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THE ATTITUDE OF THE SPANISH AUTHORITIES TOWARDS THE UFOS

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An international journal devoted to the study of Unidentified Flying Objects and their Occupants.

THOSE "CRASHED DISC" REPORTS

ALMOST from the very establishment of FSR thirty-two years ago (in fact, from as far back as Volume 1, No. 3, July/August 1955, which carried the syndicated columnist Dorothy Kilgallen's famous report of the crashed disc found in Britain — the man from whom she got the story being in all probability Lord Louis Mountbatten — and Volume 1, No. 4, September/October 1955, which contained the first report of the crashed disc and bodies said to have been found in Argentina) we have laid considerable emphasis upon the powerful and cumulative evidence that crashed craft and corpses do exist, and that certain Governments have them.

More especially in the last seven years we have devoted a vast number of pages to these accounts. In FSR 25/4, 25/5, and 25/6 (1979) we produced the entire text of Leonard H. Stringfield's first big report to MUFON (1978), which bore the title "Retrievals of the Third Kind". Subsequently, in FSR 28/1 and following issues, we continued the series with Mr Stringfield's second big report, "The UFO/Crash Retrieval Syndrome, Status Report II: New Sources, New Data", which ran through FSR 28/1 to 28/5 inclusive (1982-83), and in 28/6 and 31/5 we also gave two more articles on the alleged Argentine case of 1950. In FSR 30/1 we gave, as our lead-story, some of the vitally important photostats of documents which relate to crashed discs and small dead crews and which have recently been secured under the U.S. Freedom of Information Act. In FSR 29/6 we gave two important articles by Dr James Harder, "A Smoking Gun at the National Security Agency (NSA)" and "the Ins and Outs of UFOs and Secrecy Since 1940". And in FSR 31/4 we published the important article "UFOs and the C.I.A.: The Early Years", by Mr Dennis W. Stacy, Editor of the MUFON UFO JOURNAL. Finally, in FSR 31/1, with the article "Top U.S. Scientist Admits Crashed UFOs", we gave the story of Dr Robert Sarbacher's

revelation of his knowledge of these matters, to be followed up, in FSR 31/5, by Mr Tom Benson's most interesting letter, accompanied by the letter written in 1983 by Dr Sarbacher himself to Mr William Steinman, in which he confirmed that knowledge. (We also gave a full photostat of this letter.)

It is much regretted that, at the present stage, we can say nothing about a very recent development, when we were enabled to have sight of further photostats of even more crucially important key-documents relating directly to the supreme secret (as Wilbur Smith has revealed, "ABOVE TOP SECRET") relating to the crashed discs and the dead crews. We shall state merely that, in our view, this new material provides *cast-iron proof* that Leonard Stringfield has been right all along, at any rate in the general tenor of his assertions, if not in precisely every small detail that he has gathered so far and so laboriously and conscientiously. Perhaps at some early date we may be enabled to say more on this.

Meanwhile, owing to our acute lack of space, we have been sitting on our copy of Leonard Stringfield's third *magnum opus*, entitled "*UFO Crash Retrievals: Amassing the Evidence. Status Report III*", dated June 1982.

In the light of the new evidence, we shall now do all we can to begin, as soon as possible, the reproduction of the whole of the text of this third Stringfield report, as we did with the first two.

Several readers have enquired recently about the past issues of FSR that contain "crashed disc" material, so, for convenience, we list them here:—

FSR 1/1, 1/2, 1/3, 1/4 (1955)

25/4 25/5, 25/6

28/1, 28/2, 28/3, 28/4, 28/5, 28/6

29/6

30/1

31/1, 31/5

Finally, there are also two vitally important books to be mentioned now, although neither is new. These are, firstly, Frank Scully's famous classic, "*Behind The Flying Saucers*" (Holt, New York City, 1950, and Gollancz, London, 1950.) Although by no means accurate in all respects, for the book was only based on what Scully had learned from someone else (for example, he seems to have got the *place* wrong), the overriding fact remains that the *main theme* — namely the finding in New Mexico of a crashed disc with small dead crewmen — *was accurate*. Indeed we now know why the book was greeted with such enormous ridicule by the U.S. Air Force and all Officialdom when it appeared. For, in 1953, Captain Edward J. Ruppelt, USAF, (*Head of Project Blue Book!*) admitted frankly to Mr and Mrs Scully:—

"Confidentially, of all the books that have been published about flying saucers, your book was the one

that gave us the most headaches — because it was the closest to the truth!"

The other vitally important — indeed far more important — book is of course "*The Roswell Incident*", by Charles Berlitz and William Moore. It was published in both the USA and Britain in 1980 (British edition by Granada Books). William Moore, as FSR readers will have noticed, is an FSR Consultant, resident in California, and we happen to know that he it was who did all the hard work and research on the book.

And the reason that we are emphasising the importance of "The Roswell Incident" is that, from what we have seen, we now know that it is indeed a highly important and most accurate account of the finding of a crashed disc with several crew members (all dead with the possible exception of one, rumoured to have lived for a while) at Roswell in the State of New Mexico in the first week of July 1947 — almost exactly 40 years ago. If FSR readers do not know of these books by Scully and Berlitz/Moore, we suggest that they try to read them now, for they may help to prepare minds for remarkable things to come.

As for dead crew-members, there are plenty of rumours — and more maybe than mere rumours — that the USA may today have as many as 35 or 40 of them of this particular species, preserved in very secret premises at several places in that country. *The critters, described as all around 3½-4 ft. high, seem in all likelihood, to be living, artificial beings, bio-robots, "as like as a row of beans". Consequently it is justifiable to postulate that they might be clones.*

If they are indeed clones, then they are not likely to throw much light on the problem of who or what manufactured them or where they came from. However, since we have had persistent reports over the past four or five years that "*as many as 70 alien species are inspecting us and this planet*", it looks as though there is room for a wide spectrum of physical types and origins (*not excluding "other-dimensional" origins*), and for a wide range of advanced techniques, including the production of living robots of numerous varieties. If the Japanese and others can be building robots with which to construct automobiles, somebody somewhere else, may equally well be using bio-robots to construct anything you like — including "UFOs".

Finally, we might note again that in no country has there been such a fierce determination as in *France* to ridicule and obstruct acceptance of the existence of these "crashed discs" and these dead occupants. As we shall show in some of our forthcoming issues, the rationalist boys of C.S.I.CO.P. in the USA and their Marxist or near-Marxist and atheistic pals have enjoyed remarkable successes everywhere in their drive to "debunk" at all costs. It is time that we reflect carefully on this, and ask ourselves whose interests are probably being served?

THE ATTITUDE OF THE SPANISH AUTHORITIES TOWARDS THE UFOS

V.J. Ballester-Olmos, J.A. Fernández Peris and J. Plana Crivillén

(C.E.I., Centre For Interplanetary Studies, Valencia, Spain)

(Translation from Spanish)

Over the course of the years, we have been collecting material regarding the statements, publications, and lines of conduct of our national authorities as regards the Unidentified Flying Objects, and recently we have gone more and more deeply into this. In fact, one of the Authors (J. Plana Crivillén) has been specializing, within the orbit of his ufological activities, in developing his contacts with Spanish officialdom regarding this question. These contacts have involved virtually all the military and police establishments of the country, the result being a voluminous correspondence of great documentary value.

We have thought that the preparation of a chronicle of official Spanish attitudes concerning the UFOs would be a contribution of unquestionable historical value, and the present work is the material fruit of such motivation on our part and we hope that readers will find it of interest. Out of all the information that we have gathered, we shall highlight successively the various "landmarks" or moments of greatest significance, over the past eighteen years, as referred to in the Government material.

In this way, for the first time, the real situation of the UFO theme at the official level in Spain will be documented, to the benefit of students and historians. — THE AUTHORS

Chronology

March 16, 1968. First public communication by an official Spanish organ concerning the UFO problem. Issued by the Air Ministry (Ministerio del Aire) it is disseminated via most of the newspapers. It states that a Fokker aircraft of the SPANTAX COMPANY, on a flight from Las Palmas to Vilacisneros, had been followed on both trips, there and back, by an unknown light "without any abnormality being caused at any moment in the flight, or the slightest alarm aboard the aircraft". (Newspaper *La Vanguardia Española*, 17/3/1968.¹)

May 4, 1968. In connection with the UFO investigation by the University of Colorado, the latter also carries out an international enquiry, and the American Embassy in Madrid sends the following text to the State Department in Washington: "Official Spanish sources inform us that no studies on UFOs are being carried on in Spain." (Aerogram A-650, document 4-6540650-68. *Mundo Desconocido*, No. 35, May 1979.)

June 1968. Spanish Air Force Captain Pedro Antonio Clavero Fernández publishes a lengthy article entitled "UFOs" in a magazine put out by the Air Force, in which he outlines the history of the phenomenon, together with statistics, cases, hypotheses, notions of Astronomy, etc, showing the interest that the Air Ministry takes in the subject of UFOs. (*Revista de Aeronáutica y Astronáutica*, No. 331, June 1968.)

September 6, 1968. The press office of the Air Ministry states, in an informative note put out through numer-

ous newspapers, that the strange object observed the previous day in the sky over Madrid could be "a sonde balloon for the study of the lower atmosphere", and that it had been picked up by two military radar posts as well as being seen by the pilots of two fighter aircraft who were taking part in an air exercise. (*La Vanguardia Española*, September 9, 1968.)

December 5, 1968. A communication is put out by the press office of the Air Ministry, informing any possible eyewitnesses of UFOs as to how to proceed in such sightings, and this was published in virtually every Spanish national newspaper. Basically, eyewitnesses are requested to communicate their sightings to the nearest Air Force authorities. (*Communication* dated December 12, 1968.)

December 31, 1968. The Headquarters of the Air Force establishes procedural norms for the notification and investigation of UFO sightings in Spanish air-space, the same being issued to the various Air Force authorities. (*La Vanguardia Española*, October 19, 1977.)

October 21, 1970. The press office of the Air Ministry issues a communication warning the public of some calibration trials to be carried out at the satellite-tracking station at Robledo de Chavela (Madrid), which will involve an aircraft with a powerful light, in view of the fact that, on previous such occasions, certain people had taken the aeroplane for a UFO. (*Ya*, October 22, 1970.)

February 23, 1972. First (known) reply by the Police (Guardia Civil) regarding a UFO case. the Captain

commanding the Guardia Civil at Villamartín (Cádiz) informs the CEONI UFO Investigation Group (directed by V.J. Ballester-Olmos), that "on the basis of the information received, there are no reports of any supposed landing of a strange object at the place in question". (The reference is to an alleged landing at Puerto Serrano on September 22, 1968.) Subsequently, on his own initiative, he confirms the phenomenon that took place at Morón de la Frontera two years earlier.) (A.V.S. to C.E.O.N.I.)

January 1974. The procedural norms laid down by the Air Force Command on December 31, 1968 and governing the official attitude of the Air Force authorities in cases of UFO sightings are brought up to date. (*Boletín Oficial de las Cortes Generales*, Senate, No. 157, May 1985.)

January 8, 1975. The press office of the Third Air Region, located at Zaragoza, publishes a statement in which it is indicated that, "due investigations having been made, no proof has been found such as might indicate that UFOs have recently flown low over, and have landed on, the Las Bardenas Reales Firing Range in Navarre". The note states that the lights seen there at a low altitude on January 2 were due to "optical effects produced by the halo of the Moon and the light of the stars seen through the belt of mist covering the region". (Newspaper *ABC*, January 9, 1975.)

August 27, 1975. In statements made to a newspaper, Lt.-General Carlos Castro Cavero, Commander of the Canary Islands Air Force Region, says that "officially, my belief is that of the Ministry — however, in my private capacity, I believe that the UFOs exist, and that they are not of terrestrial origin ... The Air Ministry examines carefully every report received and studies it seriously, with a view to ascertaining how much truth there is in each one of them ... and, when the investigation has been completed, the Ministry issues an official report on it, explaining those phenomena that have been proved to be completely normal. But no report is issued on those that are still inexplicable". (Newspaper *Diario de Las Palmas*, August 28, 1975.)

October 20, 1976. Lt.-General Felipe Galarza, Chief of Staff of the Air Force, gives the journalist J.J. Benítez, on a private basis, twelve Air Force reports on UFOs from the Air Ministry Archives, these being subsequently reported by the journalist J.J. Benítez in newspapers, magazines and, finally, in the form of a book. (Book: *Documentos Oficiales del Gobierno Español — Official documents of the Spanish Government* — published by Plaza y Janés, Barcelona, 1977. Also *Mundo Desconocido*, No. 35, May 1979.)

February 25, 1977, and April 21, 1977. Enrique

Rousselet Delgado, head of the press office of the Air Ministry, and the Air Minister himself, Sr. Carlos Franco Iribarnegaray, deny categorically, in letters to Spanish Ufologists, having ever recognized officially the existence of the UFOs. (Enrique Rousselet Delgado and Carlos Franco Iribarnegaray to Luis Hernández Franch.)²

May 20, 1977. Air Force Comandante (Major) Antonio Munaiz Ferro-Sastre, Judge-Informant of the Canary Islands Air Force Region, tells the newspaper *Diario de las Palmas*, apropos of UFOs, that "of the cases analyzed by this Air Force Region only one measures up to the description of 'UFO', inasmuch as it was the only one that yielded a positive radar return. As regards the others, despite the intensity of the radar sweeps, no such contact resulted, so that they could only be considered as "UEF" — unidentified aerial phenomena. According to the Comandante, the one case classified as a "UFO" occurred on November 24, 1974, over the Canary Islands, adding that it "was not possible to verify its source or origin." (*Ya*, May 20, 1977.)

September 29, 1977. The newspapers in Valencia receive a notification from the Third Section of the Headquarters of the Third Air Force Region (Zaragoza), via the Civilian Government authorities and via the Provincial Office in Valencia of the Ministry of Culture, reminding the public of the statement of December 5, 1968 regarding the procedure for the reporting of UFO sightings. A virtually identical statement, bearing the signature of the Civil Governor of Barcelona, is also published in the *Boletín Oficial (Official Gazette)* of the Province of Valencia, and is subsequently also reproduced by the local press. (*Las Provincias*, October 21, 1977.) (*B.O.P.*, October 13, 1977.) (*La Vanguardia*, October 19, 1977.)

December 1978. A high-ranking Air Force General, acting in a confidential and personal fashion, gives the journalist J.J. Benítez two new Air Force reports on sightings of objects presumed to be UFOs. (*Cambio-16*, No. 372, January 21, 1979.)

