

view of the object. This time I did not believe what I saw, since I was looking for some sort of body within the light. I changed my position several times, but each time I saw the same thing. Within the middle of the light, leaning slightly to the left, there were steady lines covering the opaque area. These were as though drawn by a very sharp pencil with a ruler, but still remaining as steady as the object. No other contours were to be seen.

At about 11.05 p.m. local time, the object seemed to disappear very slowly, but without appearing to change position. It was just "turned off"—rather like the lights in a cinema.

It was impossible to tell the altitude or distance of the object. I had the impression that it was rather far, very high and very big. When seen at first, the clear, unchanging colours gave the impression of a solid object. The later part of the sighting made me a little doubtful about this, however, though it still seemed too real to be any sort of a "natural" everyday phenomenon.

On the evening in question, there was no moon, no bright star nearby, no clouds, no fog, no dust. There are no people living in the direction of the object, which I should say was over the sea and not over land. The sea is still frozen over, so there are no ships out there, nor any people, since it is ice-breaking time and very dangerous to venture out on the sea. The temperature was minus 1—2 degrees Centigrade.

All I can say is that it was strange and beautiful, and I do hope to see it once again.

Postscript

Three days after my sighting, the Finnish newspaper, *Keskipohjanmaa*, which is the local Gamlakarleby paper, announced that a similar object had been seen in the area BUT EXACTLY 24 HOURS LATER (i.e., on April 12). Here is an extract from the newspaper:

"In the evening of Wednesday, April 12, 1967, Mr. and Mrs. Granbacka were on their way home by car from Lappajärvi to Terjärv. Between Lappajärvi and Evijärvi there suddenly appeared in front of the car in the dark, clear sky in a North-East direction a round, red-glowing object 'big, about moon-sized' with a green rim. Mrs. Granbacka had just told her husband that the time was 10.35 p.m. according to her watch. They stepped out of their car and watched the object. Slowly, while keeping its position, it turned to a whitish glowing cloud standing on top with the red colour not visible any more. The 'cloud' was visible very clearly even after they had reached home. It stayed in the same position all the time."

This place is about 40 miles South-East of the place where I live and sighted the same thing, but according to the newspaper it was also seen by many people in Vateli, which is about 10 miles North-East of Evijärvi, so the object must have been very huge and very high.

4 НЛО—ЧТО ЭТО ТАКОЕ

AT LONG LAST the Russians have announced to the world that they too are interested in UFOs. Not so very long ago their official verdict was that UFOs did not exist other than in the imaginations of bourgeois, imperialist capitalists beset by war hysteria—or words to that effect. We know they have their share of sightings and that their attitude has been changing. Now they are writing openly about "unrecognised flying objects," *Neopoznannyye Letayushchie Ob"ekty*, N.L.O. for short.

FLYING SAUCER REVIEW has been aware of the Russian interest for more than four years. In 1963, when Waveney Girvan was editor, we received a request from the Soviet Academy of Sciences that the REVIEW be sent regularly to them. The influence of the REVIEW may be detected in the paragraphs of an article which appeared in the magazine *Smena* on April 7, 1967. Gordon Creighton has provided a translation of this most interesting piece, which was published under the signature of an Academician, Professor F. Yu. Zigel. It was entitled *Tayny XX Veka. NLO—Chto Eto Takoe?* (Mysteries of the XXth Century. UFOs—What are they?). The article is one of a series entitled *Naselenyy Kosmos* (The Inhabited Universe), and the editor-in-chief of the series is none other than the Vice-President of the Academy, B. P. Konstantinov.

Dr. Zigel quotes a number of cases throughout the twenty-odd years' current history of our subject, particularly several from 1965, including the well-known Canberra Airport case and the "difficulties with the Mariner IV signals". It is noticeable, however, that no reference is made to Russian cases, apart from a brief mention that they have been picked up on radar there.

The author also refers to Dr. Vallée's books, and his views

on the possibility that UFOs could be of extraterrestrial origin, and he quotes from Dr. Hynek's Foreword to Vallée's *Challenge to Science*. He also mentions Vallée's visit to Moscow in 1966 for the International Congress of Mathematicians.

Dr. Zigel discusses five possible explanations for UFOs—

(1) The convenient idea that flying saucers and other UFOs are nonsense, or hoaxes; convenient because the idea calls for no intellectual effort, and kills the problem at the outset. However, says Zigel, there is a small measure of truth in it when one looks at claims like Adamski's, and hoax photographs.

(2) UFOs are misidentifications of known natural phenomena, a viewpoint zealously propounded by Dr. D. Menzel, and others. Menzel's reasoning is found unconvincing.

(3) UFOs are new secret flying machines of a great power—a ridiculous theory, according to the author.

(4) UFOs are an unknown phenomenon of nature. Zigel is none too happy with the plasma theory, but he points out that unknown phenomena are more numerous than those known to, and studied by, men.

(5) UFOs are machines of extraterrestrials who are studying the Earth. An extreme point of view, but, since the UFO problem is not yet solved, even extreme viewpoints are possible. The correlation of certain "waves" with oppositions of Mars are noted, but Zigel says this is rather speculative.

All in all, this is a very considerable improvement on the assertion that UFOs are figments of the imagination of bourgeois capitalists dominated by war nerves. We will follow, as soon as possible, with an article bringing up to date the picture of what the Soviets are saying.

C.B.