a saucer above the sea. He was sufficiently impressed to amass a large collection of UFO books in an effort to make sense of the phenomenon. I can only suggest that Dr. Williams and other sceptics forget what they know and concentrate on what they don't know. Because, quite clearly, they are missing something.

BOOK REVIEW

WHERE ARE THE NEW THEORIES?

I. Grattan-Guinness

ONE of the more striking features of current research into ufology and its history is that interconnections are being established between previously separate areas of extra-scientific phenomena and human activity, which can then be regarded as branches of a more unified range of accomplishments. Man who sees flying saucer may also be man who can read minds or dematerialise bodies or have visions, or whatever; and, moreover, this may always have been the case. Those ordinary members of our modern democratic (or better, our non-hereditarily monarchical) societies who possess such gifts may be the descendants of ancient kings, angels, or higher beings, who ruled by virtue of their greater powers over the ancestors of the rest of us.

Mr. John A. Keel's latest book, *Our Haunted Planet*, 1971, London: Neville Spearman 208 pp. £2.10, is one of the recent attempts to survey these separate areas of supernatural phenomena and seek a unifying explanation for them. Thus, we have chapters on ancient maps, civilisations and artefacts; unusual materials and planetary motions; Velikovsky; men in black; Mormonism and other "religions"; UFO contacts; magic and possession; unexplained radio signals; teleportations; and predictions.

Readers of Mr. Keel's previous book, *Operation Trojan Horse*, will already know that Keel favours the postulation of the "ultraterrestrials", species (one or many) from elsewhere who seeded our planet long ago and have kept us under regular surveillance ever since. However, this thesis seems to carry certain distinctions which Keel did not fully examine. Are the ultraterrestrials supposed to come

here from far distant regions of the universe? If so, then we require quite new theories of energy conversion and the transportation of masses. Or do the ultraterrestrials share our space but move in and out of it? If so, then we need a theory of different interacting physics; geometry itself is not enough, for I can easily postulate a million different universes in the space of my drawing-room if none of them interacts physically with ours.

In his new book Mr. Keel has not made progress with his thesis, for he has submerged it in the range of phenomena which he has described rather than used it to select those phenomena which form its most striking tests. For this reason, I found the book less penetrating than its predecessor and more like general books on the problem written by others. In many ways it is better than other books, for Keel works harder at his subject than most people and knows more about it than they do. But much of this knowledge is compromised by his frequent failure to refer the reader to other literature on a topic receiving discussion or mention. Indeed, he makes a bad start with a display of enthusiasm for the Piri-Reis map which the map does not seem to deserve.*

On the whole I was disappointed that Keel did not aim toward heights of which he is surely capable. But his book does contain passages of great interest which must make the reader ponder afresh on the possible hauntings of this planet and the control that they might be exercising over us.

* See P.C.W. Davies, "The Piri-Reis map; fact and fiction", *Flying Saucer Review*, 18 (1972), No.2, pp.21-23.

LUMINOUS "SNAILS" NEAR TRAUNSTEIN, AUSTRIA

Ernst Berger

A report on a field investigation conducted by the author and Rudolf K. Pavlik of Vienna

TRAUNSTEIN, which is in the Zwettl district, is a small rural community on a range of hills overlooking the "Highlands of Ottenschlag," a southern part of the "Waldviertel Highlands" in the north west corner of Lower Austria. Nine hundred and eleven metres above the Adriatic Sea level, Traunstein is surrounded by coniferous forests, lakes, and open fields. The region is littered with boulders, the so-called "Wackelsteine," which are large, roundish, weather-worn rocks typical of the Waldviertel landscape. Geologically it belongs to the Austrian part of the Bohemian Massif, an uplifted peneplain made up of strongly metamorphosed schists. The village of Traunstein is situated 8 kms NE of Mt. Weinsberg (1039 metres high), which is covered by the Weinsberger Woods, a wild and sparsely populated area 9 kms West of Ottenschlag and 25 kms SSW of the Allentsteig military training ground near Zwettl (chief city) by the River Kamp, a deserted and cold region known as one of Austria's "zero degree poles." Industrial underdevelopment, "landflight" and a low population density in the Zwettl district make the Traunstein sightings a good example for Vallée's "first negative law," though no landing was observed.

Johann Pritz (age 21), the main witness of our case, is a compositor at a printing works at Zwettl. His brother Gerhard is a skilled locksmith of 16 years. Both are intelligent country lads with good eyesight, somewhat taciturn, but perfectly reliable in my opinion. They live with their mother in a small farmhouse between two groups of "Wackelsteine" known as the *Wachtstein* and the *Franzosenstein*, and near to a double bend in the minor road leading out of the western side of Traunstein, towards Schoenbach, the next village.

The first sighting

According to Vienna's Central Meteorological Station, "Hohe Warte," a stable European high pressure system had full influence on Austrian weather throughout the night of October 28/29, 1973. The local weather report from the Zwettl station reads: "28.10; 19 hrs - no clouds, calm, -2°, no precipitation. 29.10; 07 hrs - clouds 1/8 calm, -6°, no precipitation, minimum nighttime temperature -7°."

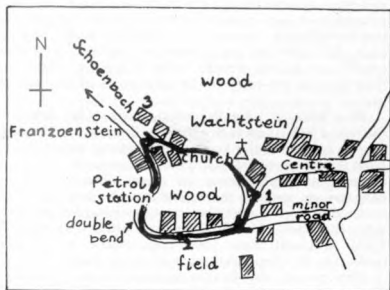
It was a cold, starry night with excellent visibility, no moon after midnight, and only Mars and

Jupiter in the sky. Johann Pritz went to bed at 8.00 p.m. Central European Time and slept well until 0.30 a.m. on Monday, October 29, when he started up. His friend Karl Fichtinger was knocking at the bedroom window.

"He wanted me to come out and look at an extraordinary thing in the southern sky. I dressed, went outside, and there it was. You might have taken it for a star at first glance, but watching it more carefully you would see it was much nearer, giving off a different light and strange periodical light 'signals.' I got my 8 x 40 binoculars and aimed them at the 'star' over the woods." It was some kind of luminous globe with fuzzy edges, hanging motionless at 9° elevation. The yellow-orange light looked calm and steady, not dazzling, but "restful to the eyes."

Said Pritz: "The whole surface was shining brightly, you could hardly see its shape. And it was artificial light, bright enough to catch the eye at once. But the striking detail was the signal."

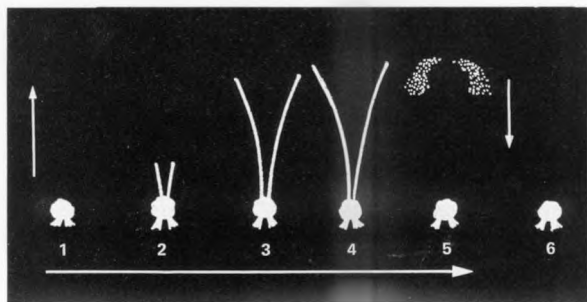
The so-called signal consisted of two beams of curved light that were slowly projected upwards from the main body. It was hard for Johann Pritz to describe the details. "Well..." he said, "it looked



Map of Traunstein

1. Prospect Point
2. Observation Point 17.11.73
3. Pritz's House

→ route of October 29



"Signal"
Phases 1 - 6

At phase 4, the tips of the "feelers" turned green. At phase 5, a green mist fell sideways, then the rays were gone.

like a pair of snail feelers. The two orange-yellow beams came out - they were light, *but crept up slowly* - and were projected upwards and bent outwards high up. Then they stopped moving, the two tips turned faint green, a green mist fell down sideways, then the rays were gone. There followed a delay of about 5 seconds and then the game started again - extending, stopping, turning green, and switching off, periodically."

Pritz said the "feelers" were about 4 or 5 times the diameter of the fuzzy globe, but a goniometric test on the site later revealed he was rather underestimating, the length being 6 to 7 diameters. And they were not only high, but perfectly clear, "...like two lines drawn with a piece of chalk, with only the dark sky in between them."

The light, it seemed, wasn't solid, but it behaved like a solid. Herr Pritz had never seen anything like it before.

In our investigation I asked him to re-live both phases of interest in "real time," first a bit too slowly, then a bit too quickly, and used my stopwatch for the test. We got 7 - 10 seconds for a complete "extension" and the tips turned yellow-green 2 or 3 seconds before "switch-off." The second test, for the dark phase, showed a greater variance; the beams reappeared after 2 to 5 seconds. The maximum duration for a full period would be 15 seconds, which means at least four "signals" per minute. Pritz also remembered that there were short beams shining constantly downwards from the bottom of the object, and a slight shift of colours towards green and red on the edges (compare with second sighting), but it was a minor effect, and much more exposed to subjective errors.

Johann Pritz had no explanation for what he was seeing. It was not a conventional aircraft, or a satellite, and the idea of a star with "feelers" would be hard to believe. They saw lots of shooting stars that night (orionids and taurids - EB), but they could tell the difference. And temperatures were low in the open; "we wouldn't stay out there for nothing," they added.

It turned out that Fichtinger told Pritz that he had first seen the object around about 11.30 p.m.

on Sunday. He had also pointed it out to a couple of neighbours.

The two friends decided to continue their watch. They went up to Wachtstein, passed the Catholic Church at Traunstein, and stopped at a prospect-point on the steep access road leading to the centre of Traunstein. From this point there is a wide view over the heavily wooded highlands to the south and east. Some minutes later they strolled down the access road, reached the minor road, walked around the double bend approaching the Pritz house and up to Wachtstein again. "We kept up that route for the rest of the night, and tried to oversee what was going on up there. And there certainly was something going on!"

At about 2.00 a.m. the object to the south went into operation. Pritz watched it carefully: "Suddenly a red dot...well...detached itself from the bottom of the globe moved away to the east at breakneck speed. I don't think an aircraft would fly as fast." (We saw an Austrian military jet manoeuvring to the south in full daylight at the time of our investigation, so Herr Pritz knew what he was saying.) He continued: "I kept my eyes glued to it, but suddenly it was gone. The red light went out. Just a few moments later the light flashed up again. It had changed to a bright yellow-orange, like the object to the south, and it started to give off the same strange signals. It really puzzled me."

The trajectory was interesting: the red dot first did a vertical descent of 4 or 5 degrees, then it raced off towards Ottenschlag on a horizontal course, stopped, disappeared, a fuzzy globe reappearing which gave off the first "signals" and then descended until it reached its final hovering point at 4 or 5 degrees elevation in the east. The red dot had no definite shape; it looked like an aircraft running light, but steadily shone the colour of carmine, as our colour test revealed later.

Pritz and Fichtinger arrived at the prospect-point. Two objects hovering in the sky now, the possible "mother ship" in the south (Pritz wasn't sure whether the red dot came out of it, or from behind), and the "missile" over the Ottenschlag region to the east. Both objects continued their

monotonous signals, so the friends looked away, and around the heavens. When they turned to the west they got their next shock on seeing a new, huge object.

The access road runs down towards the south west. The first house to the right after passing the prospect-point is a two-storied country house with two pylons carrying electric cables over the rooftop. A dark object was hovering in the direction over pylon one. I asked Pritz to sketch it, and this he did with some hesitation: "I'm no artist, you see. It was a flattened structure with what looked like an armoured turret of a tank on top, but without a gun-barrel."

He was drawing a classical domed disc.

"It was very near and, you know, I wasn't drunk. I had gone to bed at 8.00 p.m. We couldn't believe our eyes any longer, and I asked Karl: 'What are you seeing?' And he told me, to which I could reply, yes, that's it, you see what I see. It must be true."

