

quite certain that they were looking at a solid object.

A Met. Office report for that area shows that the cloud base was 3,500 ft. with a westerly wind of 7 m.p.h. The photograph was developed by Kodak, who made a colour transparency from which the prints were produced. The photog-

rapher is a director of an engineering firm in the north of England and although I have his permission to make what use I like of his experience and photograph, he does not want his name brought into it. The names of all three gentlemen are, of course, known to me.

The Italian Scene—Part 3

Bruno Ghibaudi's contact claim

By GORDON W. CREIGHTON

Interest in flying saucers continues unabated in the Italian weekly press. Last year, Bruno Ghibaudi submitted several remarkable photographs of saucers and now he claims further knowledge through contact. The *Flying Saucer Review* prints the following summary of two articles which appeared in *Le Ore* on January 24 and 31 of this year and, in accordance with its declared policy, neither accepts nor rejects the evidence.

LE ORE carries several photos of Ghibaudi, who is himself a journalist in Turin. He is very well known to the Italian TV and radio public as he has been for a number of years one of their chief reporters on scientific matters, especially aviation and space-travel.

Under the banner-headlines, "Bruno Ghibaudi Confirms: Yes, I Have Talked to the Pilots of the Flying Saucers," he begins by explaining that two years ago he was asked by his chiefs to prepare a TV programme about people who claimed that they had seen flying saucers. He had not paid any attention to the subject and was merely open-minded about it all. When he began to travel around Italy interviewing people he was flabbergasted (just as Renato Albanese of *La Domenica del Corriere* was—see the last two issues of the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW) to discover that it was not only in foreign countries that people had seen UFOs, as reported by the press, but that all over Italy, his own country, there were large numbers who had seen them, or taken photos of them, or met the pilots, or secured pieces of metal and other materials left by saucers that had landed, and so forth.

Ghibaudi adds (just as Renato Albanese did) that his task of going round collecting this in-

formation was no easy one. Why? Because, as he says, so many people who had had these experiences or taken these pictures and had then spoken up boldly about it, had either lost their jobs or been subjected to avalanches of ridicule and molestation, or hours of grilling by officialdom, and were by now thoroughly sick of the whole thing and loath to open their mouths again. Nevertheless, Ghibaudi completed his preliminary tour of enquiry. And, like Renato Albanese, he was shaken by the results.

A familiar attitude

In the meantime his TV chiefs had told him that the projected programme on saucers was "off." (We are quite familiar with this sort of thing, particularly in the U.S.A. during the past 15 years, and it is interesting to note a very different attitude of late where the British radio and TV authorities are concerned.) But Ghibaudi was by then fascinated, and convinced of the existence of the saucers. He therefore continued the investigation on his own account, and is today held to be one of the principal experts on our subject in Italy.

The first part of his interview is a recapitula-

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tion of the main outlines of the UFO problem, beginning with the "Foo Fighters" in World War II, so I pass over this and come now to the really startling part.

Ghibaudi claims in fact that, in the summer of 1961, he was invited to go to meet some of the space-people. The meeting took place in a house, the location of which he refuses to divulge, and in the presence of several witnesses, one of whom was the go-between who had brought him the invitation.

Ghibaudi goes on to explain that the human form is, in fact "universal throughout the Cosmos, as part of a general harmony—and yet the idea of this has generally been rejected by Earthmen as impossible, no doubt because, *as almost always, the truth is too simple to be accepted.*" Apart, therefore, from various sorts of superficial differences, Man throughout the Universe resembles us (although Ghibaudi is careful to agree that some of their internal organs may well be different and even designed to perform quite different functions).

Visitors from many places

These space visitors, he says, are coming to our planet at this time of crisis from many different worlds. Hence the radical variations, as regards size and so forth, among the various reports of people who have seen them or met them. When asked from where the saucers were coming he indicated that they were coming from a number of places including, perhaps, Mars and Venus.

What is happening now is simply that the infant civilisation of Earth-Man being at a point of particularly grave crisis, the space beings are prepared to reveal themselves to us more. Ghibaudi confirms, then, their benevolence and their desire to help us. But our visitors have an exact estimate of our natures and of the level that we have reached. Their aim is to prevent nuclear disaster. Ghibaudi says flatly that they have indicated their firm intention to intervene if it becomes unavoidable. But he adds that we must bear in mind that although many thousands of years ahead of us technically and scientifically (not to mention morally), they are not omnipotent deities. They are men. So we must not rely on them to get us out of our difficulties. For, not being infallible, even their efforts and their concern might not always suffice to avert disaster if something went wrong or some accident nullified their plans to avert the worst.

On the subject of the atomic weapons, Ghibaudi points out that while the extraterrestrials are clearly fully capable of destroy-

ing such weapons (and here I would remind readers of the Russian reports of two cases of "direct action" by UFOs that I gave last year), the human heart would nevertheless remain unchanged. We should still retain the ability and, above all, the intention, to build fresh nuclear devices. For this reason, says Ghibaudi, the extraterrestrials are working in a more subtle manner to influence the minds of men. They fully realise the dangers of any kind of broad prohibitive action. They know that in the last analysis Earth-Man must make his own way.