March 3, 1979. The Joint Chiefs of Staff decide to treat matters relating to UFOs as "reserved material", in compliance with legislation at present in force. (*Boletín de las Cortes Generales*, Senate, No. 157, May 1985.)

March 14, 1979. According to sources in the General Headquarters of the Air Force in Madrid, the military authorities in the various Air Force Regions of Spain initiate a routine investigation whenever a UFO phenomenon is observed. When the investigation has been completed, and after they have gathered up all the testimonies and proofs considered necessary for arriving at a logical explanation of the matter, the

final report, together with the proofs, is sent to the Space Section of the Operations Department of the Headquarters of the Air Force, which then decides whether or not the conclusions reached in the investigation can or cannot be published, all such reports having in fact been kept classified until now. (*La Vanguardia*, March 15, 1979.)

April 3, August 10, and October 9, 1979. Lt.-Col. Jaime Aguilar Hornos and Colonel Emilio Dáneo Palacios, of the office of information, publicity, and public relations of the Air Force Headquarters in Madrid, in reply to requests for information made by various Spanish Ufologists, state that the subject of UFOs has been graded by the Joint Chiefs of Staff as classified material. (J.A.H. to *Mundo Desconocido* No. 35, May 1979, and to A.J. Ales and J. Madrid: *Alerta, OVNI, UVE*, Madrid, 1979. E.D.P. to Roberto de Jorge.)

May 14, 1979. Colonel Emilio Dáneo Palacios, head of the office of information, publicity, and public relations of the Air Force, informs the National Radio that, as regards objects seen in the Spanish skies, "in 98% of the cases the cause of the UFO phenomenon is discovered, and in approximately 2% no explanation is found". (*Pueblo*, May 15, 1979.)

November 14, 1979. The subject of UFOs being 'outside of his province', the Under-Secretary of State for Civil Aviation forwards to the Ministry of Defence the documentation relating to the presumed sighting of a UFO that caused a passenger liner of the TAE (Spanish Air Transport) Line to land at the Manises (Valencia) Airport during the night of November 11, 1979. The military authorities thereupon proceed to make their own official enquiry into the facts of the case. (*El País*, November 14, 1979.)

September 29, 1980. Parliamentary Deputy Enrique Múgica Herzog of the Socialist Group (Spanish Congress) tables three questions to the Government regarding (1) the type of machine that caused the TAE Company's *Caravelle* to make the emergency landing; (2) regarding the presence of three "unknowns" in Spanish air-space for a duration of more than four hours, and, (3) concerning the take-off of an Air Force *Mirage F-1* aircraft from the Los Llanos Base at Albacete in pursuit of the "unknown" objects in question. (*La Vanguardia*, September 30, 1980; *Mundo Desconocido*, No. 52, October 1980.)

November 10, 1980. General Andrés González de Suso, head of the office of information, publicity, and public relations in the Ministry of Defence, states that the subject of UFOs is still regarded by the Joint Chiefs of Staff as classified material, "inasmuch as the conditions and characteristics of the phenomenon suggest the advisability of such a policy". (General A.G.S. to J. Plana Crivillén.)

November 25, 1980. In connection with the sightings of what were presumed to be UFOs, by pilots of various commercial aircraft over Cataluña and the Mediterranean, the Joint Chiefs of Staff draw attention to the fact that the subject of UFOs is classified, due to the possibility that it might affect the national defence and security. (*La Vanguardia*, November 26, 1980.)

February 5 and November 16, 1982. Colonel Emilio Dáneo Palacios, head of the office of information, publicity, and public relations in the Air Force, states, in a reply to private requests for information, that "in 1979 the Joint Chiefs of Staff, by virtue of the authority vested in them by article 4 of the Official Secrets Act 48/78, declared that all information concerning to UFOs was classified" and that consequently, "so long as this classification remains in being, the Air Force is not authorized to issue official statements regarding any aspect of this question." (E.D.P. to J. Plana Crivillén, and to ASEDES.)³

November 4 and November 12, 1982, and February 1, 1983. Major Angel Luis Ruiz Yravedra, head of the press office of the Headquarters of the Police (*Guardia Civil*), replying to private requests for information, states that the Headquarters of the Guardia Civil has no information relating to UFOs at its disposal. (Major Yravedra to J. Plana Crivillén, and to ASEDES.)⁴

January 31, 1983. Replying to a letter from a Ufological group, the newly elected President of the Government, Sr. Felipe González, states that "at present the new Government has no plans in mind" for the launching of any commission dedicated to the study of UFOs. And he adds that the subject "seems to him to be an interesting one", and he asks the writer of the letter to contact the President of his Parliamentary Group in the Congress with a view to the latter's "studying the possibility of doing something at the parliamentary level". (President Felipe González to ADEFEX.)

April 7, 1983. Lt.-Commander Eduardo Montero Romero, head of the public relations office of the Admiral Commanding, Naval Headquarters, states that the latter "has no knowledge of any UFO case" involving ships of the Spanish Navy. (Lt.-Cmdr. E.M. Romero to J. Plana Crivillén.)⁵

April 7, 1983. Replying to a request for information, Lt.-General Emilio Garcia-Conde Ceñal, Chief of the Air Force Staff, refers to "the total lack of any basis for judgement, on the part of many civilians, as to any classification or withholding of data by the Air Force in respect of UFO phenomena in Spanish air-space." (Lt.-General Ceñal to Andreas Faber-Kaiser, *Fuera de Control*, pub. by Planeta, Barcelona, 1984.)

May 2, 1983. Lt.-General José Luis Aramburu Topete, Chief of Police (*Guardia Civil*), replying to a request for information about UFOs, states that "there is no documentation on this matter in the archives of this Force, as it is the Air Force that looks after it." (Lt.-Gen. Aramburu Topete to Andreas Faber-Kaiser, *Fuera de Control*, pub. by Planeta, Barcelona, 1984.)

September 29, 1983. Replying to questions tabled by Congressional Deputy Gabriel Elorriaga (Popular Group), on July 19, 1983, the Spanish Government admits that on July 12, 1983, an unidentified flying object crossed through Spanish air-space, and puts forward as a possible explanation "that it was a meteorite that penetrated into the Earth's atmosphere and disintegrated, or that it was the remains of some man-made space vehicle which, going out of orbit, had re-entered the Earth's atmosphere." The statement goes on to say that "the Air Force keeps a record of all existing information relating to UFO sightings", and that "statistical material is being recorded and studied, although, at the present time, no definite conclusions have been reached either in Spain or in any other country." (Secretary of State for Liaison with Parliament and Legislative Co-ordination, Office of the President of the Republic.)

October 14, 1983, and September 25, 1984. General Andrés Cassinello Pérez, Chief of Staff to the Police Force Headquarters (*Guardia Civil*) supplies a report giving summaries of 25 presumed cases of UFO sightings received by the *Guardia Civil* since 1953. (General A.C. Pérez to Andreas Faber-Kaiser, *Fuera de Control*, pub. by Planeta, Barcelona, 1984, and to J. Plana de Crivellén.)

December 15, 1983. Roberto Dorado, Chief of the Presidential Cabinet, informs a UFO study group that "the interest of the Government" in the subject of UFOs "is based on reasons of Security and the need to guarantee the inviolability of Spanish airspace." (Roberto Dorado to ASEDES.)

September 28, 1984. Major Angel Luis Ruiz Yravedra, head of the press and public relations office of Police Headquarters (*Guardia Civil*), admits that he possesses information about the UFO phenomenon, but that it is "not precise and not sufficiently well verified to be able to give it to you", and indicates that the Police have no standardized procedure for dealing with reports of UFO sightings, as the reports do not usually go beyond the level of the various Provincial Police Headquarters. (Major A.L.R. Yravedra to J. Plana Crivillén.)⁶

May 10, 1985. Replying to questions from Senator F. Serrano Pino (Popular Group) concerning Govern-

ment control of the investigation of UFOs, the Spanish Government states that "already in December 1968, the staff of the Air Ministry, as it then was, published certain guidelines establishing the procedures to be followed and the steps to be taken, by the respective branches of the Army and of the Air Force, in cases of the possible appearance of UFOs in our air-space. These guidelines were brought up to date by the Air Ministry in January 1974, and are still in force." The statement finally goes on to say that "the investigation of and control of everything connected with UFOs is the task of the Ministry of Defence." (*Boletín Oficial de las Cortes Generales*, Senate, No. 157, May 1985.)⁷

May 23, 1985. Joaquín Ruiz-Jiménez, in a written reply, states that, having studied a complaint about the lack of public access to official records concerning UFOs, he "sees no reason for intervention by us". (Joaquín Ruiz-Jiménez to ASEDES.)

May 28, 1985. Replying to the request that the authorities permit the free consultation of the UFO reports kept in the Ministry, the Under-Secretary of the Ministry of Defence, Gustavo Suárez Pertierra, states that "the request has been studied by the Air Force Headquarters and by the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and that it has been decided that the present grading of material relating to the UFO phenomenon as 'classified' shall be maintained." (Gustavo Suárez Pertierra to V.J. Ballester Olmos.)⁸

May 31, 1985. Apropos of the UFO phenomenon, Luis Reverter Gelabert, head of the general office of information and public relations of the Ministry of Defence, states that "when there is a sufficiently clear and sufficiently investigated report on the subject, it can be published. To publish it while the investigations are still going on could, however, lead to serious mistakes and cause the public to believe things of which there is no certainty; and it is better to be prudent before giving out a version that later may not prove to be correct." (Spanish National Radio, live.)

September 6 1985, and November 7, 1985. Major Fernando Rodríguez Suárez, head of the public relations section of the Army Staff, states that he has "personally made enquiries among various organizations dependent on the Army, in an attempt to ascertain whether any of them had among its duties the task of gathering and recording of UFO reports, but with completely unfruitful results, inasmuch as none of the bodies consulted holds any information on the subject in question". (Major F.R. Suárez to J. Plana Crivillén.)⁹

* * * * *

Conclusions

Herewith a summary of our conclusions derived from our work completed in December 1985, in documenting the attitude of the Spanish authorities to the UFO phenomenon:

1. The Spanish Air Force have been concerned with the subject since 1968. Specifically, it is the Air-Space Section of Operations Division of the Air Force (Ministry of Defence) which has the responsibility for collecting, analyzing, and keeping a statistical record of the UFO reports reaching them via official or private channels.
2. The reason why the subject of UFOs is today regarded as *classified* is due to the imprudence of a journalist who made commercial use of confidential reports given to him by a General. The Official Secrets Act (Law No. 48/1978 of October 7) provides that "all matters, actions, documents, reports, data, or objects, the knowledge of which by unauthorized persons might damage or place at risk the security and defence of the state, can be declared to be *classified material*". (B.U.E., October 11, 1978.)
3. Military aircraft, missiles, etc., of foreign powers occasionally enter Spanish air-space, sometimes surreptitiously, and are taken for UFOs. For the Government to identify publicly the true nature of craft producing this state of affairs would be tantamount to admitting that there has been a flagrant violation of the national air-space, and this implies something that is eluding control. In our opinion, this is the basic reason why the question of UFOs is retained under the present classification. Involved in it also are two other reasons, namely, firstly, the sensitive situation resulting from admitting that there are certain sightings for which the Air Force have no conventional explanation; and, finally, another reason of a logistical nature, namely that, in this fashion, the Ministry of Defence is able to avoid having to cope with what could be a mass of requests for information and for details of sightings, etc., such as the Ministry is probably quite unprepared to cope with.
4. Already since the Socialist Government came into office, both the Combined Chiefs of Staff and the Headquarters of the Air Force have confirmed this *classified* status for the subject of UFOs. This decision was given by them in response to com-

munications from one of the authors of this Report. (V.J. Ballester Olmos.)

5. The authors of the present Report are not seeking publication of those cases that affect the National Security. Nothing is further from our minds. We seek, as investigators and analysts of the UFO evidence (as to the nature of which we do not venture to prejudge, but which calls for the application to it of a strict scientific methodology) to be able to have access to those reports that involve no military or defensive implications, so that we may incorporate them into our present data banks and subject them to rigorous study. We are simply requesting the Ministry of Defence and the Government to reconsider their positions, and permit us, as students of this subject, to consult this material — *we refer strictly to the non-secret material* — to which end and purpose we suggest that the archive material in question should be consigned into the keeping of a scientific institution and not of a military one.

* * * * *

FOOTNOTES numbered 1 to 9 in Authors' Manuscript.

Photostats of all these important official Spanish documents, which we are unable to reproduce here owing to lack of space, are on file with us at FSR. — G.C.

COMMENT BY EDITOR, FSR. This excellent report from our Spanish colleagues shows clearly that the situation in Spain — *tight Government control of all information about UFOs* — is precisely the same as it is everywhere else. We think, however, it is nonsensical to suggest that the existence of this censorship is in any way due to any indiscretions by journalists, and we doubt very much indeed whether there can be any such thing as "non-secret UFO material." Yes, "national defence" is involved, naturally, just as it is involved everywhere else in our world. But "national defence" (as between one terrestrial state and another) probably no longer has the slightest meaning, in the face of the massive phenomenon and threat posed by the UFOs. THIS IS WHAT THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE WORLD DARE NOT REVEAL TO THEIR PEOPLES, BECAUSE THEY KNOW THAT THEY ARE UTTERLY IMPOTENT. THEIR POLICY IS THEREFORE A TOTALLY WISE ONE. TO IMAGINE THAT GOVERNMENTS ARE GOING TO OPEN UP THEIR FILES IS CONSEQUENTLY A NICE LITTLE PIPE-DREAM! — G.C.

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EDITOR BARRY GREENWOOD P.O. BOX 218 COVENTRY, CONN. 06238, U.S.A.

A BRUTAL "TOUCH-DOWN" ...

Jean-Louis Forest (Toulon, France)

(Translation from French by M.B.-D.)

I give below a detailed account of a case which occurred one night in 1971 in the Département of Var in the extreme south of France and which has never been revealed before. The witness has requested that his name shall not be divulged, and I am respecting his wish. Each detail of the affair should however be studied carefully, having its own particular importance.

THE witness, a French technician, employed in the Arsenal of the French Navy at Toulon, was residing in Toulon with his parents, but made the trip several times weekly in his *Citroen D.S.* car to visit his fiancée, who was on a training course in Nice, and back again from Nice to Toulon.

