

# South American Round-up, 1971—part 1

Gordon Creighton

AS readers will know, we passed long ago the point at which we could attempt either to translate or to print all the interesting UFO news reports that reach us from various parts of the world. Such is particularly the case with South America. The happenings given below are just a few that I have managed to isolate from the pile, but a full report on South America for 1971 is not feasible at present, and indeed the last year for which I have yet attempted to give any sort of more comprehensive survey was 1964.

## 1. The Governor (January 1971)

Writing from Brasília to the *Pôrto Alegre* paper *Correio do Povo* (January 23, 1971), the woman journalist Dinah Silveira de Queiroz comments that, whereas many of the people in the Rio-Guanabara area who recently saw a flying saucer "and also its skipper" are now unwilling to talk of the subject of UFOs—so greatly is this subject disliked—attitudes in the Federal Capital, Brasília, are curiously different. There the reports seem to be accepted far more naturally. For example, from time to time a journalist named Macedo and his wife go out to visit a fazenda (estate) that is actually called locally "the Martians' place." The fazenda is at a place called Alexânia, quite near to Brasília, though the approach road to it is pretty difficult. Last week [January 1971], says Dinah Silveira de Queiroz, a group of young diplomats made a little trip out there "to see the saucers," and they have reported to her on their experiences. One of their friends had already visited the estate, had observed no sign of UFOs there, and was on his way back to Brasília when he saw the hut of a poor peasant. He went over and asked the occupants whether they had ever seen any flying saucers.

"No," they replied.

"But," he asked, "Does *nothing* ever happen here?"

"Oh, yes, Sir!" they answered. "Every day the State Governor comes here and takes a stroll, *looking for little stones.*"

"How do you know he's the Governor?" he asked.

"Why, because he's always *dressed in black!* It can be nobody else but him! He gets down out of his aeroplane and goes around looking for things in the woods here."

"Well, now," said our friend, "And what does the Governor's aeroplane look like?"

"*Don't you know? Why, it's made of two dishes, like, one atop the other, and when it goes up in the air it changes colour and then disappears quicker than a flash.*"

This picturesque account, concludes Dinah Silveira de Queiroz, was the most interesting story that she heard in Brasília about the UFOs at Alexânia. (Our thanks to Sr. Jäder U. Pereira for this report.)

## 2. Another UFO seen and photographed over Antarctica (May 15, 1971)

Three Buenos Aires papers (*La Prensa* and *La Nación* of

May 19, 1971, and *Clarín* of May 20) carried a Chilean Air Force announcement from Santiago de Chile dated May 18 and stating that once again, this time at 10.30 p.m. on Saturday, May 15, personnel of their base in Antarctica had seen and had photographed a UFO.

According to the report, which emanated from the public relations department of the Chilean Air Force, the UFO was observed by military personnel working at the Presidente Frei Meteorological Centre, for a period of fifteen minutes. The UFO was stationary. It subsequently moved away and vanished towards the S.W.

The object was at approximately 35° above the horizon. It was thrice as bright as a star of the first magnitude, and was changing colour every few minutes—from red, through green, to bluish-grey.

According to the announcement, the UFO "produced no significant effect on communications" except that reception on the 3,200 kilo-cycle band was weak and the 20 metre band could not be heard at all. Meteorological conditions at the time were excellent. It was a clear, serene night, with a moon and no wind. The witnesses of the phenomenon were First Sergeant Domingo Saldías, Corporal José Bustamante and Corporal Eduardo Fritz.

There is one discrepancy in these three reports. According to *La Prensa's* version of the Chilean Air Force report, the UFO *did* "cause significant alterations in communications." (I think this is simply a printing error, due to omission of the Spanish word *no*—G.C.)

The report printed in *Clarín* added that the UFO had been *photographed*, and that the film was on its way to Chile. (Our thanks to Sr. Alberto Kravtsov for these reports.)

## 3. UFO hovers over a church (June 25, 1971)

According to a report in the *Notícias Populares* (São Paulo) for June 26, 1971, a UFO was seen on the previous evening by various people in the Brazilian town of Osasco (scene of several sightings and reports in past years).

The first witness was a woman employee of the Municipality, Luzia Onofre da Silva, who, as she was closing a window in the old Law Courts building, saw a strange luminous object flying roughly from the south towards the west.

At first she thought it was a shooting star. But she then observed that its colour was blue and that it had come to a halt above the Church of Santo Antônio. She could now see that its shape was conical, and she cried out in alarm.

Among other witnesses there were a number of people of the town, including Professor André Bogassian, who said he had observed a similar object previously in broad daylight. His description of its shape agreed

with the description given by Sr. Luzia Onofre da Silva. (Our thanks to Mr. Nigel Rimes for this report.)

#### 4. Men In Black with red ties flee in a saucer (July 7, 1971)

Has the British Labour Party been holding any conferences in Venezuela lately, instead of Blackpool?

