# **UPROAR IN BRAZIL**

## Gordon Creighton

ITAPERUNA is a small town in the northern part of the Brazilian state of Rio de Janeiro, and lies about 50 km. to the north-west of Campos, home of the two dead young men in the leaden masks, 1 and not much further than that from the beach at Atafona where, apparently, the young men carried out some of their "experiments" when they allegedly "shot down a UFO

which fell into the sea."

We are greatly indebted again to Dr. W. Buhler, who has rushed to us by air-mail a batch of press-clippings² which cover the period September 27 to October 10, 1971, and tell the story of the fantastic things now going on around this peaceful and pleasant little country town, where dwarfs 50 centimetres high, "like gnomes", flying in a "saucer" the size of a *Volkswagen* car, have been terrorising motorists and have played a few notably nasty tricks. These happenings appear to have developed into a "flap" since about September 19, although in truth there has been a steady trickle of reports from the Itaperuna area for at least two years past.

The widespread anxiety and alarm engendered by these events may provide food for thought for those who are so ready to criticise governments for censoring

or suppressing UFO reports.

I shall deal in this article particularly with three of the Itaperuna reports, in which it is claimed that motorists or pedestrians have been taken into "saucers", taken for "flights", or levitated into the air by beams of light.

#### Case I. The Typewriter Mechanic

Paulo Caetano Silveira, aged 27, a typewriter repair mechanic, residing at rua Bonifácio Alonso 213 in Itaperuna, had been to a place near Carangola to repair some machines. As he was driving home to Itaperuna on the evening of September 22, 1971, in his Vemaguete 61 car, registration number HA-3064, he noticed some sort of dark, low-flying object behind him, which seemed to be dogging him. At first he did not pay too much heed, feeling that he might perhaps have been deceived by the fleeting shadows of the trees against the sky. But, when nearing the town of Tombos, he began to notice something else, which he has described as a red light or a red ball of fire. 3 This thing repeatedly came right above his car, but it was significant that whenever another car appeared from the other direction the "thing" always fell back. At its closest he was able to see that its colour tended at times towards bluish, and that it was in fact a luminous disc.

Arriving in Tombos and already somewhat alarmed, he called in at the Police Station and reported the matter, but they did not seem to take his story very seriously. They gave him a drink of water well laced with sugar and suggested that he stay and spend the night in

Tombos.

Calmer now, he started off again. At first he thought he had shaken the thing off, but soon found that it was still following him, though far behind. Thoroughly

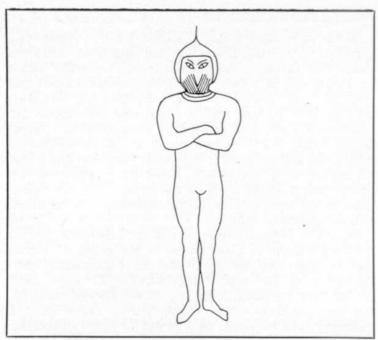


worried now, he put on all speed and came to Natividade, where he stopped at a friend's place to put some more water in the radiator. He told the friend of his experience and was advised to say a few *Pater Nosters* . . .

It was now about 7.00 p.m., and it looked for a while as though the prayers had worked. Then, far ahead of him on the road, he saw what he at first took to be an enormous black ox, planted right in the middle of the highway. But the "black ox" soon turned to a vivid red and he now saw that it was the disc that had been pursuing him. From red it turned to a blinding white. Then a luminous beam shot out from it towards him, and he felt his engine beginning to falter. The engine died, and he found himself confronted by a craft a little bigger than the familiar Volkswagen car. He got a good view of it. It had small windows, just like an aircraft, and a door was open. Near this door were standing two small chubby beings about 40-50 centimetres high, or roughly about the size of a ten-year-old child. He felt his whole body, and especially his legs, being drawn in some mysterious way towards that open door. [We are left to presume he got out of his own car-EDITOR.]

The creatures, as one gathers from his accounts given to the press (see sketch), were reminiscent in appearance of the dwarfs shown in the traditional children's books of fairy stories. They had fair complexions, slit eyes, flattish heads, and there was something in their features that somehow reminded him, he says, of the Brazilians of the North-East. The dwarfs were dressed in one-piece overalls of a beautiful bright, luminous, sky-blue colour, with long sleeves to the wrists, high collars, and "Roman helmets" with spikes. The creatures moved around like automata, he says, with rigid arms and legs, and were carrying objects that gave out vivid beams of red and blue light.

