

**but the flat outside portion, surrounding the middle part like a collar, rotated slowly on the water.**

"We thought the objects measured approximately 100 ft. across, the middle portion appearing to be not bigger than one tenth of the whole disc. The outer portion surrounding the centre piece appeared not to be attached to it, as there was a gap between them measuring about two feet.

"I must say we were very much surprised at the sight of those objects, and officers and men crowded (7) the deck staring as if they were hypnotised. As the whole "show" took only 80 seconds, it was impossible to form a sober judgement. Their origin seems to be a puzzle; technically they seemed far above anything we knew. We all thought immediately that they were Flying Saucers. I intended to give an order to go at them full ahead and, if possible, get alongside them, but the buzzing sound became higher and more urgent, until the pitch was so high that it could not be heard any longer. The two discs mounted horizontally, turned sideways at about 300 ft, and disappeared in twenty seconds at a speed which I estimate to be at about 2,000 mph. At the same time a reddish glow surrounded the objects. (8) The Admiralty declared that the sighting was to be treated seriously and the evaluation of it would take some time."

#### NOTES AND REFERENCES

1. See FSR, Vol. 6, No.4 (July/August 1960), page 21.
2. A brief account of this sighting has been given by Robert Chapman, Science Correspondent of the London *Sunday Express*, in his book *Unidentified Flying Objects* (pub. Arthur Barker, London, 1969) and later as a Mayflower paperback under the title *UFO: Flying Saucers over Britain?* (also 1969).
3. See Desmond Leslie: *Did Flying Saucers Land at*

*Broadlands?: Alleged Encounters on the Estate of Earl Mountbatten of Burma.* In FSR Vol 26, No. 5 (January 1981).

4 See *URANUS*, Vol.3 No.3 (December 1956). Editor David Wightman. A mimeographed twenty-page bulletin issued six times yearly by Markham House Press Ltd., 31 King's Road, London SE3.

5. This name *Chelwan* should be an important clue. I asked the department of the Ministry of Defence who deal with these matters whether they could assist me by tracing an officer of this name, and I received an extraordinarily prompt reply that they had no record of any officer of such a name having served in the Royal Navy. It is very much to be hoped that one of our readers who has more leisure than we at FRS do (our number is very small), and who has access to old issues of the *Navy List*, might be able to effect a more convincing search for us, and tell us whether they have any success.

6....."released for publication...."OH YEAH We seem to have heard of such assurances on plenty of other occasions!

7. Remember that this UFO report dates from the early or mid-1950s, that is to say, from a time when very little had yet been published about the details of UFO appearance or UFO behaviour. Read this alleged naval officer's account carefully, and note how numerous are the features that today strike us as familiar, because we have seen them in so many other reports. If it be claimed that someone in Britain or Germany faked this story, then one can only say that he must have already been remarkably well informed on various aspects that can have been known only to a very few folk indeed at so early a date.

8. How often since then have we seen mention of this change of colour towards red as UFOs accelerate! G.C.■

## YOUTH OCCULT INVOLVEMENT CAUSE FOR ALARM IN FRANCE

**By Diana Geddes (National Catholic Register's Correspondent in Paris)**

**From the National Catholic Register (August 25, 1996)**

**D**uring the night of June 8, the body of 77 year-old Yvonne Foin was dragged from its tomb in Toulon's Catholic cemetery in the south of France, ripped out of the coffin where it had lain peacefully for 20 years, and had an inverted cross — the sign of the devil — driven through its chest.

"We wanted to have some fun by 'doing' a corpse" one of the four youths, all reportedly from "good" Toulon families, explained to the police without any trace of remorse.

The four youths, who believe themselves to be demons, begotten by Satan, profess a vicious hatred for all "Christians, Jews and Moslems, who are just cattle to be slaughtered."

This summer, half a dozen cases of inverted

crosses and satanic symbols daubed on tombs have been reported around France. Some 200,000 French youths are believed to engage regularly in ghoulish "role-playing" games, centered on death and Satan.

#### FRENCH INTEREST IN THE OCCULT.

**T**he decline in organised religion (fewer than one in 10 of the French attend Mass regularly); the break-up of the family; the collapse of secular ideologies like communism; and science's inability to explain the "true meaning of life," have helped spawn an explosion of interest in the occult and the para-normal, becoming a source of increasing alarm in France.