Quite a spectacular sight for two country lads who have never read a book on the topic, and have seen only a few sketchy press reports about it. The disc with its clearly outlined upper curvature plus dome, was hanging in the WSW at 17° elevation (+2°), enveloped in a diffuse, yellowish light, which seemed to come from behind. Its lower line was curved rather than straight, and rather indistinct as the yellowish light reached peak brilliance there. The surface had a violet-black colour, and it "surely was solid material, and nothing fuzzy like the two others." But that wasn't all: from the dark cupola

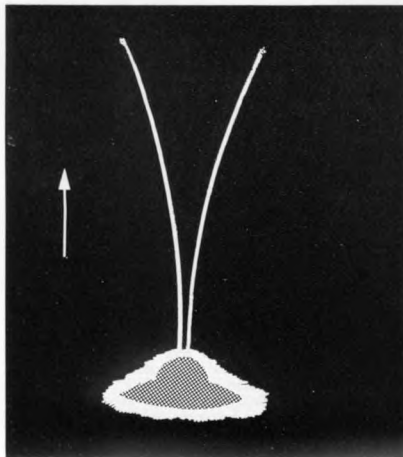
two "feelers" of curved light went up into the night sky, achieved their green tips, vanished, and came out again at a stretch.

Said Pritz: "It was at that moment that I thought: 'That is a controlled operation! They're emitting the same light signals, and belong together.'"

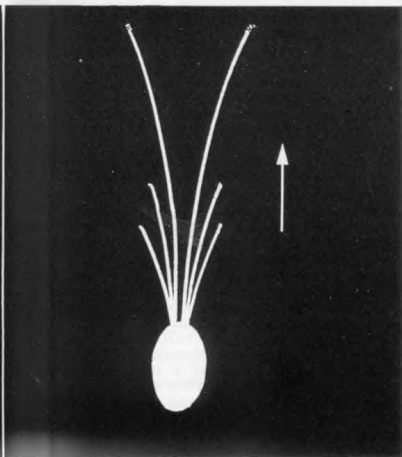
He had no idea how far away the disc was, but it seemed quite close at hand. His goniometric test results gave us a diameter of 35 metres for the maximum distance, i.e. 2 kilometres. "I was glad to have waited such a long time. It was quite impressive and we didn't pay much attention to the eastern object any more."

Consequently they failed to see the next manoeuvre there. Turning around after a while, Pritz and Fichtinger spotted three smaller globes near the "missile," one to the left and two to the right, making up a "chain" with regular intervals. "And they were all giving off the same signals...in the same time." This was the full operation now: six objects were in the sky, the domed disc to the WSW, the "mother ship" to the SSE, the "missile" to the East with the three newcomers around it. All were completely noiseless, and were a remarkable sight, "...like bright mercury vapour street lamps. You would pass a house, or a group of trees, and lose sight of them, but find them again at a glance. It looked as if they were all standing at the same altitude, but only in the southern hemisphere. We searched the northern sky, but found nothing."

I examined his idea afterwards, and must say it wasn't irrational. Suppose the disc hovered 2 kms



Domed disc — (Phase 4)



Object seen on November 17 — first variation



Map of the Traunstein locality south of Zwettl

away at 500 metres altitude (=17°) and the other objects kept the same level, the "missile" would be 6 kms away, right over the Zwettl – Martinsberg railway line and near the Ottenschlag crossing, whereas the "mother ship" would be at 3 kms distance.

It was nearly 3.00 a.m. when a solitary car came down the road. It did not stop, but kept to a certain route, just like the two friends were doing. "He was driving the same stretch over and again, and we couldn't see the reason why." Somewhat later two other persons approached. Said Pritz: "We tried to show them what was going on, but they were pretty blue, and called us 'nuts'." And the two "nuts" remained the only witnesses, no matter how hard they tried to draw the attention of other people. "We knocked at doors trying to wake someone up, but nobody cared. Maybe they took us for drunkards or burglars. Anyway, a highland village isn't the safest of spots at 3.00 a.m. so finally we gave up."

The six objects "signalled" on and on. Then, at about 3.30 a.m. the "missile" moved again. The "signal" stopped, the yellow-orange light went out, the red dot appeared, descended and dashed away, this time in the opposite direction, that is to the south. "First," said Pritz, "I thought: 'Look, it's flying back to the big one' (the 'mother ship'—EB) but it passed under it and went off into the west at a dizzy speed. We lost sight of it after a few seconds.

Five objects remained and continued their mission, whatever that was. Then "...gradually the three smaller objects standing in line started to move, very slowly, but easily visible, southbound (along the railroad track?—EB).

At 4.30 a.m. on October 29, after five hours of observation by Fichtinger and four hours by Pritz, the friends went home. The three globes had travelled to the southeast and kept their altitude and formation



The driveway to Pritz's House

at 150° azimuth. The "mother ship" and domed disc were still motionless. Pritz said goodbye to Fichtinger and went to the porch of his house. "I looked up at the sky a last time and all was to be seen very clearly. As it was Monday morning, and a working day, I entered the house and returned to bed, but I couldn't sleep. I looked out again at 6.00 a.m. (about 30 minutes before sunrise) and the objects were gone."

From the first moment of Fichtinger's observation until 4.30 a.m. the "mother ship" must have given off at least 1,200 "signals," the domed disc had emitted 550, and the "missile" a minimum of 360.

Publicity

Things took their usual course. Pritz told his colleagues at the printing works about the hair-raising night, and they 'phoned the editor of the *Zwettler Nachrichten* (the local newspaper). Pritz was interviewed for *Landesrundschau*, a weekly transmission of Oesterreich Regional (second programme of the Austrian Radio and Television Company "ORF"). The broadcast went out on October 31, 1973, and star reporter Ossy Wanka asked Professor Meurers, the director of Vienna's university Observatory, for a statement. Meanwhile the story had reached *Kurier*, a popular Vienna newspaper, which published the negative comment of a second astronomer. *Zwettler Nachrichten* contributed one of the most stupid articles I have ever read, and the discussion cooled off until mid-November.

We had arranged for a field investigation with Johann Pritz on November 18, 1973, and drove to Traunstein that fine Sunday morning. Snow had fallen over the Waldviertel Highlands in the meantime, and it was difficult to keep the car on the icy road. At 10.10 a.m. we reached the Pritz's house. We were late and young Herr Pritz was already waiting for us in his green *Volkswagen*. A surprise awaited us as, looking a trifle shaken, he greeted us: "Good

morning! It's as well you've come today. We've seen it again yesterday evening. Perhaps we're all going crazy!" It seemed we had arrived in time for a "near hot-line investigation," for a multiple-witness sighting had taken place only 15 hours earlier. We had never had such a chance before, and we concentrated on the four main witnesses (the investigation we had planned to carry out envisaged sufficient time for the first sighting alone, and certainly not for interviews with the 10 witnesses involved in the second incident).

The second sighting

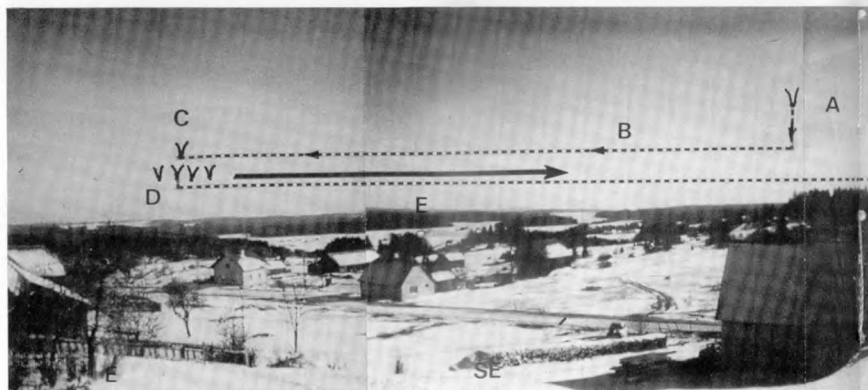
The weather was fine on the previous evening (November 17). A ridge from the British high pressure system had reached Central Europe in the morning, and precipitation had ceased in Lower Austria (the last snowfall at Traunstein had been on the Friday). The local weather report from the Zwettl station runs: "17.11; 19 hrs - no clouds, wind NW 24 kmh, 1°, no precipitation, maximum daytime temperature 4°." Sunset was at about 4.15 p.m. CET.

Shortly after 6.00 p.m. Johann Pritz was on his way home from a visit to Arbesbach (15 kms NW of Traunstein) driving his car along the minor road which runs between Schoenbach and Traunstein. Between Schoenbach and Ullrichschlag the road is southbound, running towards the vast Weinsberger Woods before bearing off to the east. "Suddenly it

struck my eyes. Something was hanging low over the trees to the south. It was an oblong, flattened shape standing on end, giving off the peculiar signals we'd seen before. I muttered 'it can't be true!' and looked away."

After his radio interview and press publicity Johann had been exposed to heavy ridicule in his small community: "They said we'd been drunk, or crazy, and seeing things," he said. "It's enough for one to see such a thing. One's reputation doesn't count. The press story was no advantage for me; people are highly sceptical, and only a few showed any interest. So I thought it over; was there any point in saying anything about this new object, so increasing my "madness?"

I stopped for a while at Ullrichschlag, got out of the car and watched the thing. It was there, over the woods, and the signals were the same. I drove on, and got home at about 6.15 p.m." He went in for his binoculars, and told his mother, who was watching television, to look out of the living-room window. He took his 8 x 40 field glass and went out again. He met his brother Gerhard who was with his friend Erich Leitgeb. Frau Pritz came to the window, and the four of them watched the object for a while before the good lady returned to the TV set. Johann had already decided on the next move: "We jumped into the car and drove to the Traunstein centre to get some more witnesses. I knew nobody would believe our story without such backing."



TRAUNSTEIN
PANORAMA

(Field investigation, November 18, 1973)

Within fifteen minutes Johann had found six respectable persons: Joseph Habegger (owner of the local department store), Frau Habegger, a third person from the store, Karl Fichtinger and Leopold Wagner. Karl Teuschl, the local tobacconist joined them after driving his car to the garage. The nine persons took their stand near a telephone pole on the minor road before the double bend. It proved to be a good observation point. The object was hovering some distance away (no estimate possible) at $5^{\circ} + 1^{\circ}$ elevation and $200/210^{\circ}$ azimuth in the direction of a depression in the treeline. They were able to observe its manoeuvres precisely.

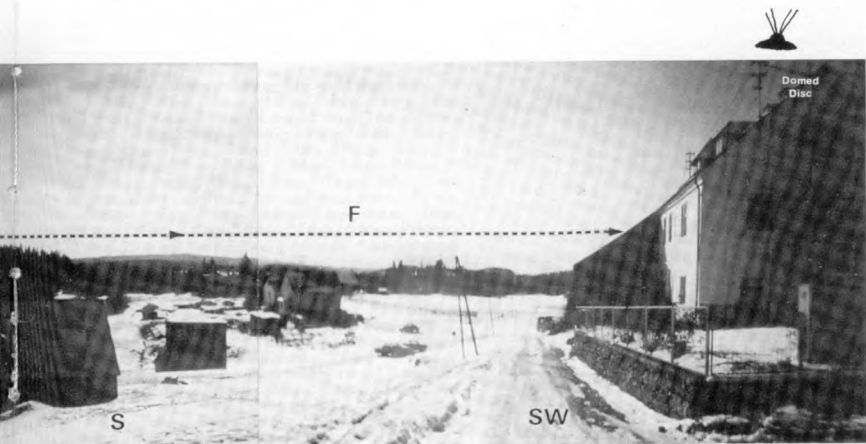
"It was even more peculiar than anything we'd seen the first night," said Johann Pritz. The main body was oblong and shining in a bright orange-yellow colour, light which seemed to originate at the outer surface. According to our goniometric test the diameter would have been 32 metres at a distance of 2.5 kms. Was it the domed disc again, now standing on end?

