

AN EXPERIMENT TO OBTAIN UFO INFORMATION BY PSYCHIC MEANS

Ann Druffel

Mrs. Druffel of the Los Angeles NICAP Subcommittee lives in Pasadena, California.

THE readers of this report can be assured that the six persons who participated in and observed this experiment have endeavoured to maintain an objective attitude towards: 1, the existence of unidentified flying objects, in the sense of their being material, propelled craft; 2, the reality of extrasensory perception. The purpose of this experiment was to gather the *facts* associated with the event, and present them in a form so that the reader could draw his own conclusions.

Our group of six persons on May 22, 1963, attended a demonstration given by the well-known Dutch paragnost Peter Hurkos, widely reported to have keen psychic powers of extrasensory perception and precognition. Known popularly as "the man with the X-ray mind," he appeared on this date at the Wilshire-Ebell Theatre, 4401 West Eighth Street, Los Angeles, at 8.30 p.m. Present were some 2,000 people, a capacity audience. Our group of six was composed of Mrs. Idabel Epperson, Miss Marilyn Epperson, Mr. and Mrs. Ward Kimball, Mr. Zan Overall, and the author of this report, whose special task had been to prepare for Mr. Hurkos' attention a 10 × 12 manilla envelope enclosed in which were a series of four photographs of an unknown aerial object—pictures which are commonly known in UFOlogy as the "Trinidad sighting". The photos in our manilla envelope were taken from the book *The Great Flying Saucer Hoax* by Coral Lorenzen.

At the request of Mr. Hurkos' secretary, Mr. Larry Reasor, who explained to the audience the manner in which Mr. Hurkos would demonstrate, the envelope was marked by Miss Epperson with the identifying letters "I. E. Epp" and placed, along with several hundred objects provided by other members of the audience, in one of the four cardboard boxes provided for that purpose.

Mr. Hurkos then came on the stage. It is necessary to explain that he speaks somewhat broken English in a heavy Dutch accent. His English vocabulary is limited and sometimes inaccurate. When excited, his sentences are clipped. Mr. Hurkos proceeded through the first part of his demonstration, using objects chosen from the cardboard box in which our envelope was placed. After exhibiting his powers with several photographs and jewelry, he left the stage. The pile of objects containing our envelope, having been spread out on a table during the demonstration, was now replaced in the cardboard box. The entire box was removed behind the curtain out of our sight. When Mr. Hurkos reappeared after a brief rest, the other, smaller cardboard boxes were emptied on the table to make a second pile. After surveying the pile, Mr. Hurkos motioned that the first

box be again emptied on the table, and this was done.

After two or three other demonstrations, Mr. Hurkos picked up our envelope and called for the owner. Miss Epperson went up on the stage. Mr. Hurkos felt the envelope, rubbed it on his suit, appearing quite puzzled. He commented on his difficulty in receiving impressions from it. He then asked Miss Epperson for her watch, and, holding this to his cheek, he continued. He made several comments on events which had happened to her, all of which were accurate. He then returned her watch, and directed his attention to the envelope. After crumpling it slightly and remarking that he was puzzled, he slid out the paper of photos inside and quickly held it under the envelope out of view, but touching the paper with his hands, meanwhile asking Miss Epperson if it was all right for him to remove it and put his hands on it. At all times, except for the instant when the paper was slid from the envelope, the paper was out of his view.¹

He then began to twist and turn the paper and envelope, crumpling it, but doing it in such a manner that the paper was crumpled and enclosed *within* the envelope, out of sight. He commented with some strain and confusion that he did not understand what he was receiving from it. Finally, he twisted it violently, as a washerwoman wrings out laundry and then, slowly, with a confused, puzzled manner he spoke the following words. "I feel so old . . . so old . . ."