Paulo says he felt all energy and willpower being drained right out of him, along with the sensation of



From newspaper sketch of creatures encountered by Paulo Silveira

being overpoweringly drawn towards the lights. He fought hard against it by trying to think, with all the concentration that he could muster, of his wife, Clarinda Caetano Sales, about whom he was already a little anxious as she was just due to have her first baby. Initially he seemed to have some success in resisting the power of the lights, but then the two creatures advanced, one on each side, and seized him. They were very strong for their size, and in silence they dragged him towards the disc. <sup>7</sup> At the same time he felt behind him a strange sensation as though some giant invisible scoop were impelling him into the luminous machine standing on the road.

Just as they got him to the door, he managed to put up a little resistance, and it was at this point, he says, that he sustained some injuries on his arms. Once inside the machine, he found it impossible to see everything about his surroundings, so vivid and dazzling was the white light, but he was able to note that the fittings were all extremely simple. There were now a total of seven of the creatures, and they seemed to be examining him silently, as though he were some rare species of animal. At no point did he hear any sound exchanged between them, though it was clear that they were in communication with each other.

His impression of the cabin was that it was about 3 metres in diameter and  $2\frac{1}{2}$  metres high.

Then he heard "an infernal din" start up, and had the feeling that the disc was in flight or in movement. He thinks it may have travelled some distance with him, 10 but by now he was in a sort of coma and scarcely conscious. Later, after what lapse of time he does not know, he heard a strange humming noise and was aware that they were carrying him out and were laying him beside the road near his car. He was apparently conscious enough to see what happened after this, for he says he saw the machine rise silently into the air and (very typically) that it seemed to hang there, suspended, 11 for a brief moment, before shooting away at staggering speed, like a flash of lightning, and was gone from sight.

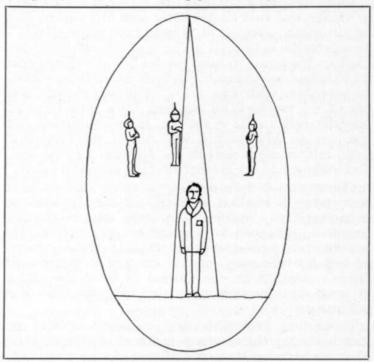
Still very dazed and ill, and unable to see properly, Paulo lay there waiting for help from a passing car. The first one to arrive was driven by a doctor (Dr. Cirley Crespo) who had with him one passenger. Dr. Crespo pulled up to see what was wrong. Paulo managed to ask whether or not somebody could take the wheel of his car and drive him in to Itaperuna. Unfortunately, said the doctor, his passenger could not do this as he could not drive. So Dr. Crespo decided that it would be advisable to leave him there and drive on into Itaperuna (only 9 km.) and get help. They went at once to the Police, who despatched Inspector Gilberto Silva to the scene. On arriving there, this officer found nothing, no sign of craft or dwarfs, and no Paulo, as in the meantime other people had picked him up.

The second car to arrive contained three people and was driven by a Sr. Mário Alves de Brito. This gentleman described later to pressmen how, with considerable difficulty, he had tried to get the man, still only partly conscious, on to his feet, and how the man had cried out weakly: "Who are you? Let go of me! You're trying to take me away . . . Oh God, I'm blind . . ."

and "Please don't take me up!"

It looked an alarming situation, said Sr. Mário Alves de Brito. "I was greatly moved. Something had obviously happened to the man, but I had no idea what. At first I thought he had been beaten up by common criminals. But it was subsequently established that nothing was missing from his pockets, and clearly the explanation was something else. The man was just totally disoriented, disoriented from everything, and in urgent need of medical attention. As he was got on to his feet he rubbed his eyes and kept on saying he was blind. 'It was the light . . . the light blinded me!' he cried. Clearly he had suffered some great shock. My friehd and I got him to the hospital in Itaperuna, and after that we took him to the Police."

The hospital in question is known as the S.A.M.D.U. Hospital, these letters being presumably the initials of



Newspaper sketch published with Benedito Miranda's account

the local industrial enterprise by whom it is operated. <sup>12</sup> The doctor on duty at the time was Dr. Munir Bussad who, as he subsequently told journalists, has known Paulo personally for a long time. He found Paulo to be in a state of severe nervous shock and very ill. He had an abnormally fast pulse-rate, his eyes were badly bloodshot, he had scratches and bruises on his arms, was covered with dirt and still could not see properly. Paulo was however entirely consistent in everything he had to say, and there was absolutely no sign whatever of any mental derangement nor had there ever been such in Paulo's past, as he personally knew for a fact.