Johann Pritz added that Frau Habegger had also used field glasses, "but it wasn't necessary, for you could see enough with the naked eye, every detail." Two "feelers" were clearly visible among some minor "feelers" which were less high and prominent, and were in constant operation, as before. Their height was enormous — about 80 metres at the supposed distance (about $2^{\circ}40'$ in the night sky, i.e. five times the diameter of the full moon). A

second variation was the permanent shift of colours on the left and right of the main body. "A kind of fusion," as Johann put it. It seemed the light turned a sparkling red at the left, then it vanished and a yellowish green appeared on the right, vanished, and the whole process started again.

Later, Johann described the third, and most spectacular variation: "Suddenly the signals would stop, and the whole body would shrink away. It was like letting the air out of a toy balloon. The light dimmed, turned red more and more, as if it would cease glowing, burn out, and the whole thing nearly shrank to nothing. But a few moments before what was expected to be the end it would "inflate" itself rapidly, gradually resume its yellow-orange light, and the feelers would come out again."

A difficult process indeed, and a hard one for Austrian countrymen to believe. Whereas the "signal" (i.e. the "feelers") followed the old pattern of October 28/29 (7–10 seconds "projection," green tips, 2–5 seconds darkness, and so on) the "shrinking and inflating" process had a different frequency: from a "real time test" with Gerhard and Johann we learned that the "shrinking" took 3–7 seconds, and that the "inflating" was much faster. Both processes had their fixed duration, but the fully "inflated" state had not. Said Gerhard: "You would look at it for a minute or so until it shrank away again, but sometimes it signalled for about two minutes. Johann and his mother agreed with this.



Key:

- A. "Mothership" — descends
- B. Red dot trajectory 1 (2.00 a.m.)
- C. Stops

- D. "Missile" + 3 "newcomers"
- E. Slow movement of the "newcomers"
- F. Red dot trajectory 2 (3.30 a.m.)

No sound was heard during the whole of the operation.

Whatever it was, Traunstein object number seven carried out one of the most complex but apparently senseless missions I had ever heard of, and it was as well we were able to investigate the report only hours after alleged event.

Gerhard told us of a test conducted during the observation: "We asked each witness to look at a different spot in the sky while one of us continued to watch the object. When it turned red (shrinking process) the observer shouted 'Red'. Then we glanced at it all together, and it was okay, for we all saw the same every time."

Soon after seven o'clock, while the crowd stood staring in head-shaking silence, Johann remembered that he had promised to telephone the editor of the *Zwettler Nachrichten* should the "thing" come again, and he drove off to the nearest telephone booth. While he was away the group of watchers broke up, leaving just Gerhard and his friend Erich, but Frau Pritz, who had finished watching television, came out and joined them.

It was then, Gerhard Pritz told us, that "...it blinked red and green, shrank until it was small and blood red, and 'set' very slowly."

"Yes" said Leitgeb, "it sank towards the woods on a sloping course." Frau Pritz concurred, and added "in about four minutes it was gone."

The two youngsters ran to the centre to warn Johann, but fortunately he had been unable to get the connection to the newspaper editor.

When we arrived at Traunstein, the Pritz family was still in animated discussion about the observations and Frau Pritz finally remarked: "It was eerie. Is there going to be a new war?"

As for ourselves, we got a first (and last) impression of public attitudes at Traunstein when measurements we were making at the access road caused a jolly good laugh among the occupants of a nearby house. "Let them laugh," said Johann. "We now have all the corroboration we need."

Gerhard confessed: "I also made fun of it, you see, until yesterday evening..."

Comparative Phenomenology

The Traunstein "snail feelers" are a rare pattern, but no novelty, as we were to find out by searching our records for similar cases. APRO published a report on the Sullivan incident near Bealiba, Australia where, on April 4, 1966, a steel contractor was startled to see the headlight beams of his car "bent to the right" towards an object resting in the adjacent field. The APRO Bulletin of January-February 1971 gave a follow-up report plus sketches on the August 13, 1971, Maarup case in Denmark, where a "light cone was drawn into the thing" very slowly.

Remember too the excellent Taizé report by M. Lagarde, (a translation appeared in *FSR July-August 1973* p.16): the torchlight cone of a witness in the field was "deflected" by a strange "hedge" on August 12, 1972, and beams of light shining down from the main object looked like "pylons," i.e.

solid. Lagarde also mentioned he had investigated a 1968 case at Villiers-en-Morvan, where the beams of light had behaved like a solid.

Striking similarities are to be found in Reverend Cruttwell's excellent report on the 1958/59 New Guinea Wave (*FSR Special Issue No. 4 UFOs in Two Worlds*). On June 27, 1959, a bright object was seen from Baniara, with 3 shafts of green light emanating from the base. They were blotted out at regular intervals. According to the witness, Patrol Officer Smith, "they did not exactly flash on and off but seemed to lengthen and shorten in a most peculiar way, as if they were objects being protruded and withdrawn. They did not appear to be solid legs but only rays of light." An early case of the "solid light" and "snail feeler" phenomenon on the same night as the spectacular second Boianai sighting!

On August 3, 4 and 8, 1959, Mr. Smith saw his "snail" again, with the same "feelers," near Mapouna, Wakwapu and Biniguni: "These (the shafts of light - EB) seemed to recede into the object (they did not simply go out) and then re-appeared later."

We have to add that Mr. Pritz has never heard about FSR and, moreover, is not able to read English articles. Although it was issued in August 1971, we did not have the Special Issue No. 4 at home in late 1973. We ordered it in February 1974.

Strangely enough, on August 8, 1959, at Biniguni, a second fluctuation was observed: "During the time the light was stationary, it was not static. It appeared to expand and contract...When large the light appeared brighter, and when small dimmer. The same shafts of green light extended from the base of the object. It is possible that the object was approaching and receding in line with the observer, but I saw no lateral movement whatever."

And, last but not least, in *FSR Case Histories August 1973*, I came across the new SOBEPS investigation report (p.2) on spectacular Belgian sightings of July 4, 1972, among them a report from Ellezelles: Farmers observed "beams of light, having the shape of arcs in a circle". Now combine all phenomena quoted here (there are a lot of similar cases, too) and you'll get "slowly progressing, curved beams of solid-looking light" - the Traunstein snail feelers."

The "green tips" and the "green mist" in connection with "curved light" have no predecessors, however, and may be a clue to the physical solution of the "curved light mystery" sometime.

The "toy balloon shrinkage manoeuvre" is no brand new pattern either. I remember I once read about an object's strange disappearance that was described by the witness the same way. But I paid no special attention to it and could not find the case in my search.

Variable shape is reported every now and then. Perhaps the most famous episode is the Elmwood Park, Illinois, sighting (November 4, 1957), when an object apparently "folded into itself" and "puffed out" again. EM effects were present, but no periodicity of the "folding process" was observed, although the "egg" had a bright red-orange colour, like the

(Continued on page iii)

NOTES ON "URI," AND YET ANOTHER "CONTACTEE"

Charles Bowen

MY first meeting with **Andrija Puharich**, author of the book *Uri* (published 1974 by W.H. Allen & Co. Ltd., 44 Hill Street, London, W1X 8LB; 285 pages, price £2.95) was about five years ago. He was here on a brief visit and, before an invited audience including doctors and members of the press, he gave a lecture, supported by films, on the work of that remarkable Brazilian healer, Arigó.

However deeply impressed some of the pressmen might have been on that occasion, I cannot recall that any word of that lecture found its way into their newspapers; what I do recall is that one or two of the doctors present were quite hostile in their attitude to Dr. Puharich.

For the record, **Andrija Puharich**, a neurologist, is an MD with many years of hospital and laboratory experience behind him. He also implies that he lives comfortably from the proceeds of some 50 patented inventions, and now devotes himself to "...the full-time study of the mysterious powers of the human mind." This has brought him into contact with people like the remarkable paragnost Peter Hurkos, and the psychical surgeon Arigó and, of course, Uri Geller.

Arigó is alluded to many times in the book *Uri* — importantly, it will be seen — and this is one reason why I write about him now. I feel sure that had Dr. Puharich published a work on Arigó's miraculous feats at the time of his London talk, few would have believed him and he would have had a rough time at the hands of his colleagues in the medical profession. Yet, in itself, the subject of that lecture was not a new one to me, for there, with me at that time, were my friends Anne Dooley* and Gordon Creighton, who had both undergone spectacular operations performed by another Brazilian healer, Lourival de Freitas. I had also been present with scores of other witnesses when Lourival had performed an exploratory operation on one of Gordon's eyes.† His implements were a penknife and a teaspoon, and he used no anaesthetic. So I had no need to be convinced by the Puharich films, for it was obvious that when he spoke about Arigó's talents he was talking about something very real.

After the lecture I had a short talk with Dr.

Puharich and he told me that he had had a number of UFO experiences while studying Arigó in Brazil. It seemed at that time, however, that he knew relatively little about the UFO phenomenon as a whole.

The advent of Uri Geller

It was in the Spring of 1973 that reports began to filter through to us of the remarkable feats in the realm of ESP and mind-over-matter by a young Israeli named Uri Geller, and, not surprisingly, the itinerant researcher **Andrija Puharich** was at the heart of things. Because it was stated that UFOs were involved, **Gordon Creighton** and I became very interested in this, and an article was prepared, based on the material we had in hand, for the September-October, 1973, issue of *FSR*. It transpired that before this article had a chance to appear (thanks to our multifarious publishing problems) Uri Geller suddenly and staggeringly became known to millions of people in the United Kingdom. That was when he took part in **David Dimbleby's** live BBC-TV presentation, before an invited audience, and with Professor John Taylor and Dr. Lyall Watson on the platform with him. We all witnessed Uri's powers of telepathy in reasonably controlled conditions, and his skills as a watch "mender" and as a fork bender — a select few of the many feats it is claimed he can perform, including the disintegration of metallic and other objects, the apparent dematerialisation and (re)materialisation of objects, and the transporting — or teleporting — of objects, all seemingly by the powers of the mind.

Uri Geller's performance on the **Dimbleby** show was very convincing. So convincing that the reaction from certain quarters bordered on the hysterical — with conjurers being paraded in front of TV cameras to demonstrate, far from convincingly, that they too could bend door keys (it should be noted too that unlike some of Uri's keys and forks, their sleight-of-hand props did not continue to bend after being put down).

Scientists who have been involved in the **Stanford University Research Institute** investigations have told members of the *FSR* team that Uri's powers are absolutely genuine, and that the research scientists are staggered by what they have seen.

So, as with his lecture on Arigó's psychic surgery, I am sure that **Andrija Puharich** is involved with something very real when he writes about his study of Uri Geller, and about Geller's acquisition of his powers. The accounts in the book *Uri*, of their experiences in the Sinai Desert, and the fact that

* See *Every Wall a Door*, by Anne Dooley (Abelard-Schumann Ltd., London) for descriptions, and photographs, of her operations.