According to a UPI-FT report from Caracas, Venezuela, which appeared in the *Folha da Tarde* for July 22, 1971, a Spanish doctor had written to the Caracas evening paper *El Mundo* concerning a remarkable sight which he had seen "when two men dressed in black and with red ties fled into Space in a flying saucer."

The witness, Dr. Guillermo Arguello de la Motta, who lives in Madrid, described in his letter the experience that he had had on July 7, 1971. He was a guest of Dr. Antonio Arocha and his family, at their property near the town of San Juan de los Morros, 145 kilometres to the east of Caracas, Capital of Venezuela. It was 6.00 p.m. when they suddenly saw two men clad in black and—a strange detail, he thought—both were wearing red ties and black berets. They got out of a brand-new red *Mustang* automobile, at a distance of about 500 metres from the house.

"The two men stood there waiting for about five minutes," wrote Dr. de la Motta, "and then began to put on orange-coloured belts, talking together animatedly in the meantime. Suddenly a shining object appeared in the sky. It rapidly descended, and then stopped at a height of about 60 centimetres from the ground. It was circular, bell-shaped underneath, and with a turret on the upper part. Its width could have been about 30 metres. What surprised us most of all about it was the rapid changes of colour, from orange to blue and then to white. When it halted, floating in the air, it rotated through almost 180°. Suddenly a small parabolic staircase came down from the base of it, which enabled the two men from the *Mustang* car to enter the saucer with ease. When the staircase had been drawn in again, the craft dipped slightly towards its left side and then, following an inclined flight path, vanished into the sky at an impressive speed. The machine was of course definitely no helicopter. It was totally silent and its shape was something totally unknown, i.e., not conventional."

Dr. Arguello de la Motta's letter concludes with the statement: "I have no objection to your using my name in connexion with any investigations that you may undertake." (Our thanks to Sr. Jáder U. Pereira for this report.)

#### 5. Great luminous UFO seen over airport (end of August 1971)

According to a report in the Rio newspaper *Correio da Manhã* (August 26, 1971) from its correspondent in the Federal Capital of Brazil, foreign judges and magistrates were in Brasília for an international congress on juridical matters when, along with Brazilian federal deputies and high officials, they had the greatest shock of their lives as a big object, described by them as "a great luminous ball," flew around above the Brasília airport and up and down above the road linking the airport with Plano Pilôto, and finally vanished over the horizon as mysteriously as it had come.

Brazilian Federal Deputy Dirceu Cardoso, from the State of Espírito Santo, was one of the eyewitnesses. He is considered among his colleagues of the Federal Parliament as a man who will not tolerate a joke, and even as one who will not listen to innocent or piquant tales . . . He was indeed anxious that his name should not be linked with any report of this mysterious phenomenon over the airport.

*Questioned yesterday during a political gathering, he said however that he had been looking through that morning's papers for some account of the luminous object he had seen, and was astonished to find that there was not a word about it . . .*

He told other Deputies of the details of the affair. He said he was returning into Brasília from the airport in his car at the time, and noticed that a traffic-jam was building up, with many vehicles stationary, while their occupants stood in groups looking up at the sky. He stopped too to see what it was all about. Just at that moment the luminous ball came nearer to the ground than at any other time. "It was like a full moon, moving about from left to right and up and down, until it finally vanished mysteriously."

Many of the people in the parked cars—all strangers to each other—were the foreign judges. According to what he, Deputy Dirceu Cardoso, was told by State Attorney Galba Menegale—also a witness—the mysterious luminous ball had been over Brasília for at least ten minutes already before he (Cardoso) came on the scene.

As some of the Federal Deputies pointed out, this was the second UFO sighting over Brasília. It was about five years previously that Deputy Bias Fortes (who also refused to talk much about the episode) told some of his friends in strictest confidence that he had seen "an enormous luminous ball flying around to and fro over the Plano Pilôto area of the new Federal Capital." (Our thanks to Dr. W. Buhler for this report.)

#### 6. UFO at Ilha Bela (September 7, 1971, 7.00 p.m.)

We are obliged to Mr. Nigel Rimes for the following report.

Walter Cantovitz was on a beach near the town of Ilha Bela overlooking the channel between the Island and the Mainland, with São Sebastião slightly to the left. About half the sky was covered by high hazy cloud through which the moon shone. Suddenly his attention was caught by a large cone-shaped object motionless in the sky over the channel. It was of a greyish metallic colour and surrounded by a bright halo of greenish-orange.