Dr. Munir Bussad went on to emphasise to the journalists, many of whom interviewed him, that in his opinion there was nothing new or unique about Paulo's case, since he himself knew for a fact that plenty of other people in the Itaperuna region had not only been seeing UFOs in recent months and years but had also had traumatic experiences with them. He concluded: "I do know that many of the people who have had this sort of experience are not suffering from any kind of psychiatric disorder, nor do they display any signs of having any mental obsessions."

Meanwhile, a large crowd of Itaperuna residents flocked to the hospital to see Paulo and hear his story, for he is well known and well liked by all.

Paulo was next taken to the Police Headquarters, where he related the whole affair to the Chief, Sr. José Luís Maron, and to Inspector Gilberto Gomes, who had meanwhile returned from his fruitless visit to the scene of the strange events.

The case of the typewriter mechanic Paulo Caetano Silveira is thus on official record both with the S.A.M.D.U. hospital and with the Itaperuna Police.

When being interviewed by reporters as late as five days afterwards (September 29) Paulo was still unable to see well and was still extremely nervous, falling from time to time into bouts of weeping.

Paulo has told journalists that he is not a TV owner or viewer, and that he has never seen any cinema film on any subject relating to "beings from other worlds". This experience, he says, is the most terrible thing that has ever happened to him. He did however admit that it was in fact *not* his first UFO experience. He explained: "About three years ago, I, my father, my mother, and one of my brothers, all watched, for a long time, an intensely bright light in the sky. It kept vanishing and reappearing. My parents, who are of the Protestant faith, refused afterwards to discuss what we had seen, and told me and my brother never to discuss it either."

One especially disturbing aspect of the episode must be mentioned: Paulo is obsessed with the idea that the creatures have "instilled something into his head", something designed to change his personality. He became so suspicious on this score that, a few days later, he sent his wife away into the country to stay on his father's farm, as he was "afraid of being the victim of some crisis brought about by what the little men put into me." 13

Paulo told journalists that, although he had no idea how long the creatures had had him inside their craft, on reaching Itaperuna afterwards, his watch was mysteriously found to have lost fifteen minutes. 14

#### Case II. The Truck-Driver

Three days after Paulo Caetano Silveira's alarming experience, a truck-driver named Benedito Miranda stated that he had encountered strange creatures which he described in much the same way as Paulo had described the entities he had encountered. He also claimed that he had had an alarming experience. He and Paulo were, and are, totally unacquainted, and as far as I can ascertain, newspaper accounts of Paulo's experience did not appear until after Benedito had made his report. It is not known, however, if Benedito had heard gossip about Paulo's encounter, but his report must be included in view of the unusual thing he stated had happened to him.

Benedito Miranda lives at rua da Liberdade 248 in the small town of Catagueses, in the State of Minas Gerais. He was driving home to Catagueses from Itaperuna at 2.00 a.m. on September 25 when, at a bridge over the rio Carangola, on the BR-40 highway, not very far from where Paulo had his encounter, he suddenly became aware of a powerful beam of reddish light coming from something blocking the road ahead of him. Simultaneously, he discovered that he could no longer control his car, which slowed down, and then

The thing ahead of him, as he now perceived, was some sort of machine, and it is particularly interesting to note that, according to the various press accounts, he used precisely the same words as Paulo to describe it: "the size of a *Volkswagen* car." He saw a door in it open, and from this door there jumped down three (some of the press accounts say two) little men about 50 cms. high. He said they were wearing "Roman-type helmets" and carried dazzling lights. His account of them is thus nowhere at variance with Paulo's description. Moreover he used virtually the same words as Paulo to describe how the little beings used their lights to rob him of all willpower and all sense of time.

Then they used the beam of yellow light to raise him up into the air to a height, as he thinks, of about 50 metres, where he remained floating, as "light as a feather" and utterly terrified. After a while, though powerless to move, he felt able to use his voice and shouted to be released. How long he hung there, he does not know, but thinks it may have been about fifteen minutes (which, if correct, would be interesting, as fifteen minutes was the amount of time lost by Paulo's watch, as will be recalled). Then the lights of an approaching car came into view, and he found himself lowered gently to the ground. Meanwhile the creatures and their craft had vanished. Unlike Paulo, Benedito Miranda had not even been touched by them.

