

2. Brazilian farmer's house visited by UFO crew

According to a report in the São Paulo paper *O Jornal* of August 10, 1958, a farmer living near Ubatuba had reported that his home had been visited many times by extremely friendly, young blond men of medium height, always cheerful, always smiling, and never showing signs of fatigue or vexation. He said they often played and joked with his children, and he assumed that the young men were members of the Brazilian Air Force!

3. Huge UFO seen over South Brazilian State of Paraná

According to a report in the newspaper *Diário de Pernambuco* for August 16, 1958, travellers driving

along the Curitiba-Paranagua Highway had seen a huge, egg-shaped craft stationary in the sky. Windows were visible, some of which seemed to be opening or closing from time to time. On the lower side of the craft there seemed to be enormous balls, while on the top of what seemed to be the front of the craft there was something shaped like a pointed hat.

What seemed to be something fiery was seen falling from near the huge globes. It came down very near to the ground and eyewitnesses said they thought that "photographs were being taken."

Finally the craft climbed away and vanished rapidly in space. G.C.

RUSSIA: NAUGHTY HENRY GRIS SAYS IT AGAIN! "SOVIET SPACE-CENTRE KNOCKED OUT BY UFOs"

WHEN I was a very small boy we had a neighbour, a lady who had apparently once been certified as insane but who, to all outward appearances, was now perfectly normal provided you kept off the subject of *plums*. For she adamantly maintained that those fine great fruit on the big tree in her garden were *gooseberries*. If, however, you called them plums she would whip herself up into quite a lather. So long as you laid off the plums, all was sweetness and light.

I often think a somewhat similar situation seems to prevail in the USA with CSICOP (*The Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal*). To CSICOP, whose members include Mr. Philip Klass and Mr. James Oberg, any talk of UFOs works like the proverbial red rag on the proverbial bull. Evidently they possess an enormous vested interest in the non-prevalence of UFOs. London radio listeners who heard the LBC *Nightline* programme on July 13, 1982, in which Lord Clancarty and I discussed our subject with Mr. Oberg and with science-writer Ian Ridpath, will recall that Mr. Oberg seems to claim to have investigated and exploded all known and recorded cases of UFO landings or close encounters. (He is evidently an extremely busy man.) He is also the author of the book *UFOs and Outer Space Mysteries*. This work was recently reviewed by the admirably objective Janet and Colin Bord in their *Bookshelf 17* (See FSR 28/5) and they opined:—

"James Oberg calls himself a sympathetic sceptic but it's a moot point whether he really is sympathetic."

A moot point indeed.

In Parts II and III of the articles on *Dr. Feliks Zigel'*

and the Development of Ufology in Russia (FSR Vol. 27, Nos. 4 and 5) I reported remarkable accounts of a huge UFO, and of landings, brought back from Russia by the Latvian-born (and therefore fluent Russian-speaking) American journalist Henry Gris, who claims that he got the material direct from Soviet astronomer Feliks Zigel', geophysicist Alexei Zolotov, and astrophysicist Sergei Bozhich.

The predictable CSICOP response to these accounts of Soviet UFO sightings and landings (particularly of the '*Glavnyy Objekt*' that reportedly hung around over Moscow for five minutes during the night of June 14, 1980, and over the USSR itself for a total of 40 minutes) was painful in the extreme, and was discussed in our Editorial in FSR 28/2.

Meanwhile Mr. Henry Gris, who is in correspondence with me and does not appear much perturbed by all the excitement, *has done it again...* For in a syndicated new report published on March 13, 1983 (I also have the full text as given in the Hongkong English paper *South China Morning Post*: credit and thanks to reader D. Lester of Leeds) he now makes the outrageous claim, which will upset CSICOP even more gravely, that, in a fresh visit to Moscow early this year, he again saw geophysicist Dr. Alexei Zolotov and astrophysicist Dr. Vladimir Azhazha, who informed him that, *at 2.00 a.m. on June 1, 1982, two huge orange 'jellyfish-shaped' UFOs (remember the Petrozavodsk 'jellyfish?') raided the chief Soviet Space Centre at Baikonur in Central Asia. One UFO hovered for 14 seconds above Launching Pad No. 1 and enveloped it in what looked like 'a silver-coloured shower.' Next day, large numbers of bolts and rivets were found lying be-*

low, seemingly sucked out of the support towers of the main installation at Launching Pad No. 1. Welded sections had also come apart, and the whole giant Soviet Cosmodrome at Baikonur was consequently out of operation for the first two weeks of June 1982. The second UFO headed for the nearby Baikonur housing complex (60,000 Cosmodrome workers) and in a few seconds knocked out the panes in all the windows or drilled fine round holes in them.