† See *Beyond the Senses* by Paul Tabori and Phyllis Raphael (Souvenir Press Ltd., London) for a description of the operation on **Gordon Creighton's** eye, in which a growth was removed from the back of the eye (the exploratory operation, which I witnessed, took place a few days later—C.B.)

soldiers with them did not share their experiences, come as no surprise to us. Nor too does the claim that Uri's powers come from that cosmic force that controls the UFOs, the same force, we are told, that permitted Uri Geller to photograph UFOs over the Israeli Army HQ, and from an airliner over Western Germany (this photograph has been published in *Psychic* magazine for June 1974).

Contact

The book *Uri* is for me a fascinating account of strange happenings, accompanied as it is by a doubly fascinating explanation for those happenings. No doubt this book will prove an indigestible morsel for many — even some of those who have witnessed Uri's work. The contents will stick in the craw of most of the scientists who read it. Already, "friendly" scientists have said: "I'd rather he hadn't published it." For the one thing that is immediately apparent is that Andrija Puharich has become a "UFO contactee." His statements to that effect are there in the book for all to read.

With the remarkable and gifted Uri Geller as the medium, Puharich says he has been contacted by a cosmic being from an extra-galactic planet "Hoova." And this spokesman, under the name "Spectra," communicates with him, somewhat enigmatically (for the benefit of "Hoova"?) either through an entranced Uri Geller, or by way of recordings induced on cassettes of a tape recorder. This cosmic being, we are told, eventually directed him to write this book. But, as with all "contactees," there is the usual snag: the evidence invariably disappears. In this case the cassettes just dematerialised — so it is stated — after they had been played.

It is difficult to see how the Puharich reputation in our "nuts and bolts" world can survive this sort of thing. Perhaps his standing is big enough; perhaps he will be "protected" in the manner he has already described in the book. We can only hope that those scientific teams which have commenced to study Uri Geller and his remarkable talents will continue to do so. Who knows, it may well lead to a better understanding of the UFO contactee syndrome.

While researchers generally have preferred to cast scorn on the contactee claims and claimants, the *Flying Saucer Review* standpoint has long been that serious attention should be paid to everything said or written by the contactees. If they are induced by outside forces — or by other forces masquerading as outside forces — to say or write the things they do, then why? What is the purpose behind the contact? Here then is one very good reason why everyone involved in this subject should be sure they read this book.

Quotes, and the ultimate questions

To underline what has been written in these notes, here are extracts that will be of interest:

I. See page 124. Two-way communication is stated to have taken place on December 9, 1971, at 10.59 p.m., via Uri Geller, as medium, in hypnotic trance...

A. Puharich: "Are you behind the UFO sightings that started in the United States when Kenneth Arnold saw nine flying saucers on June 24, 1947?"

Yes.

A.P.: "When did you first notice me?"

In 1946.

A.P.: "Why was I noticed?"

Our computers studied everyone on earth. You were noticed for your abilities as the ideal and perfect man for this mission.

A.P.: "What is this mission?"

Do not ask. It will be revealed.

Thus, Andrija Puharich the contactee.

Can it really be that Dr. Puharich was unaware of the fact that UFO sightings and reports began long before 1947; that there are voluminous records of these earlier sightings? It would appear that he has taken the *beginning of modern publicity for the subject* to be the beginning of the phenomenon. Furthermore, it would seem either that the contacting entity, or power, was also none too well versed in these matters, or that it didn't bother to correct its contactee. Yet...before we yield too readily to temptations to scoff, let us consider one other small, but intriguing, fact. Gordon Creighton has pointed out that all the remarkable psychic healers like Arigó, Lourival and Tony Appao, began to develop their powers around about 1947.

II. See page 248. Message by tape recorder — at the tail end of a lengthy section dealing with Hoova's alleged involvement with human evolution, and their present need for secrecy in view of the human tendency to panic, or to worship them, etc., when they landed here (a practice now discontinued)...

A.P.: "During the past quarter of a century there have been many space visitations reported. Are these yours?"

Most of these reports of humans are due to hallucinations and aberrations. But some of our units have landed. But most of the reported landings have been from other visitors from space — some of whom we do not see, but which you can see. They are of different vibrations, different spaces, different velocities. We are the only ones who are mostly here. The other visitors come and go. We stay. This tape will vanish when you hear it. Farewell.

As always.

A friend, an anthroposophist (student of the teachings of Rudolf Steiner), was heard to remark, after reading the book *Uri*, that it "smacked of Ahriman." This is interesting, for one of Dr. Puharich's scientific helpers during early days in Israel, was Itzhaak Bentov, and he (see page 113) was very worried as to whether the power that they were beginning to realise was controlling Uri Geller as "good" or "evil."

That is the ultimate question. Does this control emanate from the realm of good, or from the realm of evil? Has Andrija Puharich served a purpose by steering Uri Geller from showbiz "magic" in Israel, to the scientific world of the West, which is now very well aware of his formidable talents in E.S.P. and mind-over-matter?

(Continued on page 26)

UFO LANDING AND REPAIR BY CREW PART I — THE REPORT

Ted Bloecher

Investigation of a report of an incident at New Berlin, N.Y., U.S.A., on November 25, 1964

INFORMATION about this previously unreported UFO landing and occupant case came from Alexander D. Mebane of New York City, long-time friend and colleague. Lex Mebane had learned of the incident through a mutual friend of his and the primary witness, Mrs. Mary Merryweather.* The intermediary, Miss Charlotte Ronald, had spent a weekend with Mary at the latter's family home near New Berlin, New York, in the early fall of 1970 or 1971. At that time, the two women observed several unidentified lights along the crest of a nearby hill. This incident prompted Mary to disclose her observation of some five or six years earlier, at which time she observed two landed objects and the repair of one by the apparent "crews." Miss Ronald, knowing of Lex's interest in the subject, told him about her sighting as well as the earlier observation by Mary; he, in turn, passed along the sketchy details to this reporter early in December, 1972. I wrote to Mary Merryweather on December 12, 1972, requesting additional details on the occupant case, but received no reply.

On June 2, 1973, I called Mary long distance, introduced myself, and explained my interest in obtaining a first-hand account of her earlier sighting. Apparently satisfied that my inquiry was genuine and that I was not just some curious "nut," she willingly provided additional details about the incident. During the course of our half-hour phone conversation, it became evident that the witness was providing a coherent and straight-forward account of a most unusual and possibly important UFO event, and that adequate details could not be gathered in a single telephone conversation. She therefore agreed to a personal interview at her present home in northeastern Pennsylvania and the date was set for Sunday afternoon, June 10, 1973.

Interviews

This report is based upon notes taken and a lengthy taped statement made during that three-hour interview, in which Mary described the landing of two objects on a nearby hillside and her subsequent four-hour observation of the repair of one object by the two crews — a group of perhaps as many as a dozen "men." In addition, further information was obtained in a number of subsequent

telephone calls, as well as by answers provided to a series of specific written questions that were submitted to the witness following our June 10 interview. These questions and answers are included in an addendum to this report.

Because of his experience in interviewing many UFO witnesses involved in similar incidents, I advised another colleague, Dr. Berthold Schwarz, psychiatric specialist of Montclair, N.J., who is well-known to readers of FSR as consultant and contributor, of the New Berlin case. Dr. Schwarz contacted Mary and, with her consent, met with her for four hours on August 14, 1973, at which time valuable additional information about the witness, including hypnotic-regressive data, was obtained. It is hoped that the results of this independent interview will be made available to Dr. Schwarz at some future date.

In addition, it is anticipated that an artifact, found by the witness at the landing site a day or so after the incident, will be provided and subjected to appropriate laboratory tests to determine if analysis can confirm its uniqueness. If this is the case, an addendum report will be prepared regarding the results of such tests.

Mary Merryweather has at no time sought publicity as a result of her unusual observation; to the contrary, she has gone out of her way to avoid it and has discussed the incident with no more than a dozen people, most of whom were family members or close friends.

Location

The location of the site of the incident is about one mile north of the centre of New Berlin, N.Y., on old Route 80, just northwest of an area known as Five Corners (Latitude 42° 39'; Longitude 75° 20'). The UFO landings were made on a hilltop about 1300 yards northwest of the observers' locale. The date was Wednesday, November 25, 1964; Mary is quite certain about the year, as 1964 was the first year of her marriage. Likewise, she is definite about the date, as November 24 is her parents' wedding anniversary; the incident occurred during the early morning hours of the following day, from about 0045 to 0455 EST.

Besides Mary, who was about 20 at the time of the sighting, a second witness was her mother-in-law, at whose home she was staying. Mary grew up in the vicinity of New Berlin. From 1962 through 1964,

* This is a pseudonym.

she attended Ithaca College, where she majored in Music. She married her husband, Richard, a chemical engineer, in 1964 and, at the time of the sighting, they resided in the Syracuse, N.Y., area. During Thanksgiving week, 1964, Mary and Dick were visiting their parents in New Berlin. On November 25, Mary was staying with her mother-in-law to keep her company, while Dick and his father, with several other local men, were off on a hunting trip.

At the time of our interview in June, 1973, the Merryweathers had two children: a son, about six-years-old, and a daughter, about four; in July, 1973, a second daughter was born.

Since our initial telephone conversation in early June, Mary has been most cordial and helpful in providing details about the events of November 25, 1964. As far as this reporter is concerned, the primary witness in the case is entirely credible. Her account must be considered an accurate and true report, to the best of her ability, of what she perceived to be a real, and unique, event.

The following Narrative is derived from Mary's own first-hand testimony; apart from minor editing to remove non-essential material, and revision to maintain proper sequence, the words used to describe what took place in 1964 are entirely those of the witness. Transitional sections (in brackets) have been derived from notes obtained during our interview and from our several phone conversations. A list of specific questions and answers is included in an addendum.

Narrative account by the witness

"Dick had gone hunting with his father and I was staying with his mother so that she wouldn't be alone, in New Berlin, north on Route 80, at Five Corners. It was about 12.30 at night and I decided I couldn't sleep very well...so I turned on the television. There was an old movie I had seen several times; it wasn't very interesting to me and I got up and got a ginger ale, and decided I'd look outside and see what it was like.

"It was unusually clear for a November night...it had been snowing that year, often in the evening, and (had been) cloudy, overcast and miserable. But this night was light and very, very clear. An unusual number of stars were visible; the moon was out, very bright.

"I stepped out on the porch and it was cold, so I...got my coat and went out again. I was looking at the stars and trying to figure out where the constellations were and I noticed a falling star. I was looking north northeast and it fell in an arc, as it usually does, in an easterly direction, toward the horizon.

UFO observed

"Then I saw another one, only instead of arcing along the horizon, it came straight down. I saw it in about the same spot as I saw the other one. It appeared to come down directly over the highway (Route 8, which runs north out of New Berlin—TB), or a little bit east of the highway, down by the Five

Corners. Then it followed along the brook...more or less parallel to Route 80, which comes directly across in front of the house. I realized how strange it was, because...it was clearly visible and the hillside above the creek and on the north side of the road was visible above the object. It occurred to me that this was an unusually bright light, a brightness and intensity that I had never seen before. Mercury vapour lamps are extremely bright, but this particular (light) was even brighter than that.

"Not only was the visible part (of the sighting) strange, but there was a kind of low hum, like a drone-hum combination, like a...water pump running kind of laboriously, and it never changed pitch, it was about the same.

"I think that my mother-in-law got up to come to come to the bathroom and I spoke to her as she came through the living room. I opened the door and said, 'When you get through, I want you to step out here and take a look at something.' At this time she usually would let the dog out. They have an English Springer Spaniel, very devoted to Dick's mom, and she always went out at this time of night.

