

UFOs in the South Atlantic

By Gordon Creighton

THE following report¹ was given by a young Brazilian airline pilot to Commander Auriphebo Simoes, who is himself a pilot, one of the senior officials of a Brazilian airline, and one of the best known of the UFO investigators in Brazil.

During a very hot night in the summer of 1952, the young pilot, exhausted after a tiring day, walked out from the little town of Itenhaém (on the coast of Brazil, due south of São Paulo) to a wooden summer cottage which he had near the beach. Living at the cottage with him was his grandmother, a Russian emigrant lady named Chaskova.

Finding the cottage oppressive and airless, the pilot opened the door before turning in. The cottage had bunk-type beds, and Senhora Chaskova was already asleep in the lower bunk.

After being asleep for what seems to have been only half an hour or so, the young pilot was suddenly jolted into consciousness by a tremendous explosion, "like a great thunderclap". Jumping down from the bunk, not properly awake, he perceived an intense "fluorescent" bluish-white light shining in through the open door, but concluded that it was merely the dawn coming and that the noise had been a brief thunderstorm in the nearby hills. He went back to sleep.

Next day he was astonished to learn from his Russian grandmother, speaking in her very imperfect Portuguese, that at about 3 a.m. she had heard a great explosion in the sky overhead, and that this was followed by an intensely bright light outside which lasted for some seconds. She soon realised that the extraordinary light could not be lightning, so, her curiosity aroused, she got up and went into the garden to investigate.

By the time she got out there the light had gone. There was now just the dark sky, filled with stars. She turned to glance out to sea (the South Atlantic) and was astonished to perceive a large number of what appeared to be disc-shaped "machines", vividly lit up by an orange glow. The craft resembled "inverted soup-plates" and were stationary at what she estimated to be some 200 metres from the cottage and, as she felt, at a height of only a metre or so above the surface of the sea.

She stood there looking at the objects for half an hour. During this time, she saw two figures, apparently human, emerge on to the top of one of the discs.² They remained standing there for a while, apparently looking up at the sky and out over the sea, as though waiting for something. They then descended into the interior of the machine, and shortly after this all the machines took off, one after the other, vanishing into the sky at a tremendous speed "like luminous projectiles".

When young Chaskov had heard this extraordinary description of the night's events, his curiosity was such that he deluged his grandmother with questions, to the point that after a while she became irritated over the whole affair and disliked talking of it. It was too much for her, her Portuguese was poor, and the grandson knew no Russian.

Some time went by, but he continued to raise the matter at intervals, until one day the Adamski story appeared in a translation in the Brazilian magazine *O Cruzeiro*. He took the article to her and showed her the reproductions of Adamski's alleged photos of his "Venusian scout ship". The grandmother agreed that it was very similar to what she had seen, except that the craft hovering over the sea were a good deal flatter on top than Adamski's.³

Commander Auriphebo Simoes was impressed by the account, felt that it was unquestionably genuine, wondered whether the great noise heard by the two people in the cottage might not have been the explosion of one of the craft, and whether the other discs might not have been waiting there over the sea for signs of survivors.

It will be pertinent in this connection to mention the many South American rumours and stories of underwater UFO⁴ bases along the South Atlantic coast of Brazil and Argentina. Moreover Itanhaém is very near to São Sebastião, where the Brazilian jurist Professor João de Freitas Guimarães of the Faculty of Law at Santos says he encountered a luminous domed craft which came up out of the sea one evening in July 1957, landed on the beach, and contained a number of tall, fair-skinned, long-haired men who took him for a flight with them.⁵

And we have, finally, a case which sounds identical. *La Prensa*, Argentina's leading newspaper, reported on November 16, 1963,⁶ that on the previous evening hundreds of persons in the central streets of the great coastal city of Mar del Plata had seen a number of extremely luminous objects out at sea and very close to the surface of the water. A cigar and various discs had been seen over the city the day before.

NOTES

¹ From the book *Os Discos Voadores-Fantasia e Realidade*, by Com-mandante Auriphebo Berrance Simoes, published by Livraria Edart, São Paulo, 1957 (pp. 375-376).

² Compare the famous Papuan case of June 26, 1959 (FSR November/December 1959, p. 7).

³ Father Gill's "Papuan" saucer was also flat on top.

⁴ Gordon Creighton, *Argentina 1962* (FSR July/August 1964, p. 13).

⁵ SBEDV Bulletin No. 4, July 1967; FSR November/December 1957, p. 2; FSR September/October 1961, pp. 18-20; FSR *The Humanoids*, p. 36, case 19.

⁶ Gordon Creighton, *Argentina 1963-64, Part II* (FSR January/February 1966, p. 25).

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