He would finish work in Toulon at 5.15 p.m. and set out at once for Nice, arriving there at about 7.30 p.m. He would then depart from Nice at midnight, reaching Toulon at about 2.00 a.m., in order to be ready to start his work again at 7.00 a.m.

On one of these evenings, as he was returning from Nice, he was on R.N. (National Highway) No. 97, and driving out of the little town Puget-Ville and towards Cuers. In that place the road runs very near to the Cuers Military Airfield.

"The Orange Ball"

The time was about 1.30 a.m. He was listening to the *Paris-Inter* programme "Route de Nuit" on his car radio. Suddenly the radio began to crackle, and then it died. But his engine continued to run. He switched off the radio, thinking it was defective. After passing under a railway bridge of the SNCF just before entering a straight stretch of road which runs parallel with the Airfield, and about two kilometres from it as the crow flies, he perceived an orange ball in the air just in front of the bonnet of his car. His immediate thought was that it might be some night-exercise by the Air Force, and he drove on.

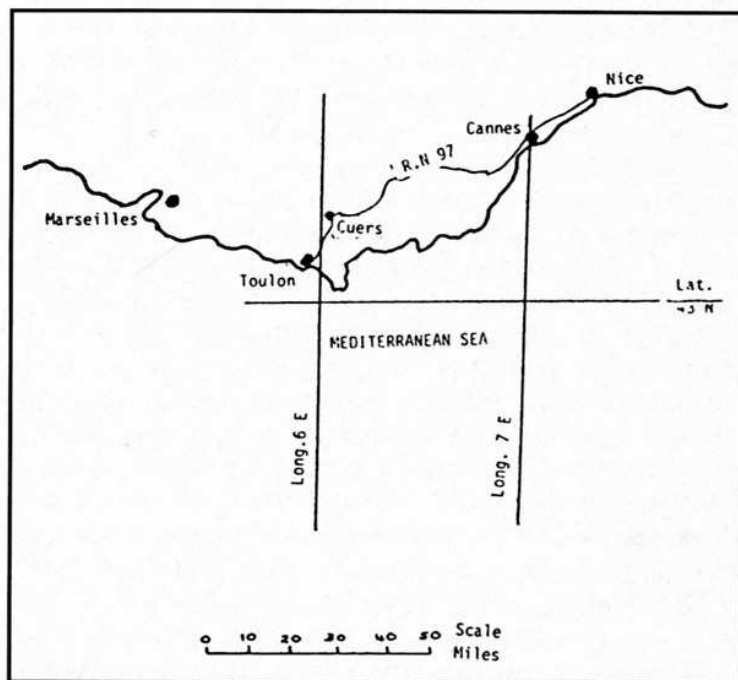
Then his engine started to misfire, and it seemed to him that the car was moving only very slowly now. In fact his speed had dropped considerably, and meanwhile the "orange ball" was growing bigger and bigger and had come, as he reckoned, to a distance of only about 50 metres ahead of him.

He was now frightened, still thinking that it might possibly be an aircraft in difficulty that was attempting to land on this very straight piece of road instead of one of the runways of the Military Airfield.

A "Bungled Delivery?"

Seized now with panic, he jammed on the brakes sharply, but they seemed not to be working at all, even after his engine had stopped. Nor was that all he had to worry about either, for he suddenly realised that he *was no longer on the road.*

In fact the "orange ball", now some 15-20 metres from him, was lighting up vividly the whole country-



side round about, including the interior of his car, with its powerful glow, and the road itself as well ... ah ... the road ... *but the road was below him! That is to say, he and his car were up in the air!*

At what height? He explained later that it was "about as though I was on the roof of a coach ..." There was total silence ... that huge orange light was there, just ahead of him, encompassing him and holding him. Then suddenly the orange light goes out, and the car falls back on to the road.

The night is pitch-dark. That's all.

The motorist is a bit "groggy", to use the English term. He gets out of the car to survey the damage.

The spare wheel (located under the bonnet) has come loose from its moorings, has thrown open the bonnet, and is lying on the road some metres ahead of the car.

The vehicle is standing at an angle to the centre of the road ... The driver's seat has collapsed, the back of the seat is twisted, and the car lies there well and truly "flattened" ... and other cars are arriving, for it is a much frequented major route.

Other cars stop, and he doesn't know what to say ... and nobody understands a thing. How, they are all wondering, can this car have got into such a state on this long, straight stretch of road running through vineyards and with no trees bordering it? Finally, one of the other motorists agrees to give him a tow, and

starts him up, and then he makes his own way slowly on back into Toulon.

Too Scared To Talk

He tells *nobody* about his experience. On the one hand, he fears ridicule. And, on the other hand, he fears to be taken for a madman.

The years pass. He marries his fiancée, and the day comes when he relates his misadventure to me. He is a difficult witness, very vexed at what has happened to him, and not in the least bit desirous of acquiring notoriety.

Later, I would myself run over his route, and then I would become aware of a point that he himself had not noticed!

Let us run through the facts again.

He leaves Nice at around midnight, and is at the scene of the incident around 1.30 a.m. No problems about that.

At 1.30 a.m. his experience takes place. According to him, it only lasts a few instants — from five to six minutes, so he says.

So, by 1.35 a.m. or 1.36 a.m. the car has fallen on to the road, and the passing motorists find it at about 1.40 a.m. Let us be generous here — let us accept half an hour spent in *explanations*. Then they start to tow him at 2.15, or, let us say, at 2.30 a.m. The spot where it has happened is 25 kilometres out of Toulon. Even had he been towed the whole way, it would not have required more than $\frac{3}{4}$ of an hour. Consequently, he ought to be home by 3.30 a.m.

A Strange Discovery ... Three Hours Lost

But that's not what happened at all! He got back home at 6.00 a.m.!

So, close on three hours are missing.

Where were those three hours spent? Or, rather, where did *he* spend those three hours?

We could accept that he remained more than five minutes alone on the road before the first passing car stopped. But even this would be completely untrue. On this route, there is an average minimum of thirty vehicles per hour during the night hours (private cars, trucks, vans, motorbicycles) even in the quieter months, which means on the average one vehicle every two minutes.

Then it might be argued that vehicles could have passed and their drivers have not seen him. Totally untrue. The *Citroen DS* was no longer aligned along the main circulation stream, and so was impeding the traffic in both directions.

Or it might be argued that the driver could have left Nice *later than midnight*. Totally untrue. His fiancée had to be in the building where she was living by midnight at the very latest. So he left her at about 11.45 p.m. to start on his return journey from Nice. He is very precise on this point.

So ... what then?

What then? Then it must mean that we must admit

that the "five or six minutes spent in the air" were longer than he thinks, and that unquestionably they were spent somewhere other than above French National Highway No. 97!

Then again — if that "orange ball" was there with a car "up in the air" above the highway, passengers in other vehicles — even if they didn't see the *Citroen* as they passed under it — would assuredly have seen the "gigantic orange lamp" which, so our witness tells us, bathed him and his vehicle and the whole surrounding countryside in its strange light. Yet nobody reported anything of the sort.

So, if the adventure began at 1.30 a.m., with the car lifted up and the driver seeing the enormous light ahead of him and the countryside and his vehicle vividly lit up and his car suddenly at the height of a coach-roof for several minutes, then both the man and the car must have been taken off to somewhere else for several hours, after which "someone" has returned and put them down there again! This is the only possible explanation.

And, when we explain this to him, the witness agrees. For he has no recollection whatsoever of those three hours. There is a total gap in his memory.

After the passage of several years, and after several other cases where the same story has been enacted in varying scenarios, the experience is simply one more episode in this hunt in which we men are now the hunters, and ... now the prey. (As in this case of our friend today.)

Hypnosis Suggested

I asked this *prey* ... sorry ... I mean to say this *witness*, if he would consent to put himself in the hands of a psychic researcher who, by putting him into a secondary state, would have been able to get him to reveal what his memory has recorded but refuses to release to his conscious mind. As was done, for example, in the cases of Betty and Barney Hill in the USA, who had an experience that is well known to everyone and which I cite here only from memory. (On the night of September 19-20, 1961, the witnesses were three hours distant from home, returning from Canada, and driving down National Highway 3 through the White Mountains of New Hampshire, when they saw an enormous machine appear in the sky and then land. Fleeing from this "apparition", they entered a thick mist, from which they only re-emerged five hours later. Subsequently they volunteered to be examined under hypnosis by the psychoanalyst Dr Benjamin Simon, in the course of which they revealed that they had been abducted and given very thoroughgoing medical examinations by non-human beings of which the Hills furnished the alarming details.)

The Witness Backs Out ...

My witness accepted my suggestion straight away, but subsequently displayed little enthusiasm for carrying out the idea. In fact this idea of going back to

the past worries him, for he is afraid of what he will learn. He is one of those folk who — and we must understand how he feels — prefer to forget a terrifying adventure.

We must not judge this avoidance of proof as lending any weight towards negating the validity of his story. Quite the contrary. And I myself have frequently found that sincere individuals who have been forced against their will to undergo experiences with non-humans retain a bitter memory of it, and finally come to feel a sense of shame regarding this interlude with the Unknown by which the even tenor of their existence has been violated. This attitude of theirs is one that I respect, for it is an integral part of that sense of personal liberty that, having once suffered unwitting violation, one is not inclined to see subjected to voluntary attack. *The prey that I stalk is the UFO ... not the witness.*

NOTE BY EDITOR, FSR

While on vacation in Var last year, my wife and I

travelled along the stretch of road where this case occurred, and we received the account of it directly from our French hosts, Monsieur and Madame J.B-D. Monsieur J.B-D. had secured the French text, never published before, directly from the author, Jean-Louis Forest, an experienced UFO investigator of more than thirty years standing who was previously a colleague of the eminent French scientist and Ufologist Dr René Hardy, and who is one of the founders of the *Institut Mondial Des Sciences Avancées* (IMSA, *Institute of Advanced Scientific Studies*.)

We are furthermore much indebted to Madame Marguerite B-D., who furnished the basic translation into English, requiring from us only the usual editorial finishing touches.

Our readers will already be familiar with claims that vehicles have been taken up off the ground by UFOs and either carried for long distances inside them or held below by clamps or grappling devices, for over the years we have published at least half a dozen such cases, the last being T. Scott Crain's *UFO Lifts Woman's Car*, in FSR 29/6. G.C.

THE "TWO LOST HOURS" OF MADEMOISELLE HÉLÈNE

Gordon Creighton

ABOUT ten years ago our old friend and correspondent Jean Bastide, of Aix-en-Provence, France, sent me the text of an item which had appeared in the newspaper *Le Dauphiné Libéré* of July 12, 1976.

According to that story, a twenty-year-old French lady, (not at first named) of Hostun, in the Département of Drôme, had had a 'UFO' experience and "lost two hours" during the night of June 10/June 11 of that year. She had not dared at first to speak of it to anybody "because I was afraid that everyone would laugh at me".

We did not publish the case in FSR at the time, as I still hoped to secure further details. Some years later I got in touch with one of France's most vigorous Ufologists, Mme. Geneviève Vanquelef, authoress of an excellent book, *OVNI, INTERVENTIONS, CAPTURES* (1984), about which I plan to say more later. In the meantime, I am very happy to record, we have published (FSR 30/6) Mme. Vanquelef's account of the fresh discoveries about the close-encounter case at Talavera La Real in Spain, and she has become one of FSR's valued Consultants. She lives down in the South of France, at Argelès-sur-Mer (Pyrénées Orientales).

In November 1985 I wrote to ask Mme. Vanquelef for her opinion on the case, and in reply she

kindly sent me a copy of her notes on it, which I now translate below:—

Case of Hélène Giuliana. ("Pont de Martinet": in the Commune of Chatuzange, Dept. of Drôme, South-Central France.)

Date of Case: During night of June 10/June 11, 1976.

The affair was mentioned on Channel 3 of French Radio on August 24, 1976, and there were several reports in the press. Particularly in the newspapers *Le Dauphiné Libéré* (July 12, 1976); "*Le Progrès*" (August 13, 1976); *Nostradamus* No. 230 (September 1, 1976); and *France Dimanche* (date not given. G.C.)

Lumières Dans La Nuit carried a very brief account of the case in their press survey on page 24 of LDLN No. 159 (November 1976) as follows:—

June 11, 1976. Near Romans (Dept. of Drôme) (very summarized). At about 1.30 a.m., Mlle. H. Giuliana was returning home in her car. On the road from Romans to Hostun. Car stalls and lights got out. At 20 m. from her, on the road ahead, a very bright luminous orange shape. Great fear; covers her eyes with her hands. When she removes her hands, nothing to be seen. When she is at home, she realizes that it has taken her more than two hours to cover a distance that usually takes ten

minutes. She agrees to submit to hypnosis, and, under same, reveals that two small beings took her from her car, bound a cloth round her forehead, and carried her towards the light. She is taken into a room with a rounded ceiling and a fiery floor, and is laid on and attached to an iron table. One of the two 'dwarves' uses an object to draw a series of luminous rings on her pullover. She is then taken back to her car, which 're-appeared' before her. The beings depart towards the luminous object, which takes off very rapidly into the air.

(*"Dauphiné Libéré"*, July 12, 1976.

"Le Progrès", August 13, 1976.)

In the course of a subsequent article dealing with the investigation of cases under hypnosis (unfortunately I did not make a note of the No. of *LDLN* in which it was),¹ there was further discussion of the Giuliana case, and the claim was made that the first interrogation of her under hypnosis had not been conducted sufficiently carefully and that, consequently, it was not possible to list the case among those held to be most believable.

Nevertheless, in my opinion, there are three factors which argue strongly for the authenticity of the story:—

- (1) The subject was in deep trance. Thus, unless there had been a deliberate intention to falsify all the data right from the start, the witness's account (however 'fantastic' it might have seemed at the time) must have been spontaneous and sincere.

- (2) The hypnotist made this declaration: "In all good faith, I can only record the events as the subject has described them, and I affirm that *at no moment was she in any way influenced*, and that it is impossible for her, voluntarily or consciously, to have been imagining or inventing, or lying."

- (3) The events as related, as well as her descriptions of the beings and of the interior of the UFO, agree completely with those given in numerous testimonies of other cases collected subsequently. The year 1976 was fertile in incidents of this sort.

However, in view of the negative attitude of the majority of the French Ufologists towards this case, I did not include it in my book.

