

THE ARGENTINE AGAIN

Hundreds see saucers and cigars

IN the May-June issue, our correspondent Fidel A. Cappa reported on the 1961 sightings over the Argentine. In his accompanying letter he mentioned that the subject of flying saucers was not very active in his country at that time. During the summer of this year, however, the saucers returned in force and the news made its way into the newspapers of the world.

On June 18, the London *Evening News* carried the following report from Buenos Aires: "Unidentified flying objects are becoming a common sight for Argentine residents. They are variously described as saucer or cigar shaped. The latest of a recent series was reported in Olavarria—a rural town in the Province of Buenos Aires. A farmer, Senor Jose Muro, telephoned the local newspaper, reporting the presence of an unusual object which he had spotted with a small telescope.

"Reporters, neighbours and photographers went to his home and 20 minutes later the object was still hovering overhead, barely moving. Witnesses claimed that shortly afterwards it vanished upwards, only to reappear closer than ever several minutes later.

"The hue of its light appeared to change from red to blue, from blue to green and again to red. Other residents in Olavarria claimed to have seen similar objects in recent days.

"Buenos Aires news agencies state that a confidential report to the authorities compiled by officers of the naval base of Puerto Belgrano, near Bahia Blanca at the southern tip of the Province of Buenos Aires, had confirmed the presence of unidentified objects in the sky over Argentina. The officers made a cross-examination of scores of witnesses, particularly those who

reported unusual activity of 'ovnis' during the night of May 14 in the neighbourhood of the base.

"Witnesses include sailors, farmers, ranchers, businessmen, lorry drivers and local officials throughout the provinces of Buenos Aires and La Pampa. Similar reports have come from local Press correspondents in the provinces of northern Argentina."

The Dublin *Evening Mail*, referring to the incidents reported early on May 14 and quoting from the Argentine *La Nacion*, added the information that in Santa Rosa "many saw overhead the strange spectacle of six or seven moving objects, strangely bright, advancing in perfect formation from north to south. People attending a late party saw the same bodies at closer range. They noticed a white beam on the ground which soon soared to a high altitude followed by other objects of similar shape. They appeared to move around their own axis." *La Nacion* concluded by saying that the altitude of the objects seemed moderate and "although the data received is not identical, and in some cases, contradictory, all reports point to the evidence of strange objects present in our skies." In every case the objects were reported as moving from north to south in perfect formation. According to the Dublin *Evening Press* of June 2, the objects "were moving faster than any known earthly contrivance but more slowly than a meteorite." Reports poured in from all over the Argentine and it appears that the UFOs were sighted almost simultaneously from places more than 1,000 miles apart. The Argentine *La Prensa* stated that the reports came from the provinces of Buenos Aires, La Pampa on the southern border

of Buenos Aires and San Juan in the north-west.

According to the Vancouver *Sun* of May 25, quoting Reuters from Buenos Aires, an official Argentine television station said on May 24 that a woman was in a state of shock after reporting that she had seen a flying saucer and two strange men. The station said, the report continued, that the object and the robot-like creatures were seen in south-central La Pampa province and that Air Force experts had checked and found grass singed in a circle six yards wide in the area.

Later. A more detailed account of the "wave" has reached the REVIEW. The following report is taken from the *Buenos Aires Herald* of May 26: "Flying saucers have invaded Argentina. Eye-witnesses report seeing them in several provinces. One theory is that they are manned by strange creatures from outer space engaged in exploring the earth.

"A woman in La Pampa province was taken to a mental hospital suffering from shock after seeing a robot-like apparition come out of a saucer. When he discovered he was being watched, the robot returned to the machine, set it in motion, and disappeared at a tremendous speed." This is the latest of a number of similar reports emanating from different parts of Argentina. In this instance the woman's story is corroborated by her husband who was able to glimpse the saucer as it vanished in space. Both are farm workers. A subsequent inspection of the spot where the saucer landed showed the ground flattened and burned as if by a fierce flame. According to the scorched patch of earth the saucer must have had a diameter of five metres.