Other reasons

It will be noted that, while Ghibaudi agrees that one of the principal reasons for their revealing themselves more to Earth-Man at present is the nuclear bomb, he also makes it clear that there are also other reasons, of which he is forbidden to speak.

Ghibaudi confirms that the principal consideration in the minds of our benevolent visitors in adopting so reticent a policy towards us is not merely the great dangers that would result from panic—tremendous as these dangers would no doubt be where primitive and backward creatures like ourselves were concerned. But all this is not the really serious danger. The real danger lies in the fact that—as the space people well know—their open appearance among Earth-Men would lead to comparisons, sad comparisons, and Earth-Man might feel so deflated, so inferior, that he might lose hope. We all can visualise what the effect might be on politicians (on both sides of the Iron Curtain).

I quote Ghibaudi's words at this point:

"The real problem is, nevertheless, not panic at all. Our masses are not yet ready for a revelation of this kind. . . . The real problem is something quite different. Do not let us forget that between their science and ours there is a gap of thousands of years, and that for this reason an 'official' mass descent of space beings from other planets would inevitably bring about comparisons between their worlds . . . and ours. How could such an encounter be permitted? At an inner level, we should quite certainly be severely shaken as a result of it, and they do not want to alarm us in any way. And this is all the more so, inasmuch as there are cosmic laws which prevent the more evolved races from interfering, beyond certain limits, in the evolution and development of the more backward races. For every race must be the maker of its own progress, paying the price for it with its sacrifices, its failures, and its victories. There are also other reasons, but I am not permitted to reply to you about those."

Although suggesting that space entities have always been visiting or passing by our Earth, Ghibaudi also admits that some of them are so much like us in appearance that they are in fact living among us now. Infiltration, he claims, is a fact. He confirms, too, that in their chance meetings with Earth-Men they sometimes communicate by gesture, sometimes by telepathy, and sometimes in the language of the person whom they meet. After all, people who are so advanced technically as their flying machines indicate them to be can hardly be expected to have difficulty in learning all our main languages from our broadcasts before they even land here.

Asked whether *war* existed among the space peoples, Ghibaudi replied that he had no precise information, but that he felt sure the struggle between good and evil must be found in some form or other throughout the Universe "wherever there are created beings."

Questioned next as to whether such "human" sentiments as love, hate, friendship, loyalty, solidarity, were found among the extraterrestrials whom he had met, Ghibaudi replied emphatically: "The experience that I have had of them permits me to affirm that in them the good sentiments are enormously strong, while the bad sentiments are almost entirely absent."

MYSTERY SATELLITES

IN the January-February, 1961, issue of the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW there appeared an article contributed by Gordon W. Creighton concerning the mystery object tracked in orbit by the Grumman Aircraft Engineering Corporation of Bethpage, Long Island, New York. The REVIEW printed the tracking photograph kindly supplied by the Grumman Corporation and this clearly showed that the satellite was travelling in the opposite direction to all satellites launched either by America or Russia. Although the tracking was confirmed by other corporations in the U.S.A., nothing more has been heard of the mystery object.

The London *Evening Standard*, however, has revived the subject.

In its issue of March 15, Peter Fairley writes: "Ten military satellites are now orbiting over Russia on secret missions. A further 21 have been sent up during the past year, for an average period of three weeks in space. All were launched by the U.S. Air Force. *But six other large spacecraft have been orbited — some passed repeatedly over Britain — to which neither the United States nor the Soviet Union will own up. No mention is made of these 'orphans' in official American space records, which are published monthly. Even confidential lists mark them only as 'Unannounced' and 'Status Unknown.'*"*

Peter Fairley quotes a Ministry of Defence spokesman in London as saying that the mystery ob-

jects could be part of Russia's Cosmos series of sputniks, but American experts disagree.

Because of the direction in which it was orbiting ruled out an earthly origin, the satellite discovered by the Grumman Corporation remains unidentified. Peter Fairley, however, does not afford us sufficient information to make any guess as to the source of the six "status-unknowns." In view of the *Evening Standard's* editorial dismissal of flying saucers (see leading article in this issue), it is not surprising that its contributor should not even consider the possibility that the unknowns are neither Russian nor American. The British Air Ministry's view? "No comment."

* Our italics.—Editor.

OLD BUT TRUE

Can the astronomer or the geologist, the physicist or the biologist, know more on this subject than those who have no special knowledge of astronomy, or geology, or physics or biology? The astronomer can say how large such and such a planet is, its average density, the length of its day and its year,

the light-reflecting qualities of its surface, even (with the physicist's aid) the nature of the atmosphere surrounding it, and so on . . . But no astronomer, or geologist, or physicist, or biologist, can tell us anything certain about life in other worlds. Richard A. Proctor, *Science Byways* (1882).