An estimated 10 million French people consult clairvoyants and mediums every year. Half the population

claims to believe in faith-healing, telepathy and astrology — as many as believe in God. More than a third believe dreams can predict the future and a quarter are convinced their fate is written on the palms of their hands.

Of greater concern to authorities is the spread of exotic, not to say bizarre, cults and quasi-religious groups, many of them imported from the United States. A French parliamentary report, published earlier this year, identifies 172 sects in France, with an active membership of 100,000 and a further 100,000 sympathisers — 60 percent more than 15 years ago. Some put the membership figure nearer to 600,000.

After reviewing recent episodes of cult-inspired violence around the world, including the mass murder-suicides in the United States (Waco, Texas), Switzerland, Canada and France, the report urged the French Government to put a stop to “what many believe to be a veritable flood tide developing within its core.” Of particular concern, as the new millennium approaches, are doomsday groups such as the Order of the Solar Temple, 16 of whose members were found burned to death last December in France after a simulated mass suicide. French investigators now believe most of the victims were shot dead long before being burned.

This was admittedly an extreme case. But the French media are increasingly full of stories of distraught families of children or other relatives “kidnapped” by sects, accompanied by allegations of brain-washing, extortion, and sexual abuse by sect leaders. (Gilbert Bourdin, 73, self-appointed “Cosmopolitan Messiah” of the Mandarom sect in the south of France, is currently facing charges of raping four former “disciples”, all minors at the time).

Both the Church and the Government have been accused of turning a blind eye to the sects in the name of France’s sacrosanct principle of freedom of thought, association, and worship.

Faced with growing public concern, the Government has agreed to set up a “national observatory,” chaired by the Prime Minister himself, to collect information on the activities of such groups.

## THE CHURCH’S RESPONSE

While welcoming such a watchdog body, the Catholic Church in France is concerned that it not develop into a witch-hunt against new, acceptable religious movements. It has urged the Government to include on the committee representatives of “all the great spiritual families, religious and philosophical.”

Monsignor Jean Vernet, head of the French bishops’ committee on sects and new beliefs and a professor of theology at the University of Toulouse, said that it is important to understand why, despite all the official warnings, legal prosecutions, and media campaigns, the number of new groups and sect members continues to grow. People join not simply because they are “manipulated,” but because “in their eyes, one cannot live with just the material means of living: one also needs a reason for living.”

It is very difficult to define satisfactorily the term “religion” or, even more so, “sect” said Monsignor Vernet, who has written some 30 books on the subject. “We are always tempted to label as deviant that which does not fit into the framework of our own orthodoxy.”

He believes that quasi-religious movements should not be approached in a spirit of condemnation or evangelization, but rather of pastoral care, though without turning a blind eye to potential abuses.

Monsignor Vernet criticizes the parliamentary report for failing to help members of suspect groups to continue their search for spirituality in healthier surroundings. **“What’s the use of taking someone out of a sect, like a fish out of murky water, if it’s only to have him suffocate on the bank?” he asked.**

At the priest’s recommendation, the French bishops have set up a national pastoral service for dialogue with members of the new religious movements and, where necessary, to act as a mediator between members and their often estranged families. This, Monsignor Vernet believes, is a more promising way to deal with France’s “sects problem” than attempts at repression. ■

# THE EXTRAORDINARY AFFAIR OF THE U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY’S OWN TEXT-BOOK ON UFOS IN THE 1960s

By Gordon Creighton

**A**s long ago as 1971 (FSR Vol. 17, No. 4, pp. 27/28) we gave a brief account of the amazing business of the U.S. Air Force’s own Course with which they were secretly instructing their cadet-officers in the U.S. Air Force Academy at Denver, Colorado, about the accursed subject of UFOs!

Some years ago I secured the complete text of the Course (which, in the meantime, needless to say, had reportedly been withdrawn and discarded from use as soon as the knowledge of its existence had leaked

out!).

The Course had been compiled during the 1960s by one of the Academy’s own Instructors, Major Donald G. Carpenter, and it was tacked on as the final chapter to a general instruction course entitled **INTRODUCTORY SPACE SCIENCE (32 Chapters)** supplied for the Academy’s Department of Physics Course, **PHYSICS 370**. And the Chapter on UFOs ended with the following interesting words:-