A fresh inquiry into the case would be very interesting. (And in fact it is very possible that one was done by Alain Gamart,² a veteran investigator and correspondent for the OURANOS Group, who regularly make a check to verify all close encounter cases reported in France. I am not sure about this. I believe that the OURANOS REVIEW reprinted the whole story, but unfortunately I do not possess the OURANOS issues for that period. G.V.)

*The full text of the case as published in NOSTRADAMUS No. 230 (September 1, 1976):—
(Translation: G.C.)*

UFOLOGY: KIDNAPPED BY EXTRATERRESTRIALS WHAT ARE WE TO THINK OF THE ADVENTURE EXPERIENCED, NEAR VALENCE, BY THIS TWENTY-YEAR-OLD GIRL?

By Patrick Forestier

THE story that we publish below may appear unbelievable, dumbfounding. But, as you will see, there are level-headed folk who think it likely to be true. A scientist with a doctorate in Nuclear Physics is not easily persuaded that the Moon is made of green cheese... Whatever the explanation for it may be, the adventure lived by this young girl deserves our attention. What was it that *really* happened that night? Was there truly an intervention by beings from Elsewhere? At any rate, one thing is certain: we are faced with a

mystery. And so it was incumbent on us at NOSTRADAMUS to look into the matter...

IS THERE ANY REASON WHY HÉLÈNE GIULIANA SHOULD HAVE BEEN LYING? There could have been no earthly reason why she should have been making it all up. And, what's more, in point of fact, she couldn't have been making it all up, *for she was hypnotized.*

In the districts around Valence, these statements by Hélène Giuliana have provoked varying reactions,

each one more impassioned than the rest. But even the most sceptical have been obliged to yield before the evidence: namely that, during the night of June 10/June 11 last, something extraordinary happened on RN (Route Nationale) 539, at the "Pont du Martinet", some few kilometres from Romans.

Hélène Giuliana is a young girl of 20 who lives with her parents, farming people, at Hostun, in the Département of Drôme. Hélène, her hair worn short in the boyish style, her features finely and delicately cut, is reckoned by all who know her to be an intelligent and well-balanced girl. She is employed in the home of Monsieur Bouvier, the Mayor of the village of Hostun, who speaks highly of her in every way. Aware of the problems of the day, she is not one of these girls who are crazy over films and science-fiction stories. She prefers the Saturday-night dance, like most of those of her age, and the generally care-free life of the normal 20-year-old.

Nevertheless, Hélène has experienced an adventure such as few humans have lived through so far: *she has been inside a flying saucer.*

On June 10 last, together with another girl and two young men, Hélène drove to Valence in her white 4L (*Mini-Renault*).

She often goes to the cinema during the week. On the Thursday in question, they were going to see the film "*One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*".³ Then, on the way back, in Romans, from midnight to 1.00 a.m., she had a drink with her friends, and then set out for her home in Hostun, 20 kms. distant. Generally it takes her twenty minutes to do this bit of the road, which she knows by heart. At night, the traffic on this National Highway is heavy, with lots of trucks. At a spot some 6 kms. from Romans, the road follows the left bank of the river Isère, and crosses a bridge known as the Pont de Martinet.

Suddenly, the engine begins to miss . . .

"At the moment I thought I had run out of petrol", Hélène says, "But then of course, I remembered that I had already filled up just before going to the cinema. The thought of a mechanical failure didn't enter my mind, because my car has always run well."

Well, anyway, a few metres further on, the car stalls, and the lights go out. And then the phenomenon appears . . . terrifying: As Hélène tells us: "At 25 metres from me, above the bridge, I saw a dome-shaped orangy-red glow. I don't know why, but instantly I thought I was going to die, and I put up my hands to cover my eyes."

Then, a few instants later, she looks again. And the glow has vanished. Terrified, Hélène heads for home.

She is so scared that she misses a signpost that she has known for years, and so adds two kilometres to her journey.

Arriving home, she rushes into the bedroom of her sister and wakes her up. And the sister, startled, exclaims: "*Hélène! But what's going on! See what time it*

is! It's four o'clock in the morning!"

Hélène is dumbfounded. Impossible — she thinks. It can't *possibly* be 4.00 a.m. Why, she has only left her friends in Romans half an hour ago! And herein lies the mystery, and the question that everybody is going to ask! *What has Hélène been doing during these two hours, that she doesn't even remember anything about it!*

The Truth Must Be Known

Next day she tells her parents about her experience, and then she tells her employer, the Mayor. The news spreads rapidly around the region, and she is contacted by André Revol, of Saint-Marcellin, who is the local representative and investigator for the OURANOS UFO Study Group.

André Revol suggests to her that she have a session of hypnosis with Monsieur Stéphane Dey of Grenoble, who has already done hypnotic work in the USA and Canada. After much hesitation, Hélène finally agrees: for after all, she too is anxious to know the truth!

And, on July 22, the hypnosis session takes place, at Saint-Marcellin. And Hélène has astounding things to say. And when, after she is awake again, André Revol repeats to her, in her own words, what she had said, she flatly refuses to believe him.

Then the experiment was repeated, on August, 18, this time before a TV team from French Television, Lyons. Present also were Monsieur Chaloin, one of the pioneers in French UFO research; Dr Pierre D — holder of a doctorate in Nuclear Physics; André Revol; the hypnotist Stéphane Dey; and two local journalists from the newspaper *Le Dauphiné Libéré*, Gérard Moulinet and Jean Louis Ruchon.

For forty minutes, Hélène Giuliana repeats, word for word, what she had said under hypnosis the first time. Not once does she contradict herself.

The questions are put to her by the hypnotist Stéphane Dey and the journalist Jean Louis Ruchon. Her answers are as follows:—

"I see a light . . . my eyes hurt. I see two dwarves who come over to the car and open the left-side door. They carry me towards the light. I look back, and my car has vanished. I enter the machine through an iron door. In height the dwarves come up to my waist. They are wearing a dark one-piece suit . . . black. They have great big eyes. They are ugly looking."

At this point, Stéphane Dey hands Hélène a pen and a sheet of paper, and she slowly begins to draw what her unconscious mind is seeing. Then she continues:—

"The room is high and rounded. Everything is of iron. I'm scared. They lay me out on a sort of table and put what look like a sort of handcuffs on my feet and hands, and a sort of towel over my forehead.

"There are white lights, red lights, and yellow

lights in the room . . .

"Suddenly, one of the dwarves traces out circles on my pullover with a sort of box resembling an electric torch. Then I find myself outside again. The craft has three legs about three metres high and there are lights flashing on and off on the underside . . ."

"Are they going to come back?", asks Jean Louis Ruchon. H el ene replies: "I don't know. Anyway, not immediately. There are too many folk around me. Maybe in six months' time . . ."

The experiment is over. H el ene wakes up, and asks for a glass of water. When she listens to the recording of her statements, transmitted on Tuesday, August 24 by *FR 3*, Lyons, she finds it impossible to believe it.

And yet . . . it is hard to believe that the girl could have lied twice, and said precisely the same thing both times. But, of course, there are many other worrying features to the story too. To begin with, there is this loss of two hours. And then there is the question of the car, which could not possibly have stood there right in the middle of the road all that time without attracting the attention, so it would seem, of one of the passing drivers.

At the present moment, her pullover is undergoing examination at the Atomic Energy Centre in Grenoble, with a view to ascertaining if it bears any detectable traces. A third attempt with hypnosis is assuredly planned for the very near future, this time with eminent scholars and specialists present.

For the moment, H el ene Giuliana is trying to pick up the threads of her daily life again, just as if nothing had happened. But the entire village is talking about the affair and, as always, certain nasty people are starting to doubt the sincerity of the young girl.

True, or false? . . .

At any rate, one thing is certain: something quite extraordinary really did happen that night. But what was it? NOSTRADAMUS leaves you, the readers, to judge.

COMMENT BY EDITOR, FSR

In her letter to me, Mme. Genevi eve Vanquelef says that everything in the NOSTRADAMUS article, as given above, is correct in the sense that it is based upon the various newspaper accounts of the time. However, she adds that there are a few important features which the NOSTRADAMUS article failed to mention. Namely:—

- (1) That the dwarves had five fingers, and wore gloves.
- (2) That there were curving walls around the table, with lots of buttons.
- (3) That the dwarves were trying hard to explain to her something that she could not understand. One of them seemed to be irritated by her lack of comprehension. She has the impression that he kept repeating "... 3 ... 3." She subsequently

interpreted this as an indication of time: "three months to go . . . three months for the return", and that consequently she would see them again in six months' time.

As for this talk about "a third round of hypnosis"; is there any need for me to mention that nobody in the French media seems ever to have referred to that, or even to have referred to the Giuliana case again. It looks as though it was killed stone-dead, from which I think we can conclude that it was found genuine enough. Too genuine for comfort! G.C.

FOOTNOTES

- (1) I have looked through all the issues of *LDLN* since the autumn of 1976, but I too have been unable, so far, to trace this further discussion of the case.
- (2) Nor have I been successful yet in contacting M. Alain Gamart.
- (3) French title: "*Vol Au-Dessus D'Un Nid De Coucou*". (The English word *cuckoo* has also a humorous connotation in our language, which the French do not share. Otherwise, we can be certain that the yokels and local village-wits in Dr ome would have had plenty more fun at poor H el ene's expense!) G.C.

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AIRCRAFT ACCIDENTS AND UFOs: A REVIEW OF SOME UFO-RELATED AIRCRAFT DISASTERS

T. Scott Crain, Jr.

Pennsylvania State Section Director for MUFON, and Staff Writer, MUFON UFO Journal

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Many writers who try to prove that UFOs are hostile use as evidence reports of UFOs that allegedly have contributed to the destruction of civilian and military aircraft. Almost without exception, says Mr. Crain these writers "scramble their facts, creating the illusion that a UFO was the primary stimulus for the accident. In most cases, this simply is not true".

In an effort to balance the scales, so to speak, this report attempts to give readers an objective review of the facts in four well-known UFO-related aircraft disasters. — EDITOR

I. THE MERKEL CASE

In January, 1956, an F-51D aircraft piloted by Lt. Colonel Joseph Lee Merkel, a member of the 123rd Fighter Interceptor group in the Kentucky Air National Guard, crashed and Merkel was killed after a UFO was reported.

Although very little is known about what really happened to Joseph Merkel, recently a censored version of the official aircraft accident report has been released. A copy of that report was obtained in 1980 from the Department of the Air Force, Norton Air Force Base, California, through the determined efforts of veteran UFO researcher Barry Greenwood of Stoneham, Massachusetts.

Whether or not a UFO was responsible for the crash is uncertain. Even the official report does not seem to make a clear determination as to the cause of the crash. The officer in charge of sanitizing the report for public consumption made a point to censor any information regarding the type of accident this was, and the conditions affecting the crash.

Some of the facts that are known about the case can be found in the accident report.

The pilot took off from Standiford Field, Louisville, Kentucky, at 14.50 CST, 31 January, 1956, on a local VFR clearance to perform a maintenance test flight for a carburettor and propeller change. The flight was proposed for one hour duration with two hours and thirty minutes fuel aboard. Climb to 20,000 feet was made and contact was established with Oak Hill Air Defense Command Radar Station. A course was set for Terre Haute, Indiana, and the pilot informed Oak Hill he was at 20,000 feet at 15.01 CST.

Everything was going smoothly until some unusual things began to happen. As the flight was continuing,

the pilot was informed by Oak Hill he was fading on their radar-scope. Merkel reported he had Terre Haute in sight. At 15.24 CST Oak Hill received a call from Merkel stating he was returning to Louisville, on a heading of 1350 at 34,000 feet climbing to 35,000 feet.

Now things get particularly interesting. The report states, "the pilot was informed of an aircraft approaching from the right". Whether the aircraft was one of ours or was a UFO was not indicated. "The pilot stated he did not have the aircraft in sight and the 'blip' faded from the radar scope." Which blip faded from Oak Hill's scope? It sounds like it could have been the unidentified aircraft, but since the report isn't clear about which blip was fading off, it could have been Merkel's. The report then states communication between Oak Hill and Merkel ended at 15.35 CST. Since a transcript of the conversation between Oak Hill and Merkel was absent in the report released to the public, we are left in the dark as to what was discussed those few minutes before impact. The report does indicate Merkel's last communication was received in a normal voice.

The accident raises some interesting questions. Who was tailing Merkel moments before he crashed? Could the object have been a contributing factor in the accident?

These facts we are sure of:—

1) Merkel was flying in close range with an unidentified aircraft which he could not see or was not permitted to see minutes before he crashed.

2) The UFO is not identified in the accident report that I received.

3) The impact occurred at 15.35 CST on the farm of Ormel Prince near Bloomington, Indiana.

4) Prince told the Aircraft Accident Investigating Officer, Grady Bishop, that he was pretty sure the aircraft exploded in the air.

OBSERVATIONS — The official Aircraft Accident Report, censored as it is, leaves the reader under the impression Merkel may have died of oxygen starvation in flight. However, in a file given to Merkel's son some years later by the National Investigation Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP), a different conclusion was reached.

In April 1980, B.F. Greene, Jr. Of Brookline, Massachusetts, telephoned the son of the late Lt.-Col. Merkel, to see if he could shed any light on his father's death, after all these years.

Son Lee Merkel told Greene the U.S. Air Force said his father crashed because of a malfunction in his oxygen equipment. However, many years later Lee wrote to NICAP requesting the file they kept on his father. In it Lee remembers reading an interview by an Indiana reporter who did an article on the crash. Lee recalls the story reported a UFO was detected on radar, and interceptors were scrambled to investigate. The UFO went too high for the interceptors who were not equipped with oxygen, so radar controllers contacted Lt.-Col. Merkel, who was airborne in the vicinity, to investigate in his oxygen-equipped P-51. Merkel headed toward the UFO, but something went wrong and his plane plunged back to earth and crashed.

CONCLUSION — The truth may never come out as to what really happened to Lt.-Col. Lee Merkel. One may note the Indiana reporter's account of the story does not directly contradict the Air Force's report on the incident. The reporter just filled in the details.

II. The C-118 AIRCRAFT CRASH

"Witnesses saw four parachute-like objects following the plane ... The Air Force would not comment."

In April 1959, an Air Force C-118 aircraft with a crew of four on board was destroyed when it crashed in the rugged Rhoads Lake area, 12 miles east of McChord Air Force Base, Washington. There were no survivors. Reports of UFO activity occurred before and after the crash. It has been suspected by some, that a UFO may have caused the crash or contributed to it. Donald Keyhoe (*Aliens From Space*) and Jacques Vallee (*Anatomy of a Phenomenon*) and Brad Steiger and Joan Whritenour (*Flying Saucers Are Hostile*) all have implied that a UFO could very likely have been responsible for the crash.