Miranda drove back into Itaperuna and told his story to the Police. He was also sent for a medical check-up to the S.A.M.D.U. hospital, where he was seen by the same Dr. Munir Bussad, who states that he finds no reason to disbelieve this account any more than Paulo's. The doctor stated that he knew Benedito Miranda well, just as he knew Paulo, and that there could be no question as to Benedito's sanity.

#### Case III. The farmer—unfinished history

In its issue for October 3-4, 1971, O Dia of Rio de Janeiro, the paper with the largest circulation in all

Brazil, commenced a series of articles on the latest UFO wave. Most unfortunately only articles 1 and 7 have reached us so far. Article 1 gives a detailed account of a third case which is allegedly still only known to a very small number of people. Here is the gist of it:

The name of the person has not yet been divulged, but we are told that he is a man who is still suffering serious after-effects, collapsing into fits of weeping and trembling whenever he thinks about his experiences, gasping and struggling for breath, and still requiring urgent medical attention when these crises strike him.

Late one night this man was walking along a deserted country road towards his farm—which leads us to assume he is a farmer. There was a full moon, and all around seemed as bright as midday. Suddenly, high above him in the air, he heard a strange sound, both deep and piercing. He looked up and shuddered, for a great flying object was poised above him and beams of flashing lights of various colours seemed as it were to be travelling round the thing.

His first thought was to run, but his legs would not obey his brain. He was rooted to the spot, unable to

move a limb.

After a few moments the object rose some metres higher into the air. The beams of light grew brighter, and also grew broader. Then the thing moved down again towards him, making the same noise, and the beams of light became as thin as they had been before, and fewer.

Finally, the object halted again, and from an orifice which was in the centre of its base, and which up to then had been dark, there now came a beam of yellow light. Slowly this yellow beam grew thicker, and it enveloped him.

Up till now, though speechless and unable to move, the man's brain had remained quite lucid and he had noted everything precisely. But now the yellow beam was sapping his will-power and he was losing consciousness, forgetting who he was, where he was, what was his name, the names of his friends, where he lived, everything . . .

And now he was being drawn upwards by the terrible

yellow light and was fighting for breath.

For some time he lost consciousness altogether. When he came to again, he was still floating between the ground and the object, at a height which he thinks was about 30 metres or so.

He now had the feeling that "they"—whoever "they" might be—wanted him to know what was happening to him. His panic grew even worse. He now felt sure they were planning to take him away in the saucer and that he might be abandoned for ever in some alien world. Or that this terrible yellow light which held him in its grip might suddenly be switched off, in which case he would crash to the ground and be killed.

Suddenly he found that he could use his voice again, and yelled for help. But his voice was weak, and was muffled by the noise from the machine now but a few

metres above his head . . .

(The rest of this man's story has not yet reached us.)

#### Other Sightings, and General Public Reactions

Publication of these three experiences could not fail to deepen the general unease among the 26,000 inhabitants of the Itaperuna region. Emboldened, many people have come forward and admitted to experiences kept secret until now. Most people are now afraid to venture out on country roads at night unless in parties.

One night some reporters who were inspecting the spot where Paulo had met the dwarfs found two Brazilian "ufologists" there, who were signalling with a flashlight. They had a car with a Uberaba registration, but refused to give their names to the press, saying only that they were engaged in "contacting flying saucers" and "had already had contact with several occupants of flying saucers."

In Natividade, journalists interviewed a Sr. Válter de Carvalho and his wife, who said that they and their daughter had seen the saucer and had been followed by it for some time when they were driving one night on the Natividade-Itaperuna road. Next day they learned

that many others had seen it.

Another witness who is now talking freely is Judge Antônio Sampaio Peres of the Campos Circuit. <sup>15</sup> He said that at 11.30 p.m. on January 15, 1969, he and his wife had seen an object shaped like a flattened dish, with a periphery of purple light and a centre of vivid white, which remained stationary for two minutes or so at a distance of about 200 metres from their car, at approximately the same spot where Paulo and Benedito had had their encounters.

Police Inspector Gilberto da Silva of the Itaperuna Police states that he and Police Delegate Moacir Bellot and ten men of the force all saw a similar sort of

luminous object at Pádua.

A farmer named Paulo César Pavão stated that he and all his family have recently seen the mystery object. (Most of the local populace seem to think that one and the same "saucer" is always involved.)