"Another report comes from three truck drivers. They were travelling from Bahia Blanca to La Pampa along route 33 when, just before dawn, they saw a strange luminous object ahead of them. 'It looked like a brightly lit railway carriage,' one of them said. The object remained on the ground for a minute and took off again, passing over the heads of the astonished drivers at a height of only 70 metres. They discovered there were two saucers and not one, as apparently the 'railway carriage' split into two parts. Where the saucers had alighted the men found traces of a wet, greyish substance. They took it to the naval base at Puerto Belgrano for analysis.

"Scientists are still studying photographs taken earlier this week by Miguel Thomé in the vicinity of Bahia Blanca. He took several pictures of a flying saucer from relatively close quarters and there seems no doubt that he photographed a solid object.

"Sr. Afiel Ciro Rietti, president of the 'Comision Observadora de Objetos Voladores No Identificados', says these flying saucers are a reply from outer space to

man's attempts to conquer new worlds through artificial satellites and manned capsules. This entity is formed by a group of Argentine men who investigate reports of strange unidentified objects. Rietti himself has been interested in this hobby for the past 15 years.

"'Beings from unknown parts of the universe are endeavouring to explore the earth,' he said. Rietti added that all the flying saucer appearances in Argentina have been in an area bounded by Bahia Blanca, Cordoba and Salta.

"'This is very significant and I believe the saucers come down in those localities to refuel. We do not know what they use to propel them, but experts agree it is some kind of combustible.'

"It is not unreasonable to surmise that they can obtain some substance there we know nothing about. It is only in these localities that reports have been received of flying saucers seen not only in the air, but resting on the ground, he concluded.

"The Commission is ready to investigate any flying saucer reports if those who have seen any strange objects in the sky recently

write to Casilla de Correo 2560, Buenos Aires."

The significance of this report can hardly be exaggerated. The seriousness with which the visitations have been treated is an indication that in the Argentine, at least, no attempt is being made either to explain the incidents away or to subject them to ridicule. Nor, in fact, has the Editor of the *Buenos Aires Herald* introduced an "expert" to dismiss the inter-planetary hypothesis so confidently put forward. It is beginning to look as though events outside the United States will sooner or later begin to affect the attitude of the U.S. Air Force. If the peoples of the rest of the world begin to accept the saucers as fact, the U.S.A. will simply have to alter its stand or remain in isolation on a subject which could outweigh all others in international importance.

The FLYING SAUCER REVIEW is attempting to obtain the photograph taken by Miguel Thomé. If it is available for reproduction it will appear in the earliest possible subsequent issue, together with a more detailed account of the incident.

Another X-15 pilot sees space object

"There are things out there!"

ON July 17, Major Robert White piloted an X-15 experimental rocket to a height of 58 miles, breaking the altitude record by 11 miles. Major White thereby became the first man to qualify as an astronaut by flying in a winged craft and the fifth man eligible to wear the United States space wings.

On his return to the ground he reported seeing a strange object in space at the top of his climb. According to the *London Daily Telegraph* of July 18 he said: "I have no idea what it could be. It was greyish in colour and about

30 to 40 feet away." According to the July 27 issue of *Time*, Major White reported dramatically over his voice radio during the flight: "There *are* things out there. There absolutely is!"

Readers will recall how Joe Walker at the top of his then record-breaking flight in the X-15 (See FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, July-August issue) last April took a film of "discoid or cylindrical objects" which were later explained away as ice particles which had flaked away from the X-15 rocket plane. In this connection it is interesting to note from the Lon-

don *Times* report (also of July 18) that although Major White had achieved a speed of 3,784 miles per hour—284 miles per hour faster than had been planned—he was able to reduce the re-entry speed so effectively that the heat of the friction recorded was 850°F., compared with temperatures of up to 1,400°F. recorded on earlier flights. This would seem to bear out the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW's comment that heat and not icing would be the problem and that the explanation of Joe Walker's space objects did not appear to be tenable.