

THE "MONKEY MAN" SOWS PANIC IN INDIA.

BY GORDON CREIGHTON.

Over the last half-century the "UFO Phenomenon" has taken plenty of weird and strange turns, and none of them weirder than the latest press reports from New Delhi on or around May 17 of this year. What renders the happenings so improbable in a place like India is the fact that traditionally monkeys have always been protected and cherished there, *and the entire population is completely familiar with them*, which makes the explanation of "hysteria" enormously difficult to sustain.

Here are typical press reports:

1. City in Terror After Attacks by Beast.

(From the *Daily Record*, May 17, 2001.)

Mass hysteria is sweeping a city after a spate of attacks by a super-powered ape-like beast.

A pregnant woman and a man have fallen to their deaths fleeing in panic from the creature dubbed "Monkey Man". And police have issued photofits showing a bizarre ape with distinctly human features based on eyewitness reports.

Some of those attacked said it wore glasses, had metal claws, a moustache and even wore a helmet!

All the victims, who have been bitten and scratched in New Delhi in the past two weeks, thought the attacker was bigger than an ape.

The hysteria is complicated by the fact that monkeys have a sacred status in India and can't be killed or trapped, and around 10,000 roam the streets of the city.

Police spokesman Suresh Roy said: "We have consulted doctors about the bites and they said that they were by some animal. But we checked the local zoo and they said no animal had escaped from there."

GROWLING

A pregnant woman sleeping on her terrace was awoken by neighbours shouting "the monkey has come", and fell down a staircase and died in hospital.

Two nights earlier, panic swept a suburb, and a factory worker plunged to his death. Another man, Prakash Chand, 37, said he was unsure if it was a man or a monkey



The police say the creature is 4'6", wears only a dark coat of hair



ABHIMANYU

Eyewitness says it is 5'6", wears black and sports a helmet, with shining red eyes

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES published Wednesday an artist's renditions of a superpowered monkey man or men described by victims attacked in New Delhi. AP PHOTO

that attacked him. He said: "I was sleeping on our terrace and woke up when I heard this strange growling sound. It was about five feet tall, very well built, and whacked me hard on my arm." He said it jumped from the first floor and vanished into the darkness.

One woman said that two of her husband's teeth were knocked out by a metallic hand.

Another victim said: "It was a monkey all right, and about four foot tall, but as soon as I grabbed it, it turned into a cat with glowing eyes".

Earlier this year, the monkey population explosion in New Delhi was said to be creating havoc.

Some were said to be sneaking into Army bases and destroying equipment and walking off with secret files.

[These last two paragraphs seem likely to have been added on by someone as an act of ridicule. -G.C.]

2. Another report said the Police blamed the panic on to the poor uneducated people, many of them superstitious and strong believers in the supernatural. But the Police also admitted that they had failed to catch the creature or creatures, which had allegedly been seen in more than 50 locations in New Delhi during a single night.

3. A third press report mentioned that, according to the newspaper *Times of India*, the veterinarians who had examined the victims' marks said that they were "not caused by any animal".

4. And according to another newspaper, *The Statesman*, "it seems that a group of people in masks are terrorizing the populace" (words of an unnamed Police Officer).

The power-starved Capital, New Delhi, routinely

experiences power-cuts during the sweltering summer. The Police Force, harassed, had stepped up their patrols in all the areas where the creature had been seen, and had urged the local power company (Government-run) to ensure an uninterrupted power supply from dusk to dawn so that the panicked residents would feel safer with the lights on.

Said Manoj Kumar Lal, Commissioner of Police in East Delhi, "It is nothing but mass hysteria. We have increased patrolling in all areas that have reported such cases!!"

So great however is the public's fear of the "Monkey Man" that residents of Noida, a New Delhi suburb, caught and beat up a wandering Hindu mystic 1.2m. tall, mistaking him for the simian terror, reported the newspaper *The Statesman*.

The mystic, identified only as named Jamir, was found by a crowd of people to be performing some rituals in a nearby forest, and beaten up and then delivered to the Police.

[For press-clippings received thanks to FSR readers Joan Amos, John Reid, and C. Babcock.]

LATEST.

As this issue of FSR goes to press, we are still being told -quite as was to be expected- that all this is simply typical "crowd hysteria". (Well, what else *could* they say?)

From my own good knowledge of Indians, and my long period in Asia, I would say that they are *not* prone to hysteria, and in fact a lot less so than -for example- the Chinese. G.C.■

TINY FLYING ALIEN SPOTTED IN TURKEY. FROM PAUL WHITEHEAD, FSR DIRECTOR.

Latest Headlines — June 5th 2001

TINY FLYING ALIEN SPOTTED IN TURKEY.

A field in Turkey has been sealed off by police after a villager claimed he saw a 2ft tall flying alien in a yellow suit. Fevzi Cam, his wife, and another woman, said they spotted the alien on Monday morning as they rode on a tractor to a tobacco field. Mr. Cam said he threw stones at the creature, which was wearing a shiny, yellow-grey outfit with a yellow light on the front. Regional Governor Ayhan Cevik ordered police to protect the field, near Narli in Usak province, despite having doubts about the claim. He said: "We have more important matters to

deal with, but we have no other choice. The area is being protected, we are waiting for the scientists."

A team from *Sirius*, a Turkish UFO research group, is on its way to the scene. It will check radiation levels and analyse the soil. Two other villagers claim to have seen lights in the area at the same time as Mr. Cam saw the alien. He described it as just over two feet tall with a wide, round head and wide eyes.

He said: "It didn't have wings or a propeller but it could fly upward." [Incidentally this is by no means FSR's first report of small entities that fly! Usak is in West Central Turkey, at 38° 43N, 29° 28E. -G.C.]■

KURSK LOSS ENQUIRY: AN ASTOUNDING ADMISSION. BY GORDON CREIGHTON.

FSR reader Dave Strudwick and others have drawn our attention to something extraordinarily interesting! In the BBC2 television programme

Horizon on August 8th about the loss of the submarine, the official Russian Navy's own list of possible causes was given:-