He followed this with another protestation that he could not understand. Then, suddenly, in what could be described as a trance-like state, a stream of words in a language totally unfamiliar to our six witnesses seemed to erupt from him. The stream of language, which seemed to be at least ten to twelve long sentences flowed on steadily . . . not with stops and starts as in dialogue, but more in the manner of a speech or a page read from a book. The language had no easily recognisable similarity to any modern language which any of our group could place. It was not guttural like German or Russian—not singsong like Chinese—not musical like Polynesian or volatile and rapid like Spanish. If it could be described at all, it would have to be said that it combined liquid and hard tones as does English. It had a totally alien sound to all of us. The manner in which Mr. Hurkos spoke it was intense, as if he were stressing the importance of the meaning of the unknown words.

While he was speaking, for what seemed close to a full minute, a great stir ran through the audience. People were murmuring and rustling. The sound of the strange tongue seemed to invoke surprise and wonder. Mr.

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Hurkos seemed impervious to this audience reaction. The stream of words continued on, as if it were being forced out from deep within him—as if he had no control nor even any desire to control it. Then, as abruptly as it had begun, the language ended. Mr. Hurkos seemed to come out of his trance-like state and speak again in a normal manner to his audience. He commented again that he was puzzled, that he did not understand at all what he was feeling, making no reference whatsoever to what had just transpired.

Then, after twisting the envelope some more, he continued with a rush of impressions, with pauses in between, but with each group of words forced out fast, and with confusion and excitement, which dispelled the restlessness of the audience. Whereas before their attention had been combined with murmuring surprise, the audience now sat silently and raptly attentive.

Mr. Hurkos said . . . "I go far away . . . I go very fast . . . four feet people . . . I see small people . . . Fast! Like I see an explosion! Fast! Like in space . . . I see many crystal (clear) things . . . Small people . . . small . . . small. I don't be there. I go sixty million.² I see small people. I see far away . . . I go so far away . . . I go so fast . . . I don't understand the language . . . I go . . . like in an airplane . . . or a saucer . . ."

At this point, with the word "saucer" trailing off almost into inaudibility, Mr. Hurkos shook his head, saying that he had no conception whatsoever of the meaning of this, and almost pleading with Miss Epperson to explain it. He asked her what the envelope contained, and while he was handing it to her, Miss Epperson asked if he had been able to get motive or attitude from it. He responded negatively and almost pushed the envelope upon her. She took it from him, unfolded the creased and crumpled page and handed it back to him. He then put on his glasses, glanced at the paper, but, indicating that he could not make much sense out of it, returned it to her, apologising for what he said was a failure in some degree on his part. He requested Miss Epperson to explain to the audience what the object in the envelope had been, which she briefly did,

revealing the nature and source of the photos. Mr. Hurkos thanked her, shook her hand, then asked her to come back to the microphone and explain to the people that she had never met him before and he knew nothing about what was in the envelope prior to their meeting on the stage.

Notes

¹ After Mr. Hurkos' demonstrations were over, our group had the opportunity to talk to Mrs. Reasor, the wife of Mr. Hurkos' secretary. She informed us that Mr. Hurkos wears glasses and in her opinion would have not been able to see what was on the page without them. During the time Mr. Hurkos was handling the envelope and paper and receiving impressions from them he was not wearing his glasses.

² It seemed an interesting thought in regard to this statement of Mr. Hurkos to find out the distance of the nearer planets from the earth on the two days that might be possibly involved: namely May 22, 1963, the date of Mr. Hurkos' demonstration, and January 16, 1958, the date of the Trinidad sighting during which the photos were taken. The Griffith Observatory in Hollywood, California, supplied the following information:

- (a) *Mercury*: On January 16, 1958, it was 93,744,000 miles from earth.
On May 22, 1958, it was 51,522,000 miles from earth.
- (b) *Venus*: On January 16, 1958, it was 26,877,000 miles from earth.
On May 22, 1963, it was 136,896,000 miles from earth.
- (c) *Mars*: On January 16, 1958, it was 202,740,000 miles from earth.
On May 22, 1963, it was 101,409,000 miles from earth.

Also in connection with the matter of planetary distances from earth, it was widely reported in the local press on May 30, 1963, that the first radar contact with Mercury, made by scientists at Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California, determined at the time the contact was made that that planet was 60,500,000 miles from the earth. The reported date of the contact was May 6, 1963.

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