

THE CHINA SCENE

By Gordon Creighton

Early in December 1993 we saw several brief but amusing little news agency reports in British newspapers (for example, a *Reuter's* report in the *Times* and the *Independent*, both of December 8), about the "UFO situation" prevailing between the "Two Chinas", the Communist Mainland and the free and democratic Nationalist Chinese Government on the Island of Taiwan (Formosa).

The reports made it clear that while — on account of the prevailing hostility between the two regimes — no direct air-link can possibly exist between Beijing and Taipei (Taiwan's Capital) — "Aliens" haunting Far Eastern skies are patently under no constraint to pay heed to such trifles as our man-made frontiers and boundaries or for that matter to any other "artificial constructs" of our wee terrestrial minds. Consequently, so the reports said, the UFOs have been coming and going very frequently indeed between Taiwan and the Mainland.

And even those few Chinese in the two camps whose consciousness has expanded sufficiently to take in such a thing as the concept of "alien craft" also seem to have shown scant respect lately for political distinctions, because they have just recently concluded their very own first *Joint Mainland/Taiwan UFO Conference*, held in Beijing!

According to a statement put out by the Communist regime's *Xin-Hua News Agency*, the delegates at the conference spoke of possessing logged records of almost 6,000 of these UFO trackings to and fro across the Formosa Strait!

We are indebted to FSR's Malaysian Consultant, Ahmad Jamaludin, for the following rather fuller account, published in the English-language newspaper *The Star*, of Kuala Lumpur, on December 9, 1993:

UFOs SEEN ABOVE TAIWAN STRAITS

BEIJING-AFP. Bewildered onlookers have spotted nearly 6,000 unidentified flying objects (UFOs) hovering above the Straits separating China from rival Taiwan, the Chinese *Xin-Hua News Agency* quoted experts as saying.

Some of the UFOs — seen by astronomical observatory workers and civil and military pilots above Taiwan Strait — defied rational explanation, said the 50 experts from the two sides who have just concluded a three-day symposium here.

The *Xin-Hua Agency* said that more than 5,000 of the 6,000 "flying saucers" were seen from the Mainland.

Some of the experts believed that they came from remote galaxies, while the more rationalist delegates argued that they were natural phenomena like

lightning bolts or man-made objects such as balloons or satellites, the report said.

The last sighting was on August 7, when two linked hat-like objects floated above Taipei International Airport for 15 minutes.

There have been more than 400,000 UFO sightings worldwide since the first was reported in the United States in 1947, said *Xin-Hua*, adding that China herself set up a body to investigate the phenomenon in 1978.

CHINA'S UFO RESEARCH JOURNAL

This is a suitable moment for brief mention of the Communist Chinese journal on UFO Research, FEIDIE TANSUO. We have no idea how long it has existed. It is published in Lanchow, an inland city far to the south-west of Beijing, and we first received a few copies in 1987. It is said to be produced monthly, and is printed on very poor paper, of the size and general format of the American *Time Magazine*. Its monthly circulation is claimed to be no less than 300,000, a figure that would sound staggering anywhere else in the world. And I find it difficult to credit.

In theory they are now sending the journal to me regularly, but so far only about twenty issues have reached me since 1987. The contents usually include a great deal of padding (articles about Space Travel, Astronomy etc.) and they seem to be careful never to publish anything of serious interest from China itself except humdrum reports of the usual type about sightings of objects seen at great altitudes, spirals in the sky, and sky phenomena in general. They have indeed often carried excellent translated accounts of exciting close encounters with UFOs, and with entities, but in all the issues that I have seen they have been careful to select these from the early (foreign) writings of Antonio Ribera, Aimé Michel, Donald Keyhoe, and so on. In other words, all nice "safe" material, because from far-away foreign sources.

To judge, then, by the few issues of FEIDIE TANSUO that have been permitted to reach me (I assume that somebody either in China or here avidly purloins them, along with a great deal of other material that never reaches me) the magazine strikes me as very much of a write-off. However, I might possibly be wrong on that, for all those missing issues since at least 1987, and maybe even earlier, could possibly have contained something of value to us. If it has been running for at least seven years to date, that means at least 84 issues to date — of which I have just 22.

With regard to kidnappings and disappearances and killings in China, our readers will be aware that a few such reports have arrived on the FSR editorial desk, but these have always come *via other channels*, not by

the FEIDIE TANSUO. In FSR 38/4 (pages 21-22) we gave some details of two alleged cases of kidnapping in China, but it is important to realize that I had translated these from Paul Dong's excellent little book FEIDIE BAI WEN BAI DA (QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON UFOs), published, in Chinese only, in Hongkong in 1983 and never, so far as I can ascertain, circulated or available on the Mainland.

