

clues as to the true nature of the so-called "extraterrestrials"! *** This is another extraordinary Brazilian case which we shall publish shortly. Finally, as regards Antônio's weird

script, we have now received from Irene Granchi a cassette of Antônio's voice speaking it, but we have not yet had time to study this. G.C.

IT DIDN'T HAPPEN!

Gordon Creighton

As we have mentioned recently — and we shall have more to say on this later — there is a new generation of "Sociological" Ufologists in France today who are hell-bent on proving the total non-existence of the UFO phenomenon. According to them, the entire "French Wave" of 1954 never took place. All was hallucination or hoax.

Time is passing, and most of the original French witnesses have now died or are untraceable. The general thesis of the new group should therefore not prove difficult to put across.

Our French colleagues, in their splendid journal *Lumières Dans la Nuit*, are still publishing a remarkable lot of very detailed accounts of sightings of objects in the air over the territory of France, but we are not sure whether or not even they have abandoned the idea that UFO entities may exist?

"The Great Martian Fear"

In the meantime, undoubtedly the most representative of the books setting forth the new wave of French thinking is *"La Grande Peur Martienne"* ("The Great Martian Fear") by G. Barthel and J. Brucker, and published by Nouvelles Editions Rationalistes (New Rationalist Editions) in Paris in 1979. It is true that out of the hundreds and hundreds of French sightings of 1954 and the scores and scores of close-encounter cases, these two worthy and learned gentlemen chose to investigate only seven or eight, but they have proved conclusively that everything about UFOs and the great French Wave of 1954 was pure nonsense.

Messrs Barthels and Brucker dedicated their book to Michel Monnerie "who opened our eyes", and the preface to it is by Evry Schatzman, President of the French Rationalist Union, a body whose professed aim is "to combat certain modern superstitions, such as Parapsychology, Ufology, etc."

The USSR

It is worth bearing in mind that in the Soviet Union, all this type of work is under tight wraps and under the strict control of the KGB. They are known to be spending vast sums on research into the uses of Parapsychology for the purposes of military and political warfare. What therefore could be more "natural" than

that so many folk including their pals and agents throughout the world, should be working like beavers to see that you and I know nothing about the facts of Parapsychology or UFOs?

The French Minister of Defence "Spilled the Beans"

It is important to note that it was in February 1974 that the French Minister of Defence, Monsieur Robert Galley, had upset so many applecarts and let so many cats out of the bag by saying in his Paris radio interview (*France-Inter*) with the ace reporter Jean-Claude Bourret that the UFOs do exist and that the French Government had indeed had for a long time past a department that was already secretly studying them.

So it did not take long for the counter-campaign to swing into operation. The book by Barthels and Brucker was already on the bookstalls five years after the Minister's revelations (which, we know, through very private and special channels, had earned from President Pompidou the peevisish remark: "We've already enough **** on our hands without you needing to bring up the question of flying saucers!").

(See Jean-Claude Bourret: *The Crack In The Universe: What You Have Not Been Told About Flying Saucers*, English translation. Neville Spearman.)

Spain

As regards Spain, we still lament the passing of their splendid journal STENDEK which did so much good work. But UFO research is going on in several quarters in Spain. There are independent researchers, such as Antonio Ribera in Barcelona and J. J. Benítez in Bilbao, but the main scientific drive now lies with the indefatigable Vicente-Juan Ballester Olmos and his colleagues José Ruesga Montiel and Manuel Gómez Muñoz of Sevilla, from whom we have recently received No. 9 (March 1985) of their mimeographed journal CdU (CUADERNOS DE UFOLOGIA) which, as they inform us, now replaces STENDEK on the Spanish stage.

We have also received from Sr Ballester Olmos two more copies of his excellent scientific books, LOS OVNIS Y LA CIENCIA (Plaza and Janes, Barcelona, 1981) and INVESTIGACIÓN OVNI (Plaza and Janes, 1984).

Both of these books are models of scientific precision and detail.

From letters received during the course of 1984 from Sr José Ruesga Montiel, we gain the impression that this new young Spanish generation of Ufologists feel that they are on the point of making a breakthrough, and that to them will fall the great honour therefore of securing the final explanation of the UFO Enigma.

Dr. Hynek's Statement to OMNI

This Spanish optimism puzzles us somewhat, we confess, for it will be recalled that, in his interview published in OMNI Vol. 7, No. 5 (see FSR 30/4, "*Dr Hynek Hits the Jackpot*") we thought that Dr Hynek had made it quite clear that the UFO Phenomenon "*cannot be explained by the present scientific paradigm*".

In the circumstances, we are obliged to conclude that the new young wave of Spanish investigators know a thing or two that Dr Hynek does not know. We can only wait and see. Maybe they too, like the young French Ufologists, have "solved the problem"?

C.S.I.C.O.P.

Finally, as regards the U.S.A. itself, we note an increase of activity this year by C.S.I.C.O.P. (*The Com-*

mittee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal) and not long ago we received a strictly confidential report from a good American source concerning the *political affiliations* of a lot of the folk over there who are at such pains to destroy all this kind of research. We found that report highly interesting.

It seems to us that, if the UFOs "*cannot be explained by the present scientific paradigm*", the obvious and simple solution for this awkward poser will be to conclude that the UFOs do not exist.

Q.E.D.

We shall not be surprised therefore to see all civilian UFO research here in Europe and in the USA and USSR and everywhere else following the same triumphal course in the next few years.

And there may be some interesting deductions to be drawn. One of these deductions may be this: that the Stage of Take-Over here has now been successfully concluded.

In which case, before long, there will no longer be any UFO research anywhere in the world.

The drive to study nice "safe subjects", like "Ley Lines", "Lights in the Sky", and "Piezo-Perinatal Phenomena" in general, will no doubt continue, and with greatly increased vigour.

COUNTDOWN TO REALITY

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With the special permission of Mr Norman, we have very great pleasure in presenting the full text of this paper as given in the MUFON 1984 Symposium Proceedings. It was also used as the theme for his lecture tours in the United States and in Africa in 1984.

Born and educated in the United States, Mr Norman served for six years in the U.S. Navy and thereafter worked in various places as an engineer in charge of hydroelectric and thermoelectric plants. He became interested in UFOs in 1953, when he saw one hovering over a power plant in Tennessee.

In 1963 he migrated to Melbourne, Australia, and rapidly became one of the foremost UFO investigators in that country, serving as Vice-President and Investigations Officer for the prestigious VUFORS Group. He is MUFON's representative in Victoria and also a member of Dr Hynek's Center for UFO Studies (CUFOS). — EDITOR

Abstract

There is a wind of change blowing in Australia regarding the recognition of the UFO problem. Thirty years ago, the Gallup Poll revealed that only 15% of the population considered the reality of unidentified flying objects. That percentage has now gone to 57% of the general public. It is my intention to show in this paper the reasons which are influencing this change of attitude with regard to this world-wide enigma of the skies.

Introduction

Australia, the land of contrast, has an amazingly similar record of mysterious flying objects as those reported from all over the world. Because Australian ufologists have remained on the alert, these reports have been investigated and recorded in the face of many difficulties. But now those problems have eased due to better co-operation from Australian officials and a greater awareness of the public in general. I will present Australian examples from physical trace land-