Another witness to come forward is a Dr. Clebis Silva. At a place called Santa Madalena, hundreds had seen it, "flying high as though carrying out a surveillance of the area." Other reports came in from Bom Jesus do Itabapoana, and from Grussai (in the State of Espîrito Santo).

On one notable occasion, says one of the press reports, more than a thousand people, who were attending an outdoor religious celebration, had an awesome experience. The UFO, seen at first as a greenish light in the sky, swiftly zoomed down towards the crowd. Then, just as it seemed about to smash into them, it suddenly halted and hung there floating in the air for three minutes, emitting beams of green, yellow, blue, purple and red light, and spinning round. Then it shot away straight upwards at great speed and vanished. 16

Padre Humberto, parish priest at Natividade, considers that it is impossible not to accept the reports, especially as so many people have been attacked or molested. On the other hand Padre Higino Lateck, parish priest at Itaperuna, still prefers to think that the little dwarfs are Soviet spies engaged in "casing the

region"!17

An experience that has only now come to light in the press concerns a certain Sr. Alfredo Ferrari, who "saw the UFO" two years ago. As a result of the experience, he became morose and taciturn, underwent a complete change of personality, and finally died a few months ago.

One of the most prominent witnesses mentioned by the press is Sr. Nélson Vieira Leite. A leading local farmer and businessman, Sr. Nélson is the brother of Sr. Rubem Vieira Leite, the present Prefect of the Municipality of Itaperuna. He states that recently, at his farm, the Fazenda Toyota, he and his wife watched a saucer for thirty minutes as it moved about in the sky.

For many people, all these happenings are clear indications that the end of the world is at hand. But, while most folk are alarmed, there are a few bolder souls in whom curiosity has got the better of their fear, and who are eagerly awaiting the arrival of more UFOs at Itaperuna a town that—as they thinkclearly slated to see big things in the days ahead.

But despite all the alarm and misgivings, there has been a great influx of UFO buffs and fans from far and near into Itaperuna and vicinity, and shops announce a

marked boom in sales.

The Police are generally very tight-lipped. Police Delegate José Luîs Maron, the Itaperuna Chief, has been refusing all comment, and has let it be known that he has left town on an extended inspection trip in the district.

#### Tail-piece

The following report, which appeared in the Rio de Janeiro paper O Dia on October 1, 1971, will serve as a fitting conclusion to the present report:

#### FLYING SAUCERS ALL OVER THE PLACE

"Itaperuna (from our correspondents Mário Dias and Gilson Barreto): The Prefect of Itaperuna, Sr. Rulem Vieira Leite, is to send, next Tuesday (October 5), to the UFO Study Department of the Brazilian Air Force, 18 and also to N.A.S.A., an extensive report on the sightings of flying saucers which have been occurring here for about two years past and which are now occurring with great frequency, two people, Paulo Caetano Silveira and Benedito Miranda, having been seized and held for some time by 'small beings'.

"In addition to giving a detailed account of all these happenings, the Prefect will also request that urgent measures be taken. Local Councillor Abel Padilla has stated that he will collaborate with the Prefect in the preparation of the report, and adds: 'I too fully believe in these accounts of sightings of flying saucers, and I

consider the situation to be serious."

#### Notes and references

<sup>1</sup> See FSR, March/April 1967: Charles Bowen: The Mystery of the Morro do Vintém.

FSR, July/August 1968: Charles Bowen: No Easy

Solution to the Morro Mystery.

FSR, July/August 1971: Creighton: Follow-Up on the

Morro do Vintém Mystery.

<sup>2</sup> O Dia, September 27: Anoes de outro mundo param carro em Itaperuna e forçam pessoas a andar de disco. O Globo, September 29: Alarma em Itaperuna com anoes

voadores dentro de um disco luminoso. O Dia, September 29: Disco voador tinha tamanho de

'fusca'.

O Dia, September 30: Arrastados por sêres do espaço (report by Mário Dias and Gilson Barreto).

O Globo, September 30: Itaperuna em expectativa: só

se fala nos discos voadores (report by Klayrton Torquato and Jorge Peter).

O Dia, October 1: Discos voadores por tôda a parte

(report by Mário Dias and Gilson Barreto).

O Dia, October 3-4: 1. Discos voadores no interior fluminense: A misteriosa luz amarela (report by Mário Dias and Gilson Barreto).