I have heard of only one other Chinese who has published a book on UFOs. This was Shi Bo. So far as I know, his book was issued only in France, in French. I have a copy, and found nothing very interesting or exciting in it. *So far as I know, there has been no open discussion yet anywhere in print, either in Chinese or in any foreign language, about any signs of "genetic and sexual tinkering" in China such as is now being so widely reported in the USA, Canada, South America, and Britain, and I am still waiting in vain for replies to my enquiries about this. (For, should it turn out that the Aliens are spurning good*

Chinese sperm and good Chinese eggs, then it is a grave case of racial discrimination which must be reported and denounced to the Race Relations Industry instantly).

All in all, one would get the impression that the Red Chinese authorities have got the situation very well under control on the Mainland. It will be recalled that, some years ago, our American/Australian friend and colleague Paul Norman paid a brief visit to China and tried to make contact with the investigators there, but — as I warned him would be the case — the accompanying Government officials kept a close eye on him the whole time and never left him alone with anyone very long, so that he did not learn much.

In my "tailpiece" on page 22 of FSR 38/4 I also mentioned a very serious case of kidnapping which was recently related to an important British legal official by officers of the Communist Chinese KGB, but at present it is not possible for me to say anything more about this■

"UFOS LIKE HALF-BITTEN BISCUITS"

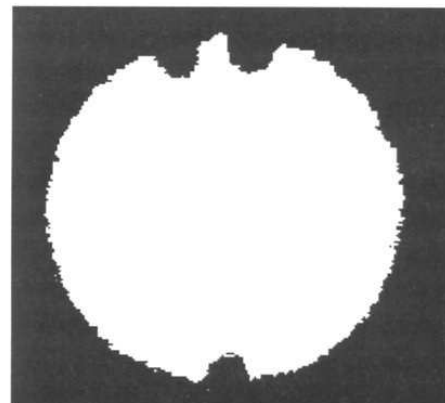
For several years past we have been noticing that many of the alleged UFO photos that reach us somewhat resemble large biscuits out of which someone "has taken a bite or several bites". A good example is shown by the UFO video-filmed over Canberra on February 17, 1990, and illustrated on page 22 of FSR 38/2.

Four or five FSR readers have written in to us to point out the cause of this phenomenon — namely the video camera itself.

As an example of the letters received, we quote FSR reader Dr. Wolfgang Beck-Lippert of Mainz who wrote on August 2, 1993, as follows:-

"Dear Mr. Creighton, — The UFO as depicted — did not fly over Canberra but, as I reckon, was rather **inside the camcorder!**"

The explanation will be found on page 400 of the recent SOBEPS book VAGUE D'OVNI SUR LA BELGIQUE (UFO WAVE OVER BELGIUM — Ger-

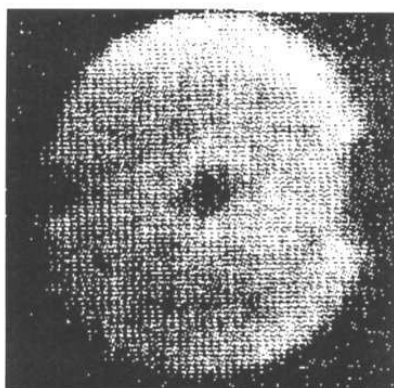


The UFO over
Fort Payne,
Alabama,
(February 1993)

man edition UFO-WELLE ÜBER BELGIEN by Zweitausendeins), published in Brussels in 1991, where the Belgian investigator Patrick Ferryn describes how all these photos of what look like "notched discs" (**disques à encoches**) come about. As he explains it, the cheaper types of automatic camcorders are fitted with a particular sort of shutter on the zoom lens which is occasionally responsible for the production of round objects with these indentations.

In his article, Patrick Ferryn goes on to cite a number of cases where "notched" or "nicked" photos of this kind turned up, and we ourselves at FSR have seen quite a number of them lately, especially from Italy and elsewhere in Europe.

For a good specimen, see page 1 of Issue No. 286 of Lucius Farish's excellent UFO NEWSCLIPPING SERVICE (May 1993), which shows a "three-notcher" secured by Betty McBryer of Fort Payne, Ala., one night in February 1993, during a prolonged "miniwave" of UFO sightings over De Kalb County, Alabama, USA, for several weeks at the beginning of last year. G.C.■



The UFO over
Canberra,
(February 1990)