A copy of the Aircraft Accident Report was obtained along with transcripts and photographs of the crash area. The investigation clearly indicated the aircraft was flying too low and its right wing struck several treetops, causing the wing to burst into flames. The plane lost altitude and proceeded another six and three-quarter miles before final impact.

While the C-118 aircraft was practicing touch-

and-go radar approach and landings at McChord AFB, the radar approach control (RAPCON), advised the C-118 that a flight of jets was coming in, and to wait, before another approach could be made. The pilot reported he was at 2000 feet, with 15 miles visibility, and that he could maintain visual flight control. Upon recovering the jets, RAPCON vectored the C-118 to a heading of 220 degrees, which the pilot acknowledged, at an altitude of 2000 feet. Whether the pilot complied to the new heading was not confirmed. Two minutes later, the C-118 gave a distress signal indicating they had hit something and wanted a straight-in approach landing.

Although Keyhoe, Vallee, and Steiger and Whritenour write the radio message received from the pilot was "We have hit something — or something has hit us", implying there was a mid-air collision, the real message according to the Accident Report transcript is "Roger, we've hit something out here number four's running away we're maintaining altitude". RAPCON immediately vectored the C-118 for a straight-in approach. Less than a minute later, the pilot reported, "We're on fire, our wing in on fire". The aircraft apparently could not maintain altitude and crashed one minute thirty-six seconds after reporting the emergency.

ON THE GROUND — Before the crash, unknown lights were observed by witnesses in the area. Some UFOs were reported in the Mt. Rainier area, according to Chief of Police, Fred Emard, of Orting, Washington. According to Steiger and Whritenour, the Public Information Officer at McChord AFB attributed the unidentified lights to flares dropped in a parachute jump exercise at nearby Fort Lewis. However, the News Chief at Fort Lewis denied any such exercise was occurring that night.

UFO Investigator Robert Gribble, then director of the Aerial Phenomena Research Group (APRG), was told by witnesses they saw two glowing parachute-like objects trailing the C-118. They also told Gribble none of the four engines of the transport were running when the plane passed over, and part of the tail assembly was missing.

Two Orting residents, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Jones, claim they witnessed four parachute-like objects following the plane. The Air Force would not comment on what these objects might be. Gribble said the morning after the crash, he received an anonymous telephone call informing him that radar picked up UFOs, at McChord AFB prior to the crash. However, this could not be confirmed by the Public Information Officer at McChord. Finally, APRG investigators discovered there were several unidentified explosions prior to and after the C-118 crashed.

OBSERVATIONS — To my knowledge, the parachute-like objects reported by ground observers that night remain unidentified. The objects were not observed to have contributed to or caused the aircraft to

crash, and investigators for the Air Force could find no malfunction of the aircraft that may have contributed to the accident, prior to hitting the trees at the first impact area. The question remains why was the pilot flying at such a low altitude as to hit the tops of trees?

Keyhoe writes,

For some unknown reasons, HQ said the pilot had flown too low and had hit the top of the ridge. At McChord, this hasty answer was privately denounced by close friends of the pilot. He was an experienced night flyer, familiar with the terrain. If anything had forced him to make an unexpected descent he would have put on his landing lights, so as to avoid anything jutting up in his path. He also would have radioed McChord immediately, so Search and Rescue teams could reach them promptly if he had to make a crash landing.

CONCLUSION — The pilot observed no UFO prior to the crash. No ground observers witnessed a UFO contribute to the accident, even though UFO activity was reported in the vicinity. Radar confirmations were not forthcoming. The craft was flying at a low altitude (initial impact occurred at a high terrain 14 miles south-east of McChord AFB at 1600 feet) and the known facts do seem to indicate the primary stimulus for causing the C-118 to crash was hitting the tops of trees. Unless more convincing evidence is offered, the Accident Report appears to be a fair interpretation of the facts.

III. THE BRANIFF AIRWAYS CRASH

“The plane was blown to bits ... Some potent force caused the aerial disaster.”

In September 1959, Braniff Airways Flight 542, a Lockheed Electra turboprop airliner, was destroyed in flight and further broke up on ground impact 3.19 miles east-southeast of Buffalo, Texas. All 28 passengers and six crew members were killed. It is alleged a large, red fiery UFO was observed in the vicinity by another aircraft and by ground observers, prior to the crash. The Civil Aeronautics Board investigators could find no positive reason for the cause of the crash.

PROBABLE CAUSE — Investigators' best guess as to what caused the crash was structural failure of the left wing caused by forces generated by an undampened propeller whirl mode. This conclusion was reached by eliminating other probable causes for the crash.

WHAT HAPPENED — As the airliner passed near Buffalo, things were proceeding as normal. The craft was travelling at an altitude of 15,000 feet and at

an air speed of 275 knots. The weather conditions were good, with scattered clouds above 20,000 feet with visibility of 10-15 miles. Suddenly witnesses on the ground saw a fiery glow light up the sky, followed by a violent explosion. Seconds later, thousands of fragments of the \$2,300,000 airliner fell back to earth.

IN THE AIR — Investigators were baffled over a report submitted by Major R.O. Braswell who was piloting an AF C-47 heading for Lufkin, Texas, at about the same time flight 542 was approaching Buffalo. Braswell was flying at 6500 feet east-northeast of Buffalo when he saw a red glare from an explosion. Braswell writes, “It was colored like a large red fire and looked like an atomic cloud. It was a massive thing, about five degrees above my plane. The base was at an altitude of 12,000 to 15,000 feet. The top was at about 16,000 feet.” It may be noted flight 542 was cruising at 15,000 feet, approximately the same altitude as the cloud. What was Braswell observing?

ON THE GROUND — Billie Guyton of Centerville, Texas, saw the object Braswell was observing and claims he saw an object emerge from the glow. If this is true, what was Guyton seeing?

Although none of the ground observers saw the Electra disintegrate, numerous witnesses reported seeing a small fireball cross the sky.

OBSERVATIONS — It is implied by Keyhoe and Steiger and Whritenour that a UFO launched a fireball or warhead type weapon at the aircraft moments before the plane crashed. What evidence is there to support this conclusion?

THE AIRCRAFT — To investigators, the Electra crash was one of the most appalling disasters they had ever seen, Braniff's Chief of Operations, R.V. Carleton, told reporters. “I've investigated lots of crashes, but I've never seen one where the plane was so thoroughly demolished, the wreckage so widely scattered and the people so horribly mangled, and there was nothing among the wreckage which indicated a fire or bomb aboard the plane.” In other words, the plane was blown to bits. Some potent force caused the aerial disaster.

Steiger and Whritenour distilled certain observations from the resulting inquiry. Three points are particularly relevant.

1) There had been no fire or explosion aboard the airliner while it has been in flight or after it had crashed.

2) Scorch marks found on glass window ports, the rear of the fuselage, and across the parting of the tail showed signs of having been exposed to tremendous exterior heat.

3) The force that caused the airliner to disintegrate had not come from within the plane.

A copy of the CAB Accident Report does indicate the surface heat effects were caused by “flame impingement rather than by radiated heat”. The report

states, "The exterior surfaces of the left fuselage panels revealed considerable evidence of inflight fire effects". Much of the interior surfaces of the plane showed no evidence of heat, fire or soot.

CONCLUSION — This writer can't help wondering if the objects observed by R.O. Braswell and Billy Guyton was the Electra exploding. The "atomic cloud" was at approximately the same altitude (15,000 feet) as the Electra, but I have no information of whether or not the objects were in the same location in the sky. If this could be established, it would explain several observed circumstances of the crash. According to the CAB Accident Report, several witnesses saw a smaller fire emerge from the larger ball that fell in the northeast. This smaller fire could have been a large chunk of the Electra. It also could have been the object that emerged from the glow that Billie Guyton observed.

However, if what Braswell observed was not the Electra, then a UFO could have been in the vicinity at the time of the crash. If some weapon was fired at the Electra, it would explain why the plane was so terribly destroyed. It would also explain the tremendous exterior heat that scorched the plane's outer skin, with little or no fire inside the plane. Guyton's testimony would support the hypothesis that a flowing fireball emerged from the "atomic cloud" that could have accelerated toward the Electra, causing the desired destruction.

A case can be established for both scenarios. Based on the facts, if Braswell's observation was flight 542 exploding, then the CAB report of structural damage could be a reasonable explanation. However, if the object or "atomic cloud" flying near the Electra is unidentified, one must consider the possibility a UFO may have been the stimulus for the accident.

IV. THE WALESVILLE DISASTER

"An anonymous telephone-caller said radar picked up UFOs prior to the crash ..."

In July 1954, an F-94C Starfire jet piloted by 2nd Lt. William E. Atkins and 1st Lt. Henry Coudon Jr. was pursuing UFOs that day, when suddenly an abrupt furnace-like heat filled both cockpits. The crew bailed out, and the plane crashed down into Walesville, New York, killing four people.

WHAT HAPPENED? — At 11.05 EST on July 2, 1954, an F-94C aircraft took off from Griffiss Air Force Base on an operation training mission. What happened next is best described in a summary of the events in the Air Force Records.

The aircraft was only a few miles out when the Griffiss control tower operator called the pilot and advised that he was being diverted to an

active air defence mission. The aircraft was given a vector of 60 degrees and 10,000 feet altitude to intercept an unidentified aircraft. Some difficulty was experienced in finding this aircraft, so the controller then vectored the plane to a second unidentified aircraft in the area. This aircraft was identified as Air Force C-47. The ground controller then gave the F-94 pilot a heading of 240 degrees as a vector back to the first unidentified aircraft. At the time, the F-94 was flying above the broken clouds at 8,000 feet. The unidentified aircraft was not found above the clouds, so the plane started to descend below the clouds. During the descent, a fire warning light came on. The engine immediately shut down; also due to the low altitude, the crew members ejected and were recovered without injury. The aircraft continued for about four miles while on a heading of 199 degrees and crashed in the area known as Walesville ... Four people were killed in the accident.

TREMENDOUS HEAT — Shortly after the pilots landed safely, at Walesville reporter appeared on the scene. One half-dazed pilot started telling the reporter about the intense heat before ejecting, but before he could finish, a United States Air Force car pulled up, and whisked the pilots away. UFO writer Margaret Sachs writes, "when the Walesville reporter's story of the strange heat was published, the Air Force denied it and blamed engine failure for the accident. Interviews with the pilot and radar operator were prohibited and the official report was a classified secret".

What may have been classified then is not classified now. Additional clues about the origin of the heat have been released. In the recent book *The Encyclopedia of UFOs*, researcher Kevin D. Randle explains, "Subsequent investigation revealed that part of the engine had caught fire, pouring heat into the cockpit and forcing the men out". If this is what happened, it would explain the thermal effects felt by the pilots. But is it true? Not according to the Air Force. In a report released in January 1969, by the University of Colorado, The Air Force states, "As the pilot started a descent, he noted that the cockpit temperature increased abruptly. The fire warning light was on and the pilot informed the radar observer of this fact. The fire warning light remained on after the throttle was placed in idle so the engine was shut down and both crew members ejected successfully". There is no mention of an actual fire. In my copy of the Aircraft Accident Report, investigators claimed "the investigation of the wreckage disclosed no in-flight fire. The cause of the malfunction in the fire warning system could not be determined."

CONCLUSION — The first object the F-94C was trying to identify was not a UFO, but an Air Force aircraft that entered the traffic pattern at Griffiss AFB

and landed. The other object was identified by the pilots as an Air Force C-47, tail number 6099. Although there does seem to be some discrepancy about the heating effects in this case, the facts reveal

there was no UFO involved in the accident. If the Air Force account is accurate, then the heating effects can only be attributable to a malfunctioning aircraft regardless of origin.

CLONING BY ALIENS?: TO WHAT PURPOSE?

Irene Granchi, FSR Consultant (Brazil)

Among the strangest, most puzzling features presented by alien abductees we have the claim that *cloning* is taking place.

To my present knowledge, there are now many of such cases of which we have become aware. One Brazilian case which I investigated was that of Antônio Alves Ferreira, published in FSR 31/2 (1986)

And in Europe recently, we have had the case of Xavier Clarés, investigated by Antonio Ribera of Spain, and described by him in his articles on *"The Jinn & The Dolmen"*, in FSR 31/4 and 32/2.

We now have another case here in Brazil — that of Dirant Mello Ferraz. I secured the details of it from the investigator and writer Fernando Cleto Nunes Pereira, author of the book *"A Bíblia e os Discos Voadores"* (*"The Bible and the Flying Saucers"*) and in the early 1980s I was able to interview Dirant for myself and check the story with him. And I found that all the details as I had been given them seemed to stand up to investigation. — I.G.

Dirant's Story

DIRANT Mello Ferraz, now married, and a successful businessman with his own small firm, which manufactures medical equipment, bandages, and such like, was only 18 years old at the time of his claimed abduction.

The date was February 28, 1974. At 7.30 p.m. on that day, Dirant was at home, standing in the service-area in the kitchen, when, all of a sudden, he found himself *"somewhere else"*, in a square place with no doors or windows to it. And a voice resounded, penetrating and permeating all around, and saying: *"Keep calm — we are your friends!"*. Dirant was able to pinpoint this voice as coming seemingly from a box-like contrivance in the corner of the chamber — something like a tape-recorder, which was what he presumed it to be, as a little light flickered on and off. Alternatively, he thought, it might also have been a translating-device.

And now, in the blank wall before him, there appeared a door. The door opened, and from it emerged a large oval-shaped contrivance, of the same colour as everything else around him, namely the colour of *smoked glass*. This egg-shaped machine came towards him. In the hall where he was standing, a yellow light came down on to him for a few seconds from the centre of the funnel-shaped ceiling, and he again heard a voice trying to tranquillize him.

The Double

Then, from the egg-shaped machine, there stepped out ... *a double of himself!* The same voice then asked

him to touch the replica, and when he did so, it felt to him completely like flesh.

Next, the double proceeded to pat him on the back, saying: *"Keep calm! Wish me a good journey, for I do not intend to harm anybody."*

This other being's voice was a replica of his own.