UFO approaches

"The next thing that happened was a car, probably some young people coming home from a movie, came north from New Berlin and turned left at Five Corners and was coming along the highway between me and the creek bed, along where the vehicle was travelling. It was travelling rather slowly, and this car kept on going... Then another car came by, probably a minute and a half later, and they slowed down and pulled over a little northwest of the house, kind of on the shoulder of the road, and this flying object slowed way down, practically to a stop. Then it did stop and hovered for a moment, and then it came back towards me, back past where this car was, and they started right off (the car—T3) and were on their way!

(At this point several things happened almost simultaneously: Mary's mother-in-law had come to the door, opened it, and was about to step out as the object began moving rapidly back toward her daughter-in-law, who at that time was standing on a slight rise in the middle of the driveway; Mary, alarmed at the sudden motion of the object towards her, made a hasty retreat to the porch; the car, of course, 'burnt rubber' as it took off up the road—TB.)

"When the thing had started to back up, I decided that maybe I was a little too close and I backed up too! I was within good sprinting distance to the front door. My mother-in-law started to step out on the porch and she saw this thing, and she swung the door right around again...She kind of left it open a little bit, as if she didn't want me to be alone, but she wasn't going to come out there, either! She said she definitely thought 'that was very strange,' and wished that I'd come back into the house. I turned around and said no, I didn't think I would. The object came to a stop at a point several hundred feet directly across the road from the

house and hovered there...I felt like I was being observed, as much as I was observing.

Animal effect

"And then she tried to persuade the English Springer to come out, so that I'd at least have some company, and the dog would not come out of the door. She wouldn't even come past my mother-in-law's legs — she just lay there and I could see her shaking, she was just quivering.

Landing observed

"Then another car came by and slowed down. This was the third car. They slowed down and the vehicle started to go along at the same speed as the car was travelling; they (the people in the car—TB) appeared to become frightened, and they floored it and got out of there. It kept on going slowly, when this other car decided to leave...very, very slowly along the valley; it followed along the creek bed, followed that up the hillside...It kept going north northwest and went up on the side of this mountain about 3800 feet away, according to the scale on this topographical map. Then it settled down just below the ridge of the hill, and I couldn't hear the humming sound, the drone, but I could see the light, it was still there. My mother-in-law said, 'Now will you come back into the house?' And I said no, get me the binoculars, which she did.

"My mother-in-law called to me from the front door and said that I could see a little better out of their corner dining room window, which faces north northwest, and would I come in and try, because she didn't want me to get cold. I'd been out there quite a while and I was getting cold, so I did. She'd been watching from the dining room window and I found that I could see better...Anyway, sometime after it had landed, probably two or three minutes, I went into the house. My mother-in-law felt considerably better, and I was more comfortable and warmer. And the dog still hovered at her feet. She followed her everywhere. She was just petrified, she literally shook.

(According to Mary's time-table, she went indoors a little after 1.00 a.m.—TB.)

Occupants observed

"As I watched out of the dining room window, I tried to look through the binoculars and I couldn't see because of the glare on the lenses. She said, 'Tip them up and down,' and I did, and it cut the glare off so that I could see what was going on. There seemed to be movement around this vehicle. My mother-in-law said to me, 'What do you see?' and I said, 'Well, I can see light, and there seems to be movement around there...You know? It looks like men to me.'

"I couldn't tell the shape of the object, except that the light seemed to be underneath it and it apparently was setting on legs, because the bottom of the object was up from the ground, far enough so that these — I'll call them 'men' for lack of knowing who they were or what they were, because

they were built like men — could get under this thing, if they got down on their hands and knees, or sitting down; they lay down under it like a man does working under a truck or a car. But they had more room than they would have if they had been under a car or a truck.

"I could see them coming around this vehicle and they brought with them their boxes of tools, like tool chests or something, and one of these chests took two men to carry it. I don't know if there were two (chests) or three, but I know there were more than one. They appeared to be coming around something in a semi-circular movement, as if they were walking around a round vehicle, or something that had a round shape to it. I couldn't see the shape of it because of the bright light. It appeared to be a light on the bottom of the object...that was so intensely bright I couldn't make out the form of the object.

"I asked her (mother-in-law) to take the glasses and tip them up and down to see if she could see movement, and she did; and she said, 'Oh, definitely, I can see them.' And you could tell when she saw (the figures), because she stiffened, you know. It alarmed her, and she said to me, 'Definitely, I see them.' She said, 'Now you watch them and you tell me, because I don't want to watch them any more.'

Humanoids described

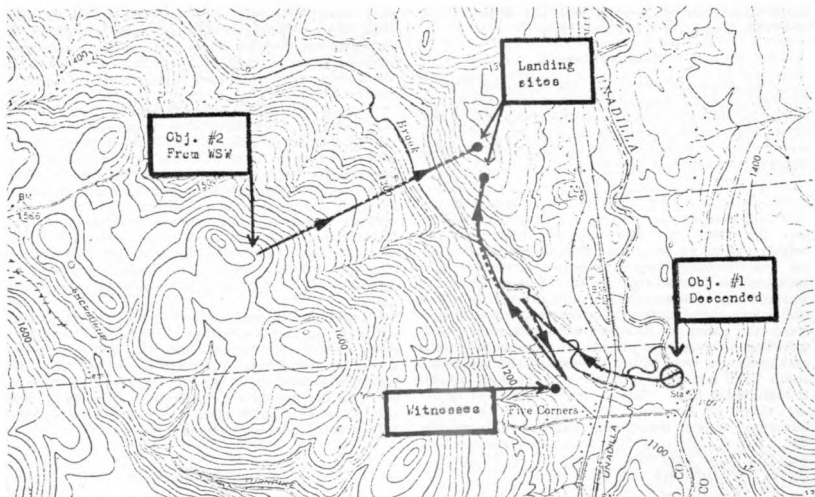
"Now, to describe the 'people' that I was seeing: there were about five or six... They seemed to be dressed in something like a skin diver's wetsuit. It was a dark colour, and their hands were visible apart or out from the wrist of the suit; their skin was lighter than the suit they were wearing. They were built like men: their heads were on necks, which were on shoulders, etc. I could see the muscular build of them, their spinal column; they were standing on two legs like we do, and they worked with arms and hands that were like ours. The only difference was that they were slightly taller than we're accustomed to seeing people — between six and a half to eight feet tall.

(Mary based her estimate of height on the size of the bushes she could see in the lower portion of the field on the hillside—TB.)

"The only ones I could see well were the ones up close to the vehicle where the light was shining on them, and most had their backs to me, or their sides. They did have lighter skin on their faces and necks, like their hands, because I could see the sides of their faces and necks, some of them...I don't think they had anything on their heads. They seemed to have hair, like we do, although their hair wasn't long, as is the custom today for men to wear their hair long, as they do. It seemed well-barbered, fairly close to their heads. The profile of their faces on the men that were on the ground, underneath the vehicle, was like the profile of a man's face.

Occupant activity

"They were working on this vehicle like I've seen my father work on farm machinery; they seemed to



Map of the hilly area just to the north of New Berlin showing locality of the witnesses and the UFO landings.

have wrenches and screw drivers, and tools like a man would use to work on a piece of machinery that had gone bad, or (on) a motor. They took something out from underneath the centre of their vehicle and let it down, gently, with their hands. I don't remember if they wore gloves or not to do this. There was a team of about five 'men.'

"Sometime before this, about five to seven minutes after I had gone into the house and found that I could see better out the dining room window, my mother-in-law got up and when she started to turn around, she said, 'Oh, there's another one!'

Second UFO lands

"I took the glasses down and I could see another vehicle was coming from the west southwest, going east northeast, and it settled down on the crest of the ridge, just above where this other vehicle had settled. Four or five more 'men' joined the ones who were working on the ground. It was just after they (the first crew—TB) had removed whatever they took out of the centre of it, which seemed to be like a motor or a power supply, or something... The four or five other 'men' joined them...and they also began to work. I could see 'men' standing in the foreground, down the hill a little way. I could see them cutting long — what looked like — heavy cable, because it arced, or fell in a loop as they were holding it between them. They were cutting it in

exact lengths and they worked quite hard at doing this. I don't know whether it was because it was so heavy or cumbersome, or large, or what the reason was, but the cable appeared to be dark, and they used it in fixing this piece of machinery.

"Repair" work continues

"They left this — what appeared to be a motor or a power source — directly underneath where they took it from and didn't take it away from there, they left it there and worked on it. When I saw that, when they sat down to work, my mother-in-law told me that it was quarter after one. And while I watched them work, and cut and struggle, they were walking around, were sitting or half-lying down, leaning on an elbow, and kneeling. There were about ten or twelve 'men' in total — I couldn't be absolutely sure, because they were coming and going, and bringing things and taking things back to the vehicles.

"I couldn't see the figures without the binoculars. The only thing I could see without the binoculars was the light — well, the two lights. I could see the light below the crest of the hill, and the one above it, and the one above it was not as bright. It was as intense, but it wasn't as large... The one at the top of the hill would have been smaller than the full moon, and the one below would have been three times larger. Whatever was wrong with the vehicle

seemed to be connected with the size of the light.

"Periodically, my mother-in-law would tell me what time it was, and she decided she'd stay up with me, she said, mostly because, 'Number one, I can't sleep till they leave or something else happens, and, number two, I wouldn't leave you here alone for anything in the world.' And, she said, 'The dog is scared to death; she's almost as frightened as I am.' I wasn't particularly afraid, I didn't feel any fear. She said she was frightened because she had never seen a light like that before. She wanted to know if we should call the police, or some authority, or maybe the government, a U.S. government agency of some kind; I looked at her and she looked at me and I said, 'Well, I hate to,' and she said, 'So do I.' And I said, 'You know, if we call someone, they're going to come up here with guns and firearms and bother them, and they just want to get that thing fixed and get away.' And I just didn't want to be bothered with whatever trouble might occur from it, and she felt the same way. At that time we didn't think of the trouble that might happen to us because of it, but we were thinking that they just want to get this thing fixed and get away, and we didn't want them bothered by some stupid persons.

"I'm convinced they knew I purposefully didn't call the authorities... I'm sure they saw me after that car decided it would go away - I felt I was being looked at by numerous eyes. I don't know if you can tell; I can tell if somebody's watching me. I felt like I was being watched, intensely. My mother-in-law remarked on that, that she also felt that we were watched. She said, 'I can't explain it, but between you and me and the wooden fence, I am sure that they realized that we did not call the authorities, that we weren't going to, and wouldn't.'

"Difficulties" observed

"At exactly four-thirty by our kitchen clock, the 'men' got down in a team and there were nine of them - there were some behind, a group of three, that were evenly spaced around this piece of machinery; and then there was a line of men, six 'men' behind them; they seemed to be holding something, or seemed to be ready with something. Maybe each one of them had tools, I couldn't see that, but they all seemed to be working together. They got this thing ready, and there seemed to be a man underneath who was the leader, and he would gesture to them as if to say, 'Now take it easy,' and he used both his hands to gesture with... They got a hold of the thing and they seemed (to be) working together, and he seemed to be saying, 'Now, we'll move it.' Then, all together, they picked this thing up and moved it directly upwards and tried to fit it into the bottom of this vehicle. It went right up, maybe eight inches...and then it seemed to go off at an angle. You could see the bottom, like a plate, or like the bottom of a motor; you could see that, because the light very abruptly ended there and it was circular, like a dinner plate. As this thing went up in and then went off, at an angle, the bottom of the thing you could see was tilted, instead of being level. As they tried to get it in, they were turning

it, too, like screwing a screw in; they turned it a little, and it went back a little bit, but it wouldn't go up in there the way it should.