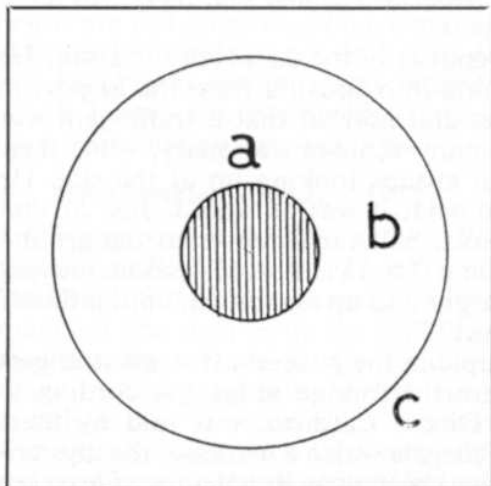
He was unable to decide whether the object was above or below the level of the clouds, as it was in a patch of clear sky. After a few seconds, just as he was about to call to his girl friend, who was near the road, on the look-out for a friend's car, the object moved off rapidly towards the south. Although the halo around it had not changed colour, it brightened markedly as the object moved away, and pulsated rapidly, from bright to dim. The object quickly diminished in apparent size as it went away. When it was overhead its apparent size was *larger than the Moon*. During the time that the object was hovering *the wind dropped to zero, and everything seemed very still.*

(Continued on page 11)

# A close encounter in Tatebayasi

Takao Ikeda

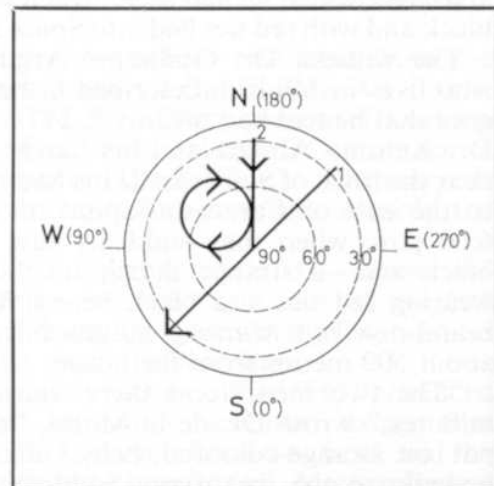
Our contributor is Editor of *Reports of UFO Phenomena happening in Japan*, published by Japan Space Phenomena Society of Hiroshima, Konu. This article is prepared from an item which appeared in issue No. 1 of the journal, dated April 1, 1972.



Left.

Diagram of the UFO when at its visually greatest size.

Key: a. Dark central portion.  
b. White, shining area of Lunar magnitude.  
c. Indistinct outline.



Right.

Trajectory of the UFO across the sky.

**T**HIS incident was reported by Mr. Giyouiti Mita, a teacher at Oizumi High School, Oizumi City. The witness, Arai, is a seventeen-year-old schoolboy who has requested that his full name and address are withheld.

At about 18.30 hrs. on November 29, 1970, Arai was riding his bicycle on the way home at Kone, Tatebayasi City, Gunma Prefecture, after doing some shopping, when he saw the UFO. His main observation was heralded by the sighting of five or six objects which "flew" in formation on a straight path for about five seconds. Their course was from NE to SW.

Several seconds later a solitary object appeared in the sky to the North and approached swiftly. Arai parked his bicycle and ran up some steps into a raised enclosure to get a better view.

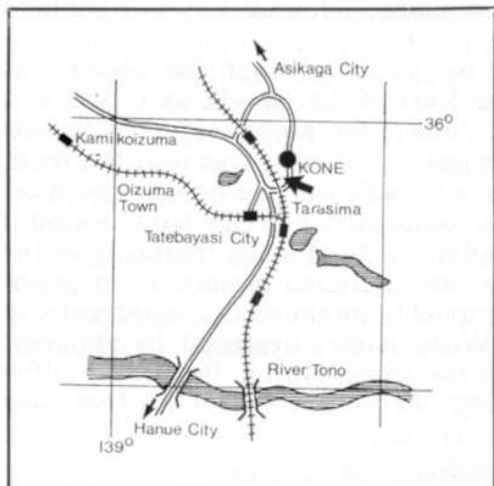
When it reached a point overhead the UFO changed direction and swung round towards the West, and then

went on to complete a circular course. This manoeuvre was repeated, by which time the object had descended so that its apparent diameter was approximately ten times that of the full moon. The UFO then hovered at a very low altitude for two or three seconds, then it climbed and disappeared overhead. Throughout the whole of its passage it was soundless. Its central part was described as being "a little dark" while the main ring around it was glowing white, its light being the equivalent magnitude of that of the moon. The outline was indistinct.

Arai had barely continued on his way when he saw a bright flash of white light to the SE from where he was riding. He was so surprised that he momentarily lost control and tumbled from his machine.

He stated, when interviewed, that it was cloudy, but calm, at the time.

Recovering his composure sufficiently to remount his



Left.

Map of the area in which the sightings occurred.

The grid is a 10Km. square.  
The arrow indicates location of sighting (see detail map of this area).

Right.

Map of the area in which the sighting occurred.

Broken line indicates route taken by Arai.  
The 'X' indicates approximate position where he left his bicycle.