Then the double vanished through the wall, and a large panel appeared at the spot through which he had passed. This panel resembled the front of a TV set. *And through it Dirant now watched his "other self", in his own home!*

But this other being's behaviour was totally different from his! Dirant himself is an affectionate person. But this "other one" treated Dirant's sister gruffly — something to which she was not at all accustomed. The same gruff treatment was extended to the driver of the car who came to pick up Dirant (who was working in his family's firm at the time) in order to take him to visit clients. *And the double showed quite clearly that he did not know how to handle money or understand its value. Nor could he write. He even asked an employee to write out an invoice for him — something that Dirant had never been known to do before!*

Obliged to "help" the Double

Dirant had been directed to assist his "other self" by means of the "TV-like screen", and the effect of this was that he had the sensation, as it were, of *looking through the other one's eyes, which were fixed in their sockets*. At other times, he felt himself to be above the double, trying to advise him how to act.

On several occasions, however, the "TV" was



Dirant Mello Ferraz.

turned off, as for example when the double walked off and left the house in the evening, only to return next morning, or when he made the driver stop the car, and then stepped out into the tropical forest of Quinta da Boa Vista. (What the double did there, Dirant never discovered. But he did observe him taking photographs of the Niterói bridge near Rio de Janeiro, with a camera that was similar to but not identical with — Dirant's own *Kodak*. The double seemed to be concerned about the welfare of plants and trees, and he mended the broken bough of a tree. Dirant checked up on this after returning home.)

Otherwise, as already indicated, the behaviour of the cloned double was rough, and he ill-treated everyone around him.

Dirant the "Onlooker"

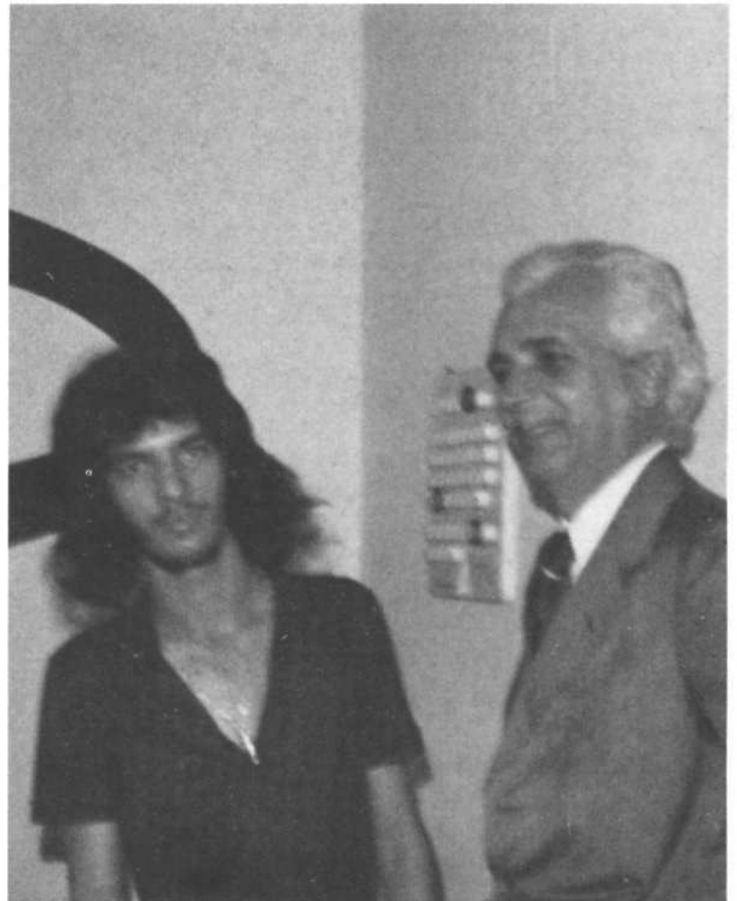
While all this was going on, Dirant Mello Ferraz was sitting comfortably inside the "place" where he had been taken, feeling neither hunger nor thirst nor

sleepiness, despite the many hours that he spent there — from 7.30 p.m. on February 28, 1974, to 7.30 p.m. on March 1, 1974. Now and again he would lie for a while on a bed fixed to the wall, and there was a shelf beside him. (See Figure No. 1.) (It will be noticed that, in his drawing No. 2, Dirant shows this shelf to be in another position, but it may be that this is due to Dirant's lack of skill in drawing.)

There was also a movable stool, on which he sat, and which he took over to near the shelf whenever he needed to do so. This shelf had a purpose, as he soon discovered. Finding himself stuck there and obliged to observe almost continuously every action by his double, he started to feel bored — particularly in the long intervals when the huge screen went blank and he had nothing whatever to do. So he expressed the wish to have something to read. And, *Hey Presto*, up came a newspaper, and some books, and the magazine "Spider Man" (which he later discovered was not yet on sale on the news-stands!)

Every time that something came up, a red border outlining the shelf lit up.

Dirant found himself longing for some company, and especially for his girl-friend, who lived in Bahía. Finally, his double swooped on a letter from her which had just arrived at the house, and up it came, on the shelf!



Dirant with writer Fernando Cleto Nunes Pereira.

Questions

After the double had disappeared the first time, Dirant started to ask questions of his captors. What follows below is from his own written statement about it:-

- D. (Dirant): What do you want with me?
- C. (Captors): We need to conclude some tests. We do not harm anybody. The less you say about this, the better. However, we should like to make it known to all that we are friendly, and only wish to help.
- D. Who are you, and what is your world like?
- C. We cannot tell you who we are, and our world is very different from yours.
- D. You are asking me to help. How can I do so, when you are invading our world?

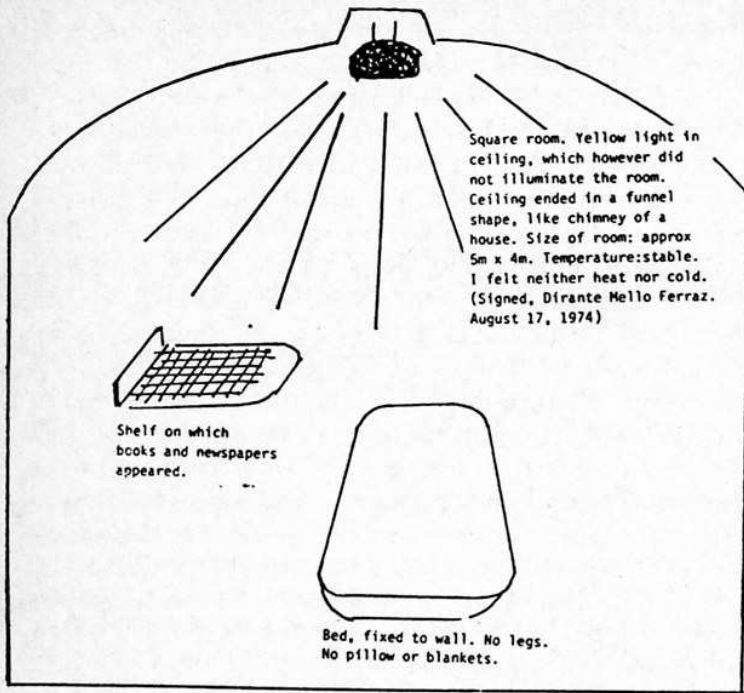


Fig. 1. Square room.

Watch stopped

Dirant's watch had stopped at the moment of his abduction, and only started working again the moment after he had got home, turning to 7.31 a second after he had arrived there, after the lapse of 24 hours! That he had been absent and that somebody had "replaced" him seemed subsequently to be a somewhat moot-point with his family, though there was no doubt about the fact that his entire attitude and behaviour had been so different, though, of course, they had not understood the reason for it while it was happening.

The Lady's Bag

During the night, when absent, the "double" had taken a taxi on his way back, and in it he had found a lady's bag. He discovered her address inside it, and so he promptly took the trouble to return it to her. Days later, Dirant was prompted to check up on this, and in fact he discovered that it had indeed happened.

"Passed through Walls"

In addition to these other characteristics, the double had the faculty of passing through walls, and he gave one of the firm's employees, Arnobio, the fright of his life by suddenly appearing behind him. Yet, to the touch, the double seemed to be entirely normal and made of flesh and blood.

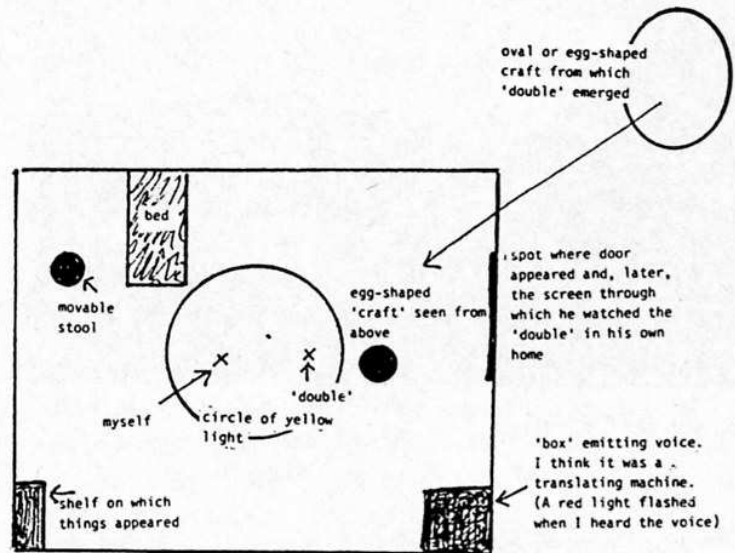


Fig. 2. Room viewed from above.

- C. No. We are not invaders. We work for the good of the human race itself.
- D. What made you choose me?
- C. You are different from the others, and have feelings similar to ours.
- D. How will you nourish me, how shall I get food?
- C. You are not going to feel hungry here, on this ship.
- D. Do you know about God? (the existence of).
- C. Clearly so. Of course. He is everywhere. Everybody knows Him.

On the next day, Dirant enquired again:-

- D. Why has my watch stopped?
- C. On this ship it will not work.

- D. What, or who, is this other who replaced me?
 D. *He is an image that can be touched. Inside him there is one of ourselves and a recording of your mind.*

An Echo of the Case of Luli Oswald

This last puzzling statement to Dirant should be compared to a passage of my earlier report on the case of Senhora Luli Oswald, described by me in "An Encounter With Rat-Faces In Brazil" (FSR 29/1, 1983) where, in reply to a query by Dr Silvio Lago she says (page 12): "Now I can see that these are men who are not men, they are figures ... It's as though they are dolls."

Had we better call them "robots"? In this present account, I find that this statement by Dirant lifts a corner of the veil.

Information and Photographs gathered

Dirant was given reading material aboard the ship (if indeed he was aboard a craft). In return, the double seems to have taken his fill of Dirant's own books on Brazilian History, Science, Geography, and his newspapers, as well as some flowers; some leaves; a photo of Dirant's; a card; and prospectus leaflets relating to the firm owned by Dirant's family. The double also took away with him many pictures of Rio de Janeiro.

Dirant makes a point of adding: "People will not believe my story. But I would like you to publish this statement of theirs: *"We are friends and only wish to help"*."

Resemblances to Other Cases

There are several features in this case that fit in with features of other cases that I have investigated personally. Firstly, there is the strange fact that Dirant felt no hunger or thirst during his weird experience, which reminds me of the Goiâs¹ case, in which one of the abductees said that at first he had felt very thirsty, but when his escort was told of this, the latter put his hand on the shoulder of Elias, and Elias thereupon no longer felt thirst.

The mention of the oval or "egg-shaped" machine intrigues me, for there are several other cases, in Brazil and abroad, that involve either human-like beings or others, who came out of devices of this shape. One of the best-reported cases is that of Onilson Patero,² who was tele-transported from the State of São Paulo to Espírito Santo — a very long distance indeed. And his "cloned double" was observed, although not in action as in the present case. I have also investigated other cases (Paciência³ for example) where the abductee was taken aboard the ship in such a device. And there are other cases too.

For the benefit of FSR readers, I have made this account as concise as possible.

* * * * *

Postscript

Dirant now wants to forget about the whole experience. I telephoned to him on November 16, 1986, but failed at the time to ask him why it was that he placed the "shelf" in two different positions in drawings 1 and 2. Anyway, although I found him cordial and polite, I felt that I should not press him with any more questions about this past experience, the details of which he confirms, but which he says he is not interested in any more. Or, so he says.... — I.G.

Footnotes by Editor, FSR

- (1) I feel very sure that we have never had this case at FSR. I am asking Irene Granchi for details of it.
- (2) For the case of Onilson Patero, see three previous articles of mine:— "The Car That Turned Transparent" (FSR Vol. 21, Double Numbers 3 & 4, 1975.) "Was This A New Teleportation in Brazil"? (FSR 27/2, 1981). "A Note on Onilson Patero", (FSR 27/4, 1982).
- (3) Here again, so far as I can recall, FSR has never had information about a case at Paciência, and I shall ask Senhora Granchi about it. All of which, as I am sure FSR readers will not fail to perceive, only serves to highlight the fact that, copious as our reporting has been for years past, Brazil alone — not to mention the rest of South America — has been the scene of such an amazing quantity of UFO-related phenomena that the mind is left well and truly boggled. — G.C.

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“MIND AND THE NEW PHYSICS”

A review of the book, by Paul Whitehead, FSR Consultant

AFTER his successful *“Taking The Quantum Leap”*, Prof. Fred Alan Woolf has written an equally engaging book in *“Mind And The New Physics”* (Heinemann, £14.95).

Evolution, he states on page 171, has a plan “to make all matter conscious.” Consciousness is continually battling with Mother Nature, which is forever telling it to “stop thinking — it’s perfect just as it is.” But consciousness speaks up: “If you could only realize yourself beyond the barriers of spacetime, beyond the barriers of time, beyond and beyond . . .”

Thus, Woolf upsets many conventional scientists yet again. But many conventional scientists believe in God — what a paradox!

More baffling still in what is admittedly in part a difficult book for the layman to comprehend, is a comment on *memory*. “Where is memory stored?” Woolf asks. *“The amazing answer is, nowhere and everywhere. Another way to put this is to say that memory is holographic, with the universe playing the part of the complete hologram.”*

There are more than shades here of what FSR has already reported about the so-called “holographic universe”. And as readers of FSR should by now know at least a little about Quantum Mechanics (the new physics), you may not mind if I quote another line or two from Professor Woolf’s book.

“Memory is contained as the stable quantum wave patterns throughout the realm of nature. These patterns are self-reflections reinforcing themselves through trapped consciousness by continued observation, using repeated operational procedures or repeated patterns of complementary observables.”

There is a hint of the quantum world of universality or “oneness”, in which consciousness has the ability to “know” what is happening elsewhere in the universe.