"They got it up into the vehicle, I think, except for the last three, maybe four, inches of it, and it was just off, it wouldn't fit, it wouldn't go. They couldn't get it to go any further, so then they carefully retraced everything they had done and set the thing back down on the ground again. They worked on it another ten minutes, and then they tried it again, the same method, and it wouldn't go... They retraced their steps again and put it back down on the ground and worked on it another ten minutes. These 'men' that had been cutting cable, cut something else that was like cable, only it seemed to be a little lighter...and they cut shorter pieces. They worked, and they were hurrying - you could see how they were rushing with this.

"They tried it again a third time. They lifted the thing up in there and they got it closer to going the way it should have, then it was the other two times, but it just wouldn't go. It lacked about an inch and a half of being right and it was off at an angle; they couldn't get it in there the way it should have. One of the 'men' who was with the three who had a hold of it, and then two or three 'men' back down the line, made a gesture like, 'It's not going to work!' They were exasperated, anxious for it to go in right, and it just wasn't working.

"Then they took this thing out again and set it on the ground and worked on it for...maybe three minutes, and the man who seemed to be the leader gestured to them as if he was saying, 'Well, now take it easy, we'll try it once more, and try to get it to do what it ought to.' He was on the left side of this motor. I couldn't hear them, of course, but that seemed to be about what he was saying. And they very carefully picked the thing up and it went back in.

Success, and departure

"There was just enough of the extra light that I could see that the front part of the vehicle (the part toward the witness-TB) was round, and the bottom tapered up. Now, whether it tapered up to a cone-shape or was rounded on top, I don't know... Just before they got this thing into the centre - and it seemed to be cylindrical, I don't know what the top was like - this intense light came out from underneath the vehicle. Anyway, they got it to fit in there and they seemed to be very pleased. It was a minute before five minutes off five. I could see them quickly pick up everything they could pick up and the 'men' from the vehicle above them on the hill ran with their material up there; these 'men' were running like a man running with something extremely heavy, two 'men' with the tool boxes - the one that required two to carry. There were at least two more tool boxes, other than the one that took two 'men' to carry, because there were two other 'men' who were laboriously running. They ran around the side and I didn't see them after that. It looked like they were picking up cable pieces these other men had

left just before that; they ran up the hill with them, and I didn't see them any more, either.

"At five minutes off five, the vehicle on top of the hill left. It went straight up — I don't know how many feet — and it shot off, almost like an instantaneous disappearance, in the direction that it had come from, west southwest. A minute later the other vehicle rose straight up, went to the crest of the hill, rose a little further again, and shot off in the same direction that the other one had left in, at the same speed. And that was it. It had been a long night.

"The next afternoon I got up and I said to my mother-in-law, 'I want to go up there.' She said she thought I should. Now my mother-in-law is quite heavy, and she's a tall woman, nearly as tall as I am, but she has arthritis and bursitis, and it's hard for her to get around. In order to get to the top of this hillside — they use it for a hay field and they cut alfalfa and timothy from there for feed — it's expansive, but there's quite an incline to get up to where the field is, where those vehicles were. I had to cross through two barbed wire fences and I had to go through low berry bushes and the messy part of the pasture there, down on the steeper part of the hillside. And she couldn't get through there.

"But I went to the farm house, which is fairly close to the road — this property belongs to them — and I asked them if I could go up there, and they said yes, that I could, and they kind of looked at me strangely and I didn't offer an explanation; fortunately, they didn't ask, so apparently they hadn't seen anything, or hadn't been aware of anything having happened. I said thank you and I went up there; Mom sat in the car, 'I can't walk up there but I can sit in the car and watch!'

Marks found

"I searched around up there and I found, at the top of the hill and down from the crest at the same angle I had been observing the night before, three places where something cone-shaped and round at the bottom, very heavy and spaced in a triangle about 15 to 20 feet to a side, had set into the ground. They were at an angle like they were the legs of a tripod, (with) something on it that was very, very heavy, because of one them had set on a

NOTES ON URI (Continued from page 20)

One shudders when one recalls the terrible dilemma of Aladino Felix (alias Dino Kraspedon) who was deserted by his contacting controlling entities after he had apparently served his purpose by writing his book, and particularly by staggering his countrymen with his incredibly accurate prophecies.

We must hope that the controlling power in the Geller/Puharich affair is not Ahriman — that is to say, evil. According to most religions there are good forces as well as evil which attempt to influence us, and this has always been a source of hope for mankind. Perchance we should also console ourselves with the view that a power which controlled the beneficial healing feats of Arigó could hardly be evil.

Or could it?

rock and had broken it, and gone down a little ways into the ground where it was bedrock, or maybe shale. The impressions on the bare ground that didn't have any rock underneath were about 14 inches wide and up to 18 inches deep. The shallowest hole was about four inches deep.

"There were two sets of these, one at the top of the hill and one down the slope. They were set like an equilateral triangle — one hole wasn't any further from the other two.

Artifact found

"I searched around and then remembered the 'men' cutting cable, and I went on down the hill where there was a lot of tall grass and so on, and began to look around. I don't remember whether I found it that day, or when Dick and I both went up there after he came back from hunting, but it seems to me it was that day. On the ground, about 50 or 60 feet below the lower set of holes, I found a three-inch piece of what looks like cable. It looked like a strip of something they had missed. The outer part of it looked like the wrapping something like a brown paper towel, only it wasn't like our paper towel. It felt rather like that and was dark brown in colour. It seemed to be a wrapping for a cable, tubular. And in the centre of it — it had been cut out laterally — you could see the strip, maybe an inch wide more or less, something that looked like very finely shredded aluminium strips laid in there, and it was as long as the piece of paper and had been cut, and had the colour and feel of aluminium, although it wasn't aluminium. It didn't behave like aluminium. Aluminium will crumple and this wouldn't crumple. You couldn't crease it. It was inside, strips of this, laying inside of the paper. You could remove the inside, for the outside paper had been cut along the length of the piece, but it was all together.

"That's what I've got. It's at my mother-in-law's, unless it got thrown away. She wanted to put it up, and I wanted to put it up — you know, keep it, put it away, not let anybody get their hot little hands on it. It was very light. It had practically no weight to it at all, including the paper."

(The artifact has not been located as of this writing, December 15, 1973—TB.)

PHILIPP J. HUMAN

It is with great regret that we inform our readers that our dear friend, correspondent and contributor, Philipp Human, died on June 11, 1974, of a coronary thrombosis and influenza.

Philipp, who lived in Amamzimtoti, and worked in Umkomaas, Natal, South Africa, was both a cheerful correspondent and tireless collector of UFO news items, which he forwarded regularly for at least 15 years, to his beloved FSR. When official duties permitted, and distances involved weren't too great, he also conducted investigations on our behalf.

Philipp will be sorely missed, and an expression of our sorrow is extended to his widow, Letitia, and daughter.

C.B.

THE ITALIAN SCENE ONCE MORE

Gordon Creighton

AS most people probably know, the great French UFO Wave of September-December 1954 spilled over, logically enough, into Italy, and produced a similar mass of sightings and landings there. From a pile of press clippings which we have recently received from Dr. Roberto Pinotti, Vice-President of CUN (the Italian UFOlogical Centre, CENTRO UFOLOGICO NAZIONALE, of Via Vignola 3, Milano), from Frl. Lou Zinsstag of Basel, Monsieur Jean Bastide of Aix-en-Provence, and Miss Jane Thomas of Buenos Aires, it looks as though, after a period of several years of relative silence and "clamp-down" in the Italian press, the current French Wave has also carried on into Italy and the accursed subject has once more erupted into the headlines there.

Caselle Airport aerial encounter: radar confirmation

This Italian phase seems to have started around November 30, 1973, and to have embraced a good many areas, notably Torino (Turin). A number of photographs have allegedly been secured and have appeared in the press, particularly spectacular being a series taken on November 24 by a student, Franco Contin, of Susa. These pictures were given a tremendous front-page splash in the *Domenica del Corriere* of December 16.

Other papers have given wide publicity to sightings over the Caselle airport (Torino) on November 30 by the pilots of three aircraft. One of these, Riccardo Marano, was about to land in a *Piper Navajo* light plane when the control tower advised him that a UFO was 400 metres above the runway. He made towards it, and has described it as a luminous ball, emitting a gamut of colours changing from violet through sky blue to dark red. He said: "But when I got closer and had a better view, the object at once made off, flying in a most irregular fashion, manoeuvring in a way I have seen no plane do, making fantastic lateral deviations, and sudden vast jumps to and fro, as if it enjoyed playing hide-and-seek... When I gave up the chase it was going towards Genova. Its speed was as high as 900 km. per hour."

Other highly reliable witnesses confirmed Marano's story, one of these being Colonel Rusticelli, commandant of the Caselle military airfield. He said that he had seen the UFO on his own radar screen. (Was this wise on his part?—G.C.) Said he: "It was something solid, lit-up, like a plane on my radar screen, and giving the same sort of return as a DC-8 would give. It looked to me much like a star. When we got it on the radar screen it stayed firm. Soon after that, it headed off westwards."

The other two professional pilots who also saw this object over Caselle were both Alitalia Air Line

men. The first, Commander Tranquillo, was on his way from Torino to Rome with a DC-9. His colleague, Commander Mezzalami, also in a DC-9, was coming in from Paris.

Commander Tranquillo called to the control tower: "I see a shining thing giving out intermittent flashes of light, four miles from me. I dare not approach. I give way."

Commander Mezzalami, with ten years of service as a military pilot and eight in civilian flying, said: "I was able to observe the object, which was notified to me by the control tower just as I was about to touch down. I had a good view of it. It was bright, but much less so than a star, and also less bright than an artificial satellite. I can offer no theories as to its significance, and can only say that it was something very strange indeed." (Statements in article in *La Domenica del Corriere*, December 16, 1973, of which Dr. Roberto Pinotti kindly forwarded the full text and Frl. Lou Zinsstag kindly furnished an English translation.)

According to the *Domenica del Corriere*, he it noted, the student Franco Contin took his photograph on November 30, and it was of the same object that was seen by the three pilots at Caselle. Dr. Pinotti informs me, however, that this date is incorrect, and that the UFOs in question are hardly likely to have been identical, as Contin took his photo on November 24 as stated above, and not on November 30.

From the indications in our possession it seems that there may now be some alarm in official circles in Italy. The taboo subject which had been pretty successfully kept out of the press for so many years has raised its ugly head again. No doubt it is felt to be unfortunate that the knowledge of the radar sighting got out, for we know how "sensitive" the authorities are in the USA and Britain about radar (remember the blatant misrepresentations in the Banbury TV programme!). This policy may strike one as peculiarly pointless, since Russian astronomers stated in their own press years ago that in Russia UFOs have regularly been captured on radar.

Anyway, the clamps are now on in Italy, and Italian Air Force personnel have suddenly gone just about as mute as that Ole Brer Rabbit. And American Air Force investigators (from USAF bases in Europe?) have been going around interviewing the Italian witnesses.

The few details given above make it clear that we are far from having a full picture yet of what has been happening in Italy. CUN will shortly put out a special giant issue of their journal, *Notiziario UFO*, which will be devoted to the present Wave, so before long we should be better informed. What is at any rate certain is that lately very large numbers of Italians have been seeing things again. "UFO Plague

Over Turin," a headline in the *Buenos Aires Herald* (English-language newspaper) of December 5, 1973, seems to sum it up.