No human injuries were claimed in either incident.

Dr. Alexei Zolotov told Henry Gris that he had been present in Baikonur at the time, staying in the Hotel Cosmonaut.

In a letter dated May 24, 1983, Mr. Gris informs me that James Oberg admits that Baikonur was right out of action for a fortnight in June 1982 and is 'baffled' and has no explanation. Says Gris: "Between the three launching-areas, Baikonur, Kapustin Yar, and Plesetsk (the new third, secret launching area north of

Moscow) with a total of some 80 launching towers between them, hardly a day passes normally without at least one firing into Space." He also says: "Oberg juggles a bit, and, hey presto, another UFO is 'explained'. I have however noted that, of late, he has grown a little less adamant — at least in his conversation with me. I propose to be back in Russia in September '83, when I should pick up the latest on their UFO sightings, plus new data on the Russian Space Programme — now entering a dramatic new stage, with man's first 'Space-Island' a definite reality in 1984 — once again, alas, under the Hammer and Sickle."

Well, there it is! If somebody is romancing, let us hope that we shall soon find out who it is.

As for CSICOP, there is further bad news for them from China, and we propose to report at length on this in our next issue. G.C.

MAIL BAG

Correspondence is invited from our readers, but they are asked to keep their letters short. Unless letters give the sender's full name and address (not necessarily for publication) they cannot be considered. The Editor would like to remind correspondents that it is not always possible to acknowledge every letter personally, so he takes this opportunity of thanking all who write to him.

"A Warning To All"

(Translation from French)

Dear Sir, — Many thanks for your warm words for one of my articles about GEPAN. (It is all the more timely, because in fact I am advised by well-informed quarters that GEPAN is to be wound up shortly. In a word — another Condon.)

Thank you too for your share in getting my article published in Dr. Hynek's journal (CUFOS).

We are old hands at the game, always battling on the ramparts, since we are certain of the existence of the so-called "UFO Phenomenon" — a term we use because we don't have a better one. The name with which it is decked out has no bearing on its reality, which far transcends any appellation one can give it, as is proved by the book just published in France (Mercure de France), *La Chine et les Extraterrestres*, by the Chinese Ufologist Shi Bo of Peking, who reads, writes and speaks French. The preface is by Aimé Michel. It rather recalls

Aimé's own book, *"Mystérieux Objets Célestes"*. If you have not already done so, I urge you to read it, and I would like very much to see it translated into English. You will find Shi Bo's address in the book, and I think he also knows English.

Very cordially yours,

F. Lagarde,
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9 rue Camille Desmoulins,
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France

March 31, 1983

(Readers will find an extract from Shi Bo's book elsewhere in this issue. For the latest developments at GEPAN see our last issue, FSR 28/5. — EDITOR.)

The 'E.T.' Plague

Dear Mr. Creighton, — Your Editorial *The 'E.T.' Plague* (28/4) suggested that the feature films produced and directed by Steven Spielberg could be manipulating audiences into a too-

easy acceptance of 'uncouth and nasty' aliens and thus 'facilitating a take-over by something out of the Pit'. This chilling possibility gains in likelihood when we consider the curious system of metaphysics developing through all of Spielberg's films to date. Film reviews may seem out of place in FSR, but if Spielberg is a seminal influence in the formulation of a popular UFO concept with which we have to contend, it may be necessary to examine his ideology.

Spielberg's first film, *Duel* (1972), chronicled the troubles of a businessman on a long-distance drive dogged by a driverless Diesel truck bent on luring him into fatal accidents. This was followed by *Jaws* (1976) in which the 'death-machine' was resurrected as a marauding killer-shark, devouring millions at the box-office and spawning a huge spin-off industry that reflected a disturbing degree of popular veneration for this saw-toothed Shiva-like deity. The anti-human force that impelled the deadly Diesel truck of *Duel* evoked simple terror, but in