Prof. Woolf attacks conventional science for assuming that a “real physical world exists” and for basing its theories on that tenet.

“This sacred tenet is plain nonsense”, says Woolf. *“There is not the slightest shred of evidence that proves the existence of a physical world acting independently of human thought.”*

Mystics, some scientists and certainly some religious people, as well as those with an open, enquiring mind, might not disagree with that. But it begs the question, “Is the world which we have created with our minds affected by the thoughts of other intelligences?” Do various “realities” created by different

intelligences co-exist and inter-react?

These questions are addressed by the professor. In a chapter on Parallel Universes he argues that the entrance of consciousness into the physical “plane of existence” is a “rather dramatic disturbance”.

Consciousness thus creates a reality for the observer, and in doing so changes the same consciousness that created the reality. Aligned with these concepts is the suggestion that *atoms are not “things”; we only give atoms a physical reality because that is the way we think.*

“Once we allow the possibility that atoms, electrons, and all that can be built up from atoms and electrons are *not things*, the doorway to imagination opens and all hell breaks loose.”

Woolf argues that in creating reality, consciousness (i.e. the mind) crosses space and time barriers perhaps several times, repeating the process of creating reality “until we accept as real what we think we have experienced.”

“Also, I throw out our insistence that time is only now, that existence somehow disappears into the past, and that the future never is but only will be. All events are in a supernal sense *now*.”

Woolf continues: “Human behaviour is a complex set of space-time operations whose outcome are experiences.”

In the next chapter, entitled *“The Relation of Space-Time to Emotion-Intellect”*, Woolf theorises that “events taking place in the physical world are matched to events in an internal space called the mental space . . . Thus every physical event has a corresponding mental event.”

His theory progresses into a chapter entitled *“Evolution From Parallel Worlds”*. With each new thought, there is a world. With each sensation there is a world. What we think, happens here or somewhere. “It would be better to think of consciousness as capable of being represented on many reality planes.

“On our plane of existence the mental existence comprises not only our emotion-intellects but that of the rest of the universal layers of consciousness — *in other words, the thoughts, feelings, sensations and intuitions of all sentient beings.*”

These parallel layers “influence us here and now”. Our past influences what we will become, and what we will become (or are) influences the past. Other humans influence us with their thoughts — and other beings have an effect on our consciousness.

It’s an interesting theory, but one which it would be easy to dismiss as the elevated thoughts of one man

who may be wrong. But, as Woolf points out, the theory of Quantum Mechanics allows for what he proposes. *And as Quantum Mechanics has yet to be bettered as an explanation of the world we know, Woolf feels on safe ground.*

According to Hoimar von Ditfurth, author of the book *"The Origins of Life: Evolution as Creation"*, whom Woolf quotes at length, the world we are in was created by a "Creator" whom we can't discover because of our limited perspective. The Creator governs the world, using evolution as a smokescreen.

If you make little sense of that, I would suggest you study both Ditfurth's and Woolf's books.

Woolf gets excited about the notion that molecules can evolve — and then launches himself into a chapter on *"Psycho-Physical Planes"*.

"The sensation of an event on the psychic plane is accompanied by the appearance of a mass/event in physical space . . . Similarly, a thought that occurs on the psychic plane is accompanied by a sequence of

mass/events in the physical plane, as for example, in our brains."

Woolf's book is a fascinating journey into one (or more!) of the following (i) fantasy-land (ii) possibilities (iii) probabilities (iv) the actual world as described by Woolf.

If it opens our minds a little further and allows us a glimpse into new ways of approaching and experiencing the world, Woolf would have achieved more than 1,000 soap-operas could hope to achieve.

If it is true that *consciousness is the universe's way of looking at and understanding itself*, we should take note of the potential power of consciousness. For we are a part of the universe, perhaps an integral and important part of it, and what we perceive and think could be of immense importance, to us, to the universe, and to that Creator who may, or may not, be lurking around the corner. If the universe was not created by a Creator, we have a responsibility not to "screw it up".

SCIENTISTS CONFIRM: THERE MAY BE A PARALLEL UNIVERSE

Paul Whitehead, FSR Consultant

SECULATION is mounting that scientists may be on the verge of a breakthrough in the search for a parallel universe, complete with its own galaxies, planets and intelligent beings.

Writing in *The Guardian* on February 13th 1987, under the headline "Who Knows What's Hiding In The Dark?" the physicist Dr Frank Close* revealed that scientists are developing devices to detect an invisible mass that permeates our universe.

He writes: "There is a growing suspicion that we are not alone. The universe that we see is no more than a flotsam in a vast sea of dark matter, invisible to our present technology.

"Like H.G. Wells' invisible man, the dark matter gives its presence away by jostling the visible crowd, so we know that it is there."

As reported in *Flying Saucer Review* (Vol 31, No. 2 1986, page 23), scientists have been puzzled. Our universe behaves in a way that indicates the presence of a huge missing mass; as much as 90 per cent of the mass that our universe ought to contain (to explain its characteristics) is invisible to us!

For example, according to Dr Frank Close, the galaxies in our visible universe rotate too quickly to survive — they should have dissipated long ago.

The visible stars do not have enough mass to hold

the systems together by gravity — yet survive they do," Dr Close writes.

"Something is also holding galaxies together, allowing them to move around each other quickly without breaking up. That 'something else' is probably an 'enormous mass' — astronomers are certain that it is there."

The question is: what is this dark matter made of? "The current suspicion is that the dark matter consists dominantly of massive particles that are slow-moving and that were 'left behind' as the universe expanded. Gravity would have concentrated them to form clusters on all scales, from clusters of stars to individual galaxies or groups of galaxies," Close writes.

The study of heavy particles is tied up at least in part with the super-string theory developed by Mike Green of Queen Mary College, London (FSR, Vol 31, No 2 again). "This theory . . . seems to predict that there is a whole shadow-universe operating concurrently with our own," Close adds.

Although Dr Close does not mention it in his article, the super-string theory predicts the existence of a string of progressively heavier particles; *the universe we know is formed from only one small part of these strings — a much heavier universe, existing in the same place as our own, would be made up of the heavier*

parts of the super-strings.

There may be other universes or other dimensions on other parts of the strings. The scientist and FSR consultant Dr Jacques Vallée is known to be interested in a "multi-dimensional" universe as an explanation for the origin of UFOs. He believes UFOs travel from dimension to dimension, and that their ability to do so explains many of their characteristics.

Just two years ago, scientists claimed that we would be able to detect a parallel universe only by its gravity. Now, new techniques are being developed to detect the heavy missing mass that may comprise the other universe.

"The strategies for detecting dark matter exploit the fact that it must interact very weakly with us," Close writes. The particles comprising the dark matter may be heavy or light in weight; if they are light, they will convert into protons under the influence of a magnetic field "and leave an electromagnetic whisper in the presence of magnetism," according to Close.

"So, scientists are developing tuneable microwave cavities to detect a small excess of protons whose energy would signal the mass of the dark particles."

By contrast, he continues, "if the particles are

heavy, they will cause the nuclei of visible matter to recoil when they hit them. This will warm matter up slightly, perhaps only a few thousandths of a degree." Thus, we have to look for this slight warming.

If dark matter exists and forms a parallel universe, it could have its own intelligent beings, Close suggests. Some of the answers scientists are looking for "may be known soon", he says. "Within two years" says a recent report in the *New Scientist*.

FSR will report on any new developments as they arise. The concept of a much heavier invisible universe goes back 20 years, however, to the theory propounded by Prof. John Wheeler. He suggested then the existence of a parallel universe consisting of very dense matter, where time ceases to exist (FSR, Vol 31 No 1, 1985, page 9). The advantage of that, some theorists say, is that spacecraft from our universe could travel vast distances instantaneously by moving through the parallel universe.

*Dr Frank Close is co-author of "The Particle Explosion", a pictorial "look into the atom", published by Oxford University Press on January 22, 1987.

— EDITOR

A NOTEWORTHY WEST GERMAN CASE FROM MARCH 1982

(Translation from German)

Darmstädter Tagblatt (Darmstadt, Hesse), March 16 1982

Although we know that UFO sightings occur just as often in Germany as they do elsewhere, the Germans — as everybody also knows — are smart and efficient folk, and they don't let too much get into their newspapers. This report is consequently a bit unusual for Germany! — EDITOR

ON the evening of March 12, 1982, at Messel, near Darmstadt, five UFOs were seen by large numbers of people and created vast uproar and excitement. They were picked up by the Defence Radar at nearby Ramstein, and provoked widespread electrical failures, tripped relay-circuits, blotted out TV reception and Police radios, and engendered widespread astonishment, consternation and even fear.

In addition to the press-coverage of March 16, reports of the affair were also carried on March 17 by the local TV and radio stations.

The details are as follows: Shortly after 9.00 p.m. on March 12, a 14-year-old Messel girl, Manuela Helm, and her friend Sonja Bormann (15) were coming home from a party when a huge light seemed to swoop down upon them out of the sky. It appeared almost to hit the ground, but then shot upwards again and once more dived towards the girls who, terror-stricken, dashed to the nearby youth-centre where

Manuela's 17-year-old brother Werner Helm was in a disco session. Then, distraught and breathless, the girls dashed for their homes. Manuela's mother testified that the girl hammered madly at the door and was as white as chalk, her whole body trembling, and an hour later her condition was no better, so that for a while they had thought of calling a doctor. She added that, a fortnight later, her daughter still would not dare to venture out of the house at night. "But", remarked the Mother, "If you talk to anybody about it, they look at you as though you're daft!"

As for the boys at the youth-centre, 17-year-old Werner Helm and about ten other lads ran out and saw a vivid light above the nearby sports-field. Coming closer to it, they saw that the whole field was vividly lit up, "as bright as day", by a UFO hovering stationary at tree-top height. They estimated its width at more than twenty metres. The lower part of it was oval, elongated, as it seemed; and the upper part bore

a transparent cupola of glass or some similar substance which emitted a vivid glow. Directed downwards from the craft were four vivid beams of light, "like searchlights", changing continuously in colour from green to blue and back again to green.

The craft emitted a loud hum the whole time, clearly audible by all the boys, who were only forty metres from it. They stood there for some ten minutes or so observing it. Then a vivid blue burst of light flashed out from it and they heard a dull bang. They stayed watching for a further five minutes, and then ran back to the youth-centre. Watching from there, they saw the UFO rise, slowly at first, and then, gaining speed, make off.

Frau Margarete Gustafson, foster-mother of the 13-year-old boy Martin Steffes, confirmed that he had dashed into the house, excited and shouted hysterically. She said her first reaction had been one of anger at the boy, but when she and her husband ran outside they saw several round-shaped UFOs (of an *apparent* size of some 10cms. diameter as viewed by them) fly-

ing away westwards over the next-door house. The UFOs then returned and flew overhead again. She at once telephoned to the Police, who sent a patrol-car.

Eight Police Witnesses

Police Chief Thomas Welland states that he could scarcely believe his eyes, for on arriving he saw five UFOs, one of them changing colour constantly from dark-green to pale-green and, further off, four more of them, also flashing lights. He called for further Police, and three more patrol-cars arrived from Messel, so that a total of *eight policemen* were able to observe them. The nearest of the UFOs flashing the green beams, seemed to be trying to touch down behind a row of trees bordering the Messel-Darmstadt highway. Then they saw it shoot upwards again, and all their car-radios began to crackle. The lights flickered on and off in the houses round about, and TV reception was blotted out. (Unfortunately none of the patrol-cars carried a camera.)

FOLLOW-UP ON THE HUGE UFO OVER SPAIN (NOVEMBER 1985)

J. Plana Crivillén

(C.E.I., Barcelona), FSR Consultant

(Translation from Spanish)

MORE than a year having now elapsed since this event, reported by me in FSR 32/1, I transmit herewith several further important details which I thought at the time that it might be advisable not to divulge:-

- (1) A video film of the phenomenon was made by the TV-3 Channel, and a copy of it was supplied to the Spanish Military Authorities, at the latter's request, so that they might study it.
- (2) The UFO over Tarrasa, which was filmed, and was also picked up by the radar, was at an altitude of 8,000 metres. (This was the UFO observed by Antonio Ribera, as mentioned in the Editor's footnote to my article.)
- (3) The great UFO nine kms. in length, and the smaller one which came out of it, were probably at a height of between 2,000 and 3,000 metres, and, so far as we know until now, were not observed *visually* by anyone.
- (4) The principal source of our information on the case was Sr. Antonio Toscano, Director of Operations in the Barcelona Air Traffic Control Centre,

with whom I was able to discuss it on several occasions, and who even permitted me to hear the taped recordings of the communications between himself and the pilots who saw the UFO over Tarrasa, he having been on duty at the time, and having seen the objects registered that night on the radarscopes.

- (5) The Spanish Ministry of Defence (and the Air Force) tried to prevent the divulcation of this important happening, and this is why, at the time, I withheld certain concrete data which would have shown what a detailed knowledge we had of the case, as well as the source of our information.

In conclusion, I would add that there do not seem to have been any certain sightings of importance in Spain during the last three months of 1986. However, there is a rumour that during October a UFO was detected by radar and chased by two Spanish *F-18* fighter craft over Zamora Province. But so far we have not succeeded in getting any information about this, and consequently the case may be doubtful.

A CE-III ENCOUNTER IN FIRENZE IN SUMMER 1985?

(Translation from Italian)

FABRIZIO VILLA and CALOGERO ORLANDO
(C.U.N., ITALY)

We are much indebted to Dr Roberto Pinotti, Director of the Italian National Ufological Centre (C.U.N.) for sending us the Italian text of this case and we are delighted to welcome Dr Pinotti, an old friend of FSR, onto our masthead as an FSR Consultant! — G.C.

IN the early hours of August 8, 1985, in Firenze, Signora Domenica Cantone, unable to sleep owing to the heat, went out on to the balcony of her sixth-floor apartment.

It was about 3.30 a.m. when she saw an object slowly and silently approaching from her left-hand side, from the direction of the Cascine. Arriving at a certain point, the strange thing halted, on a level with her balcony and a few metres from her, and directly above a little football-pitch right beside the building. Viewing the object closely, the lady was able to observe a central egg-shaped body of a luminous silvery hue, surmounted by a transparent, glassy, cupola (through which she was able to see the houses on the other side of the cupola).

But her surprise did not end there. For, inside the cupola she beheld two "men" who "were talking together" and who now and then broke off their conversation in order to gaze fixedly at her. All she could see of them was their heads, each of which seemed to be surmounted by two great "ears" (which also appeared as though they might be part of the "caps" in which their heads were swathed).