We at FSR are not greatly interested in "lights in the sky" and no doubt most readers agree with us that the weird and "way-out" contact and close-encounter stories are both more fun and more informative. We hope we shall find plenty of these in the CUN survey. In the meantime, I give below details of the only two cases which I have found so far in the current press-clippings.

Contactee La Rosa

The first of these stories was included in a generally sceptical article in the illustrated weekly *Gente* (December 21, 1973). It contained an interview with Dr. Pinotti, in which he outlined his ideas on the UFO problem, and mentioned en passant that radar sightings were nothing new. But the author of the article, Giuseppe Randazzo, was careful to see that the headlines and the first part of the piece were devoted to an exposition of the views of Signor Giovanni Rosa, director of the Caselle airport, who was able to explain everything.

("It was just a meteorite!") Then, no doubt as the *coup de grace* which should satisfy all readers that UFO contact stories are uniformly hogwash, he ended with the account of an Italian radio "ham" of Gravelona Toce, in the province of Novara. This young man, Giovanni La Rosa (no relative, we assume, of the Caselle airport director!) apparently claims that, one day in 1973, while he was busy with his receiving/transmitting set, he heard a most peculiar kind of interference, a noise such as he had never heard before. Listening for a few moments he picked out "metallic voices" which were speaking in Italian. He at once gave his own wave-length, his position, and his name. Speaking very distinctly a voice replied:

"Promise that what you experience from this moment onwards will remain a secret between us and you. Do not speak of it to anyone. We are not inhabitants of your world. We are beings who come from Space. We have no intention of doing any harm to your fellow-men."

La Rosa said he retorted that he did not believe a word of it but: "If it is indeed as you say, then give me some sign or other so that I can believe you!" He says they thereupon made an appointment to meet him, a week from then, in a small wood near his home.

He went on: "I know all this sounds unbelievable. But I swear to you that it happened to me, that I saw them, and that I talked with them. When they landed, preceded by an intensely vivid light, I was so scared that I wanted to run, but I just remained there, watching, as though petrified. Their machine was a circular-shaped thing from ten to fifteen metres wide. A small door opened in the front of it, and out came a ramp resembling a portable ladder. Then three people came out, of normal height, all

wearing suits of asbestos, and with antennae on their helmets. They seemed to be men like us."

Giovanni La Rosa was experiencing a domestic tragedy at the time. His little daughter was gravely ill, and all the doctors who had visited her had diagnosed the case as one for which nothing could be done. He spoke to the "Extraterrestrials" about it, and they promised that he would return and cure the child. "But they never came back, and I am very upset about it. They did not seem to be bad people."

(Did they fail to come back because he had broken his promise and talked?—G.C.)

Giuseppe Randazzo, author of the *Gente* article, surely chose La Rosa's story because: "It is the least probable of all the UFO tales that have been current in recent days in Piedmont...La Rosa is in fact the only person who maintains he has talked to extraterrestrials. The others who claim to have seen flying saucers have confined themselves simply to describing glowing objects skimming through the skies."

These remarks show how little Giuseppe Randazzo evidently knows about the history of the UFO Problem in his own country, for the Italian papers were chock-a-block with such cases — many of them far more fantastic than this one — *ten years ago*. And I was translating them for FSR.

Indeed one wonders how many FSR readers would find any feature of La Rosa's story wildly improbable? To me it has a ring of truth about it.

The globular "approximate human"

The other recent Italian encounter story reached me in a clipping from the Buenos Aires paper *La Cronica* (November 23, 1973) for which I must thank the eagle-eyed Jane Thomas.

It seems that two Italian youths, Cosimo Brigida, aged 16, and Giovanni Lonoco, aged 17, of Martina Franca, a small town down in the far south-eastern tip of Italy, told the police that they had watched "a ball of fire" land near the railway station. The glow of the object then went out, and they found themselves looking at a globular something, "approximately human", with a white face and two eyes, and little red and yellow lights on its head.

The boys fled and hid behind a wall, but apparently the visitor liked company and followed them there. So they pelted it with stones. The deterrent worked, and they were able to make a very speedy get-away to the nearest police post.

However the policemen who went and examined the spot were able to find no traces of the globular humanoid with coloured lights on his head.

Dr. Franco Di Giorgio, the local magistrate, heard the case in court, and carefully perused the dossier which the police laid before him. Torn between his own personal scepticism and his duty, as a magistrate, to weigh the evidence, Dr. Di Giorgio concluded the proceedings by issuing an order that, should the globular entity show himself again in those parts, he should be apprehended forthwith and lodged in the cells.

We had heard of sheriffs in the USA and rural

magistrates in France issuing instructions for the detention of Martians, but so far as we know this is the first such court-order to be handed down in Italy.

* * * * *

As for the *truthfulness* of this story, I must confess that twenty-six years of reading UFO reports from all over our world seem to have undermined my will-not-to-believe, if one may use Waveney Girvan's excellent term. After all, what is there in this Italian case that strikes us as in any way "new" or "far out"? What about the affair at Prémamon,* in France, on September 27, 1954, when four children and their dog came face to face with a "square tin ghost" whose gestures of friendship the children repaid by pelting it with stones, while their dog did his bit by barking loudly at it? Prémamon, it seems, has been well investigated, and the story has not been discredited. So, on the whole, why not accept the story of the two lads of Martina Franca? If we can have *square* entities, then why not *round* ones too?

* Case 23 of Jacques Vallée's *The Pattern Behind The UFO Landings in THE HUMANOID* (Neville Spearman, London, 1969). See also Aimé Michel's *Flying Saucers and the Straight Line Mystery* (Criterion Books, New York, 1958).

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World round-up

of news and comment
about recent sightings

England

West Essex UFO

From a copy of the *West Essex Gazette* of January 4, 1974, we learn that in that part of the world—

"The latest full account of an unexplained 'craft' comes from a 29-year-old designer, Caroline Ebborn, who shortly before Christmas was 'amazed' to see a mysterious array of lights moving across the night sky while she visited her sister in Abridge.

"Caroline, who used to live in Loughton, says she has a keen eye for shape and colour and has made drawings of the object she saw.

"She told the *Gazette*: 'It went straight over my head, though it is difficult to say how high it was.

"It started off as a red pulsating ball beside the moon. I jokingly said ha, ha—there's a UFO but then this thing started to rise. It became paler and then turned towards me with remarkable speed.'

"The craft, she said, was diamond shaped with bright yellow lights on two opposite points and 'neon-red lines at the back which reminded me of a jet on take-off.' After a while a pale green, fluorescent, light appeared.

"Could it not have been an ordinary aircraft? Said Caroline: 'Funnily enough there was an aircraft in the sky at the same time so I was able to compare. I assure you this looked nothing like an aeroplane.'

"She added: 'I don't know what it was. It just couldn't have been a man-made machine, unless someone has developed a silent aeroplane which flies without wings!'

"Caroline's description of the craft is similar to that offered by two Epping residents who saw an object in the sky over Epping later that evening."

Credit: Dorothy Turner of Buckhurst-Hill, Essex.

BULGARIA

Two sightings from Sofia

A friend in Bulgaria, writes Eileen Buckle, describes two incidents which occurred in her home town. The first involved a young family with a small child who live in a residential part of Sofia named "Mladost," an absolutely new quarter of the city consisting of large blocks of flats almost all of which are turned towards the mountain "Vitosha" which arches the city to the south.

"One night in June, 1973, between 1.00 and 2.00 a.m. the young woman woke and got up to tend the

child. Before going back to bed, she looked out of the window and saw a large orange sphere much larger than the moon. The sphere moved rapidly and disappeared behind the mountain Vitosha.

"I wish to add that both husband and wife are matter of fact people, who are not interested in things like UFOs, so no suspicion of self-suggestion could be entertained in this case.

"Again during the summer of 1973, two young people, a man and a girl, were walking one evening before midnight somewhere in the city park named 'The Park of Freedom.' First the young man and then the girl saw a bright point in the sky like a star. The young man, who knows about and is interested in flying saucers, thought it was one. Then they decided to do an experiment. The young man concentrated on the bright spot, forming the thought: 'If you are really a flying saucer, move at once in a right angle to the right.' The bright point did as he asked.

"It turned out that many people saw the UFO that afternoon, but so far I have not ascertained the exact date, but I hope I shall. I am also searching out information on a UFO seen in a provincial town."

U.S.A.

More on the cop who photographed an entity

In a newspaper called *News Extra*, dated December 16, 1973, we find a few more details of the Alabama policeman who in mid-October met a strange creature, and photographed it. Preliminary details, and a copy of one of the pictures, were given by Eileen Buckle in her summary article "Major Flap in the United States" in *FSR Vol. 19, No.6*—

"When a small town police chief reported taking photographs of an eerie creature he feared came from outer space, his young wife divorced him and others heaped abuse on him.

"I have never been subjected to such harassment and ridicule from people," said Chief Jeff Greenhaw of tiny Falkville, Ala. "Now my wife of more than three years has divorced me."

"His wife, Pamela, filed for and received a divorce the same day in Decatur, Ala., circuit court. Alabama law allows speedy divorces when they are not contested.

"Greenhaw's troubles began when a woman telephoned him at home and reported seeing what she

described as a spaceship with flashing lights. It had landed in a field west of Falkville, she reported.

"The policeman, recalling many other recent reports of UFOs in the area, grabbed his camera and sped to the scene of the reported sighting.

"Twisting down a gravel road, Greenhaw came face to face with the creature.

"I saw him. He was just standing there in the middle of the road," the police chief said later.

"I got out of my car and said, 'Howdy, stranger,' Greenhaw recalled. 'But he didn't say a word.'

"The police chief got his camera and as the creature walked toward him, he flashed four photographs. He and the creature stood face to face only 10 feet apart.

"I was scared stiff," Greenhaw admitted.

"The creature was covered in a metallic material and had a short antenna atop his head. There were no features on his face.

"When Greenhaw switched on the blue flashing lights on his patrol car, the creature turned and ran.

"I jumped into my car and took after him, but I couldn't even catch up with him in a patrol car,' Greenhaw said. 'He was running faster than any human I ever saw.'

"The police chief took his eyes off the creature for an instant when his car went into a skid and when he looked back again, the thing had vanished.

"I didn't believe in men from outer space, but I do now," the youthful police chief said.

"His wife laughed at him. 'She wouldn't be laughing if she saw what I saw,' Greenhaw said."

U.S.A.

Alabama landing report

In the same edition of the paper *News Extra* of December 16, 1973, we read that—

"Police chief Greenhaw was not the only Alabama resident to see strange, unexplained sights at the time.

"A Walker County woman, Mrs. Norman Blanton, and her family watched a UFO land in a field near her home. It cut off its lights, lifted up moments later with the lights on and disappeared.

"The Blanton family said the object changed colours as it descended. It turned from white to green to blood red.

"Family members jumped into a

car and drove to the spot, but as they drew near, they said, the object lifted and took off at a high rate of speed.

"Police in the nearby town of Parrish, said they had numerous reports of a UFO at about the same time the Blanton family said it saw the strange object land."

Credit: Dr. James Hershey

U.S.A.

Police chase UFO

The following account appeared in the *Los Angeles Times* of November 14, 1973—

"Two Los Angeles police officers — nervous, but deadly serious — faced a battery of newsmen Tuesday and told of their two-minute sighting of an unidentified flying object the night before.

"Each of the officers, C.C. Smith, 29, and Joe Wynkoop, 28, said they had had little sleep since the sighting and admitted they were still somewhat shaken by their experience, which began at 9.45 p.m. Monday in Boyle Heights.