O Dia, October 10: 7. Discos voadores no interior fluminense: Médico afirma que uma das vítimas sofreu violento trauma nervoso (report by Mário Dias and Gilson

Barreto).

O Cruzeiro, October 13: Itaperuna: Os Discos Voadores Estiveram Aqui (report by Fernando Pinto).

The light which followed Antônio Villas Boas (A.V.B.) to and fro up the field while he was sitting on his tractor

ploughing was also red. The reference to features of Brazilians of the North-East is puzzling. That is the part of Brazil that I know best. The population there contains many more Negroes or mixtures of White and Negro, White and Indian, Indian and Negro. But I do not see what this can have to do with the dwarfs, since we are told that these had fair skins (as did, incidentally, A.V.B's lady friend). The North-East of Brazil does not contain more fair people than the South, but markedly less.

One of the press-reports speaks of the helmets as "cone-

shaped".

I have compromised here, by translating it as "with spikes", because the accompanying illustration shows only one spike. The article in O Cruzeiro says "covered with spikes" ("cheio de bicos"), and one recalls that A.V.B. said his captors wore high helmets with several projections on the top. In any case it must be emphasised that we cannot assume these beings were of the same species as A.V.B's captors, since A.V.B. stated definitely that his group came up to his own shoulders. He himself is about 1.64 metres in height. So it seems that his captors must have been far bigger creatures than the Itaperuna dwarfs. The recent case most resembling these Itaperuna episodes was at Pedro Leopoldo in May 1969, when a soldier was teleported to Colatina (see "48 Hours In A Flying Saucer" in FSR for September/October 1971).

Barney Hill's shoes are said to have shown scuff-marks due to his having been dragged in the same manner into

the disc.

A.V.B. also mentioned the brilliant lighting inside the cabin of the craft (far larger) into which he was allegedly

Not only A.V.B., but several other witnesses, claim to have been struck by the extremely plain and functional

appearance of the interiors of UFO cabins.

10 One of the clippings quotes Paulo as saying that he thought they flew" about 1 kilometre" with him, though it is impossible for us to know how he arrives at this conclusion, since they allegedly brought him back afterwards to his car.

Just as A.V.B's machine did.

12 The Brazilian Embassy in London are unable to suggest what the initials might stand for, except that the S.A. would normally mean sociedade anónima, i.e. limited company.

We must watch all episodes closely for evidence of this 'Midwich Cuckoo' effect. There have been other cases . . .

14 Several cases are on record in which people have claimed that their watches either would not go or were slow after they had been either inside or near a UFO.

15 This case has already been reported briefly (see Case No. 97 in "Brazilian Cases In 1968 and 1969—Part 5" in FSR Case Histories, No. 6, August 1971). Another Itaperuna item is the piece of allegedly mysterious or unknown metal, "resembling aluminium", which a farmer named José Joaquim found on his fazenda one morning, having heard a loud strange crash during the night (Case No. 58 of "Brazilian Cases in 1968 and 1969—Part 3" in FSR Case Histories No. 4, April 1971).

- Those who are familiar with the startling occurrences alleged to have taken place at Fátima, in Portugal, in 1917, will recognise many features here.
- Padre Humberto is not alone in wishing to attribute it all to the Red Air Force. In a letter published on page 24 of FSR, Vol. 11, No. 3 (May/June 1965), Mr. Henk J. Hinfelaar suggested that A.V.B's captors were Soviet airmen operating secret "UFOs" from bases in Brazil. If this is so it is surprising that today—14 years after A.V.B's experience—the Soviet "visitors" have still not succeeded in taking over Brazil.
- 18 A Divisão de Estudos de Objetos Não Identificados da Aeronáutica Brasileira.

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### UFO OBSERVED DURING CALIFORNIAN BLACKOUT

(continued from page 24)

ionised air plasma, but he has never seen one that lasted so long, and has never seen one appear with a definite outline—as if contained or rimmed. The edges would be diffused or fuzzy in appearance. Also, he said they usually created a noise when they dissipated.

It gave him quite a scare to see something so big and have it just disappear before his eyes without a sound. He remains very puzzled and keeps trying to rationalise

what he saw, without success.

When queried regarding the nature of the "ozone" smell, Mr. Thompson indicated that it resembled the odour found in the electric dryer which has an ozone sterilisation lamp.

# A new publication from APRO . . .

"Proceedings of the Eastern UFO Symposium"
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