Suddenly, from the base of the object, three "legs" slowly began to emerge. (The lady called them "arms", as the daily newspaper *La Città* of August 24, 1985, later reported.) They were of the same colour and luminosity as the central body of the object. The strange object appeared to be desirous of landing. At that point the lady, seized with panic (for she thought the two men were bent on abducting her) ran back into the room to awaken her husband and tell him there was a UFO. But her husband did not awaken. The lady ran back on to the balcony, only a moment later, and saw that the UFO had already started to draw up its "legs". The two men meanwhile still remained where they were, gazing fixedly at her. A few moments later, the legs now drawn in, the object departed silently and at lightning speed in the direction of Monte Morello, emitting as it went an even more vivid light than it had before — so intense that "it hurt my eyes to look at it".

The time was now 4.00 a.m. Half an hour had elapsed since she caught sight of it. The lady, still terrified, then went back to bed, having first carefully shut all the windows and drawn all the blinds. She

was unable to close her eyes and sleep again that night.

Today, that lady is still terrified, and ever since that night she sleeps with all the windows barred, and in order to endure the heat of summer nights, her only thought now is to get herself a ventilator.

Two days after her sighting, some boys found marks on the sportsfield beside the building: three circular imprints with a deeper central area containing rubble and fragments of compressed carbon (at least that is what they looked like to the witness), and an outer area where there was a greyish powder.

As, during the interval since the affair, the rumour of her having experienced a ufological event spread through the neighbourhood, the marks discovered were considered to have been made by the object seen. In that case, it must have *landed* there. (The lady did not *see* it land there, but she does not exclude the possibility that the strange machine might have returned to the spot after she was back in bed. For it is virtually certain that we can rule out any theory that the object might have landed while the lady went to call her husband, since, as we have already stated, it all happened in an instant.) Subsequently, during the days after the discovery of the marks, many people have, out of curiosity, visited the site of this presumed landing, and have gathered up and taken away numerous bits of the detritus. Journalists from the Florence (Firenze) daily paper "*La Città*", were among them. But "*La Città*" denies this.

But unfortunately nobody else was a witness of the event on that night of August 8, 1985. This does seem a bit strange, as the lady lives in a large building and there are so many other buildings around about, with many families living in them. Moreover, that night many apartments had their windows open owing to the heat (as the witness has told us.) However, the fact remains that no other witness has come forward.

Those who have investigated the case have found the witness to be well balanced and perfectly normal, and anything but inclined to fantasy. (Her husband is a Police Inspector, in the Carabinieri.)

As for the marks found on the ground, it is impossible for us to express a definite opinion. And heavy summer rains have since removed the last traces of them.

A LINK BETWEEN UFOS AND POLTERGEISTS?

REFERENCE has already been made many times to certain "poltergeistic" aspects of our subject, and there is no need to recapitulate these. Likewise there have been a considerable number of UFO reports in which entities have allegedly been seen which did not appear to consist of the same sort of matter as ourselves, being sometimes *more dense, more solid* than we are, and sometimes *less dense, less solid*, indeed at times *transparent*. In fact, it seems impossible to say where "psychic phenomena" end and "UFO phenomena" begin.

Elsie Dubugras, one of Brazil's principal parapsychological researchers, whom we had the pleasure of meeting when she visited England some years ago, has recorded a strange experience which she says befell a party of six people who were travelling in an estate car along the highway between the new Brazilian Capital, Brasília, and Belo Horizonte, one day during the late 1960s or early 1970s.

Finding that there seemed to be something wrong with the radiator, they pulled up and got out to have a look. And no sooner had they stopped than they were bombarded with rocks and stones (a typical "poltergeist" phenomenon).

The driver of the car caught sight of what seemed to be several "shadowy figures" near by, so he promptly reached for his revolver and fired four shots at them, but the shots had no effect and the stones kept falling around the travellers.

Two miles further along the road, they came to a police post, where they promptly reported the incident. The police thereupon sent a patrol car to the

spot where the incident had occurred, and when they arrived there the police too found themselves bombarded with stones. By this stage it had evidently grown dark, for the police threw a floodlight over the area from whence the stones appeared to be coming, but there was nothing to be seen, and their search was fruitless. The police took some of the stones back to their station as evidence, and when they arrived there the stones disintegrated into sand.

Meanwhile, the ordeal of the six travellers was not over, for no sooner had they started out again on their journey than renewed assaults on them began. One of the doors of the car flew open, and two passengers struggled in vain to try to close it and keep it closed.

Then one of the party observed a figure "running at very fast speed beside the car". He too took out his revolver and attempted to pull the trigger, but nothing happened!

With enormous relief the party finally reached their destination at 2.30 a.m.

When examining their car next morning, they found to their vast astonishment that, although they had seen it repeatedly struck by flying rocks and stones throughout the entire journey, *the paintwork of the vehicle was in perfect condition, and there was not a scratch or a dent to be seen.*

The Brazilian Police admitted that they were baffled, but, as Elsie Dubugras remarked, this was just one of the hundreds of anomalous and inexplicable events that are reported daily in Brazil, a country which seems to teem with paranormal phenomena of every conceivable kind. — G.C.

A UFO ENTITY SEEN IN MALAYSIA (1986)

In a letter dated August 13, 1986, to FSR from Mr L. Blundell, c/o The Malaysian Helicopter Services, Kerten Airport, Kemaman, Terengganu, Malaysia, we learn that at about 9 p.m. on July 27, 1986, several local people saw a "ball of fire", approximately from 3 ft. to 4 ft. in diameter, descend from the sky and then hover over a large field directly in front of their houses.

The witnesses also state that an entity came out of the object and began to walk around the field. The height of the entity was about 3 ft.

Apart from these details, nobody seems to have reported any other features.

They say that a few minutes later the entity returned to the object, which then took off. A small white ball seemed to be following it. No sound was reported.

Mr Blundell heard of the affair on the following day, and also heard that many footprints had been left in the field.

He therefore went to the field, but succeeded in finding only three prints there, in soft sand. However, the distances between the three prints did not seem to make any sense, as they were very far apart, i.e., approximately 6 ft. between the first two (see photograph No. 1) and a distance of about 10 ft. before the next single print (see photos nos. 2 and 3).

Mr Blundell heard that the UFO returned again to the area on the following two evenings, but that no entity was seen on those occasions.

(Mr Blundell sent us 3 interesting coloured photographs of the footprints, but unfortunately they are not clear enough for publication.)

"AN UNIDENTIFIED FLASHING OBJECT"

Paul Whitehead

The *New Scientist* is not usually taken with giving that sort of headline to a story, but on November 20, 1986, it did just that, and the story ran as follows:—

"Amateur astronomers in Canada may have found a new kind of astronomical object. Located in the constellation Perseus, it emits occasional bright flashes of light, but it is not easily detected in any other way.

Members of the North York Astronomical Association in Ontario watch the sky regularly for meteors. Between August 1983 and September 1984 they saw four bright flashes from the region of Perseus, and the neighbouring constellation Aries. A regular watch for the flashes turned up another 25 in the following year.

The team was convinced that the flashes were real, because in one case two astronomers 10 kms apart saw the same flash; and in another instance, they managed to record the flash on film, so pinning down its location precisely.

The evidence was strong enough to convince some professional astronomers, and they used the Very Large Array radio telescope in New Mexico to search for any radio source. There turned out to be none; and the only star near the object is 10,000 times fainter than can be seen by the naked eye.

The investigation was so thorough that it was accepted by the leading astronomy journal, the "*Astro-*

physical Journal" (Vol. 307).

The astronomers dismiss two possible explanations: (1) a meteor seen 'head-on'. Because the source of these flashes always appears in the same direction in the sky. (2) Gamma rays. For many years astronomers have known that some close double-stars can emit flashes of gamma rays — and some of these *can* produce a bright flash of light as well. But their flashes are much fainter and less frequent than the reported object in Perseus, which apparently flashes on average a couple of times a day.

Despite the report in the *Astrophysical Journal*, many astronomers will need further convincing that the flasher in Perseus is a new kind of celestial object, rather than something as mundane as, for example, a "*pirouetting satellite*".

Among FSR readers there are some professional astronomers, and we would appreciate any further reports they may have on this phenomenon. A flashing object which does not emit radio waves and could be as close to the Earth as a few hundred miles (yet appears to always flash from the same direction) could be of some significance. It seems that there is more than one flashing object (the flashes come from both Perseus and Aries), which adds further to the puzzle.

A VERITABLE "UFO WAVE" OVER ITALY IN 1985

FROM the material sent to us by Dr Roberto Pinotti, Director-General of C.U.N. (CENTRO UFOLOGICO NAZIONALE — the Italian National UFO Centre) 1985 was clearly a "bumper year", with sightings from far and wide all over Italy. We have already supplied English translations of many of the more important cases, in which landings allegedly took place, entities were seen or encountered, or CE-III's were recorded. More than this we cannot hope to give, in view of our very limited number of pages. We will however, mention briefly a few of the reports, in which *larger numbers* of flying objects are mentioned:—

1. For example, at Ancona, on May 5, 1985, between 4.40 and 5.10 a.m., a witness, identified in the press-reports only as Signor Ugo G—, claimed to have watched a total of six UFOs, three of them huge and three smaller, over the sea off Ancona (half-way down the "leg" of Italy, on the eastern or Adriatic coast).

2. On the night of August 22, 1985, over the same re-

gion around Ancona, many people observed, for about one hour, a total of 28 UFOs continuously changing colours and performing all manner of evolutions and movements in the skies.

3. The newspaper "*La Città*" of Firenze reported (September 5, 1985) that a squadron of 15 UFOs had been observed on the previous night flying from east to west across the north of Italy, being seen and reported by witnesses at Mugia (Trieste Province), San Giorgio di Nogaro and Azzano Decimo (both in Friuli Province), and from Modena, and Novara, and from Montebelluna in Treviso. The 15 intensely bright objects (one witness described them as four times the size of the planet Jupiter), were travelling slowly in "Indian file" and were of a yellowish-orange hue.

The times of the sighting reports were: Mugia, about 9.00 p.m.; San Giorgio di Novaro, 9.30 p.m.; Azzano Decimo, 10.10 p.m.; Montebelluna 10.40 p.m.; Mantova, 11.10 p.m.; and Novara, midnight.

MAIL BAG

Correspondents are asked to keep their letters short and give full name and address (not necessarily for publication). It is not always possible for the Editor to acknowledge every letter personally, and so he takes this opportunity to thank all who write to him.

Another "Tiny Entity" Claim (Washington State, USA)

Dear Sir, — The undermentioned episode happened on the afternoon of a spring day a couple of years ago. ... The person involved in it claims that he had entered a rather large field surrounded by trees. While strolling through this area and enjoying the out-of-doors, he claims that he chanced upon a shiny metallic disc approximately one meter in diameter, with a dome-like protrusion in its center.

As the young man in question was of the inquisitive type, he bent down to pick up the object in order to examine it more closely. And he claims equally adamantly that beneath the clear dome there was a very tiny man holding what appeared to be a control-rod.

As he picked the disc up, the little man cringed in a frightened fashion, but then quickly recovered his composure and proceeded to accelerate his little circular craft. First it emitted a high-pitched hum, and then it began to oscillate and waver and then took off and vanished at high speed. The little man had feet like the feet of a frog.

The young man seemed to have suffered no ill-effects or felt any pain or discomfort from the experience, other than the usual shock syndrome that one would expect to accompany such an episode.

The particular young man in question is not a person prone to fantasy. And this event occurred in the city of Vancouver, State of Washington, North-Western U.S.A.

No other details appear to be available about this affair, and there appear to be no other witnesses who are prepared to comment upon it.

Yours sincerely,
Dudley D. Starr,
2311 S.W. 6th Avenue,
Camas, WA 98607, U.S.A.
December 12, 1986.

**One does not know what comment such a story calls for, especially as there is no supporting witness. Normally, the ordinary sane man-in-the-street would just say: "Rubbish!", and leave it at that.*

However, anyone who takes the trouble to thumb through more than thirty years of FSRs will — if he be honest — be astounded by the quite high number of precisely similar sorts of stories that we have on record. Maybe it is a fact that there really are tiny entities (not necessarily of our type of matter), as indeed the whole Arcane Doctrine states most emphatically that there are. Failing that, it may well be that there are intelligences — or conditions — which in some incomprehensible way affect the human mind and induce us to think that we are encountering tiny beings. All we can do is to go on noting the stories. — EDITOR.

The "Guardians"

Dear Sir, — Herewith my subscription for a further year to your most stimulating magazine. In what continues to be a total void of UFO reports in the media here in New Zealand, it is nice to know that we can still rely on FSR to keep us in touch.

Taken on face value, the message from the "Guardians" (FSR, 31/6) has quite staggering implications. Could it be that the commonly held belief that we Earthlings are capable of using only a small percentage of our mental capacity relates directly to the control by the "Guardians"? If so, what kind of stimulation would be required to "shift us into a higher gear?" What mysteries we could solve if only we could locate and question some of those "key people"!

Sincerely,
David C. Little,
Dunning Road, RD4,
Wellsford,
New Zealand.
January 19, 1987.

**A very perceptive reader! Personally, I have long speculated that our "UFO contacts" may either take place "out of the body" (i.e. in the hypothetical "astral body"), or that they may involve those other large areas of the brain which we apparently do not employ in our ordinary lives. — EDITOR*

"UFO or Ball-Lightning?"

Dear Mr Creighton,

I have recently been collecting information on my family name, and whilst looking through some Parish Registers for Hertfordshire for the year 1741, I came across an account of what could have only been describing a UFO. The Bushey, Herts., Rector of that time wrote as follows:—

11th December 1741
45 minutes after 12

"On a bright sunlit day towards the S.E. in the cloud, a bright flame or ball or fire which ran about the seeming distance of 4 yards then disappeared or fell. It appeared and grew larger as if in appearance as big or bigger than a large man's hand. As it moved, its course was W.N.W. to E.S.E. In its space that it ran there remained a narrow white cloud broader where it ended than where it began, which spread wider. After 8 minutes it was no longer visible. No wind stirring, and (weather-) vane at ENE.

James Smith,
Rector, Bushey.

Yours sincerely,
(Miss) J.B. Bodimead,
7 Crocusfield,
Dollis Valley Way,
Barnet, Herts EN5 2UB,
February 16, 1987.