"Prior to the press conference, Lt. Joe Sandoval, acting commander of the uniformed patrol unit at Hollenbeck Division, said he had questioned his two veteran traffic officers and that he was convinced 'they saw what they say they saw.'

"The following is the account of the two officers:

"After two persons telephoned Hollenbeck Division and reported seeing a 'strange object' in the sky over East Los Angeles, Smith and Wynkoop were dispatched to investigate.

"The officers, with Wynkoop driving, were eastbound on Whittier Blvd.,

just east of Euclid Ave., when they both saw a bright object in the sky northeast of Whittier.

"Smith described it (his partner concurred) as 'oblong shaped and very bright and bluish-white, like a mercury vapor lamp.'

"As the officers continued east on Whittier Blvd., the object descended at a 45-degree angle, dropping near to the ground. Smith said the object 'came down between my line of vision and the Jonsons Market sign' on the north-west corner of Whittier Blvd., and Lorena St.

"The officers said they were about six blocks east of the market at the time. Both agree that, from their vantage point, the object 'almost obscured the entire market sign.'

"Both officers said it was impossible to estimate the size of the object accurately but, at a distance of about six blocks, it seemed 'about the size of a half-dollar if you held the coin at arm's length,' Wynkoop said.

"At one point, the object was lost from sight for 'one or two seconds. Smith said, adding that this occurred at the point the object appeared to near the ground.

"The officers turned south on Lorena St. and saw the object reappear and rise abruptly (again, at about a 45-degree angle), Smith said, 'to an altitude of about 1,000 or 1,500 feet.'

"The object then sped off, heading south-southwest 'at a tremendously high rate of speed,' Smith said.

"The elapsed time of the incident, both officers agreed, was about two minutes.

"As the object was speeding away, Smith attempted to take a flash picture of it with a Kodak Instamatic camera through the windshield of the police car. However, the print from the neg-

ative was flooded with reflected light from the windshield.

"There are two other lights in the upper portion of the photograph which Smith said appeared to be what he was aiming at. He can not say with certainty, however, whether one of the lights is the object and he has no explanation as to why there are two lights instead of one.

"The officers said the night was 'very clear' at the time of the sighting and Smith said he did not believe either of the two lights in the photograph were building or street lights.

"An LAPD spokesman said Tuesday that, after the report by the two officers was made public, 'about a dozen persons' called the department with similar sightings of an object at a time roughly coinciding with the sighting time reported by the officers. "Smith has been with the LAPD four years and Wynkoop has been on the force five."

Credit: Philipp J. Human

Republic of South Africa

Object follows car

An incident at Grahamstown, Cape Province, was reported in the *Pretoria News* of July 9, 1973 —

"Two Cathcart youths, Gary Bergington and Peter Kemp (17), had a frightening experience at the weekend when they say they were followed in their runabout truck for about six kilometers by an unidentified flying object.

"Although they speeded up to over 120km/hour the UFO kept up with them, and at one stage came so close that they thought it was about to land on the back of the truck. It made no sound.

"Gary was taking Peter home 14

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**Sensational Revelation:
real, U.F.O.'s exist!**

kms out of town about 12.30 a.m. on Saturday after attending a cinema in Cathcart. As they dipped into a valley they saw the object, which they took to be a car approaching over a hill. As it came closer, they saw it was well clear of the road, with a whitish bottom and red lights flashing from the top. The UFO turned and tailed the truck for about 6km while Gary

increased speed from about 80km/hour without shaking it off.

"When they got to the farm, Peter's parents at first laughed at their story, but changed their minds when they were shown the UFO, through the telescopic sights of a rifle, hovering over a hilltop about 3kms away.

"Both youths are in a matric class, Peter at Queens College, Queenstown,

and Gary at the Cradock High School, and were home on holiday. The UFO was oval shaped, and about 10 metres in diameter. They had had only coffee to drink after visiting the cinema.

"Also at the weekend five schoolboys at Queenstown claimed to have seen a UFO in the air.

Credit: Philipp J. Human of Umkomaas

SAFARI NOTES: COSMIC ZOOLOGY

Gordon Creighton

TWO choice titbits in recent American press-reports catch the eye.

The first is a story that reached us, in a Spanish translation, from two Buenos Aires papers (*La Razón*, November 11, 1973, and *Cronista Comercial*, December 18, 1973) sent in by Miss Jane Thomas.

This report said that the American scientist John A. Ball had enunciated a theory known as the "Zoo Hypothesis," according to which, putting it very simply, the Cosmos might be swarming with highly advanced technological civilizations which deliberately avoid social contact with us because they regard us as savage and dangerous creatures.

"Well, here's to seeing you on Kristofix!" — as I remember FSR reader N.C. Green of Sutton Coldfield wrote to me some time ago. He had noted in Horacio Ganteaume's article, *Landing At San Pedro de los Altos* (FSR March/April 1969), that entitles visiting Venezuela from a planet with that splendid name claim to possess an excellent *Phytozooloplanetologiecum*, well stocked with the flora and fauna of our Galaxy — including, presumably, the likes of ourselves.

The second report, published in the *Christian Science Monitor* of December 20, 1973, is headed "U.S. Scientist Suggests 'Project Lure.'" The scheme in question was thought up by Major Donald Keyhoe. He would like to see a "base" built in some isolated area of Texas. It would have all sorts of "unusual structures and novel displays," designed to attract the attention of the Ufonauts and get them to land there. Some of the "bait" would consist of "dummy UFOs," parked around the grounds. These would have glass panels, to show that nobody is hiding inside. There would moreover be "educational buildings housing exhibits depicting the development of the United States and a general picture of its civilization."

While all the buildings and walls of these pieces of bait would have glass panels to show that nobody was crouching within, TV cameras and microphones would be hidden behind the walls everywhere in this cosmic Watergate operation, and all of them would be connected to Lure Control Headquarters, and to various manned observer posts, several miles from

the Lure, and buried in the ground. The idea would then be that hopefully the UFO operators might be tempted to saunter in one fine day and have themselves filmed and photographed and measured, and studied on the TV screens by the psychologists and anthropologists and doctors skulking in the underground watching-posts.

Asked what he thought about Major Keyhoe's idea, Dr. J. Allen Hynek was quoted as saying he felt it was definitely "novel." But he added that it would have to be operated surreptitiously, for if the terrestrial public got wind of it, the scheme "would be open to all manner of ridicule and buffoonery."

Besides voicing his misgivings over the likely expense of such an undertaking, Dr. Hynek went on to warn moreover that the UFOs "...are possibly not in the same physical realm as we are...Perhaps they are not 'physical' in the same sense as we regard 'physical.' They may not be in a Euclidian, three-dimensional universe."

Dr. Hynek felt, the article concludes, "that UFOs are to us what nuclear energy would have been to Benjamin Franklin...We are glimpsing a new domain of nature."

We trust that Major Keyhoe will not take it amiss if we say that in our humble opinion Dr. Hynek seems to be talking a deal more sense. We find it somewhat improbable that such master-telepathists, such consummate mental-controllers and brainwashers (as so many of the "Ufonauts" have shown themselves to be), would fall for such childist terrestrial games as these, or would be likely to want to step into the parlour and be examined and docketed by primitive instruments that they — other-dimensional or whatever they may be — will have probably already detected and gone over from fifty miles away!

* * * * *

Mr. Creighton tells us that since writing this article about eight months ago, he has acquired a copy of Donald Keyhoe's latest book, and finds it a very valuable addition to the subject's literature. ED.

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MAIL BAG

The end of the energy crisis?

Dear Sir, — Regarding Gordon Creighton's article "These Cunning British: The Truth at Last!" (FSR Vol. 19 No.4), I must say that after reading it I was disappointed to see that the full facts were not published. I might add that Britain has not kept completely silent about its miraculous space programme. Several British popular newspapers and magazines have published the true facts. John R.Searl, head of Lunic Enterprises and later the National Space Research Consortium seems to have known the "secret" for years. We might even speculate that he is in reality an under-cover Government spokesman, preparing the unsuspecting public for these startling facts.

Obviously neither Mr. Heath nor Mr. Wilson will worry about petrol rationing and the railway workers and the miners, when they know that by this time next year everybody will have their own flying saucer to fly about in, hopping from the Moon to Mars at the wink of an eye. Also our homes will derive their power from the "electro-magnetic field of the astronomical universe" and therefore need no earthly fuel or power.

Once the legal problems are cleared up, which you so rightly pointed out in your "Editor's comment" on the revelations about the cunning British, the UFO mystery will have been fully solved!

But of course there are always sceptics, such as Stuart White who wrote in a national newspaper in 1972: "If you are foolish enough to buy any £1 shares in John Searl's National Space Research Consortium, the only thing that is likely to rocket is your blood pressure."

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.

In anticipation of my ration-free electro-magnetic power in 1974, I remain,
Yours sincerely,
Nigel Watson,
Chairman, Scunthorpe UFO Research Society.

We apologise to Mr. Watson, and to readers, for the late publication of this letter, typeset many months ago, but held over for one reason or another since then—ED.

A mistake amended

Dear Sir, — A minor mistake slipped within the text of my article *Record and Analysis of the Spanish Negative Landings*, FSR, July/August 1972, p. 31. I refer to page iii, paragraph (e), penultimate line. It says that "the proportions are very far apart..." while it should say that the proportions "are not very far apart..." A very different meaning indeed!

The point in the argument is that if the real UFO landing events fell into the same category as those "negative" or identified cases — a mere set of fakes and misinterpretations — then the percentage of fraudulent reports would have to be *rather higher* in the wave years than in the quiet ones. And we found only a difference of just over 10%, which is not considered to be relevant as it is fairly low.

This note was originally prepared in October, 1972, and has been revised for quick publication.
Yours faithfully,
Vicente-Juan Ballester Olmos,
Erudito Orellana, 14,
Valencia-8 (Spain)
August 13, 1974

Stendek Vindicated

Dear Sir, — Referring to the mention of a "Seat 850," and Mr. Creighton's comments on page 5 of *FSR Case Histories*, Supplement 18.

Whilst on holiday some years ago in Majorca, I purchased for No. 1 son a push and go toy "Seat 600" which, although in jalopy condition now, can still be discerned.

It would appear that Fiat Cars assembled in Spain for saving of Import Duty are called Seat (See-at) Cars, and many are to be seen.

Regretting the passing of Case Histories I trust the above confirms Mr. Creighton's confidence in Stendek. Yours faithfully,

J. B. Hall,
"Glydesdale", 16, Main Road,
Fairlie, KA29 ODP, Scotland.
September 19, 1974.

Sketches different

Dear Sir, — For the sake of the record it may be worth while to point out that the Austrian sighting by Reinhold Hering and Erika Graef described in Ernst Berger's *New Tales From the Vienna Woods* (FSR Vol. 20, No.1) had already been reported, albeit more briefly, under "Hunters See Dazzling UFO", in *World Round-Up* in FSR Vol. 19, No.5 (September/October 1973.)

As can be seen, each account contains a sketch said to have been made by Head Forester Hering, but the two sketches differ very considerably.

G. Creighton,
London S.W.7

TRAUNSTEIN (continued from page 18)

Traunstein object. Similar patterns after 16 years?

Whether they are some kind of "stationary dog-fight" or not — periodical fluctuations of the whole object remain a rarity (and a theorist's nightmare, too). Or was the third variation merely an optical illusion and not a "shrinking object," i.e. only a shrinking elliptical illumination of the domed disc's upper surface, until the "blood red dome" appeared? Maybe. One fact is certain: the Traunstein sightings

are a reality and will not shrink into nothing, unfortunately.

E.B. (Vienna, December 26, 1973).

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