

LANDED OBJECT SEEN NEAR STONEHENGE?

ACCORDING to an account in the Hertfordshire newspaper, *The Biggleswade Chronicle*, for Friday, August 10, 1984, a local family named Waistell who live at Potton were returning home by car after their summer vacation when, as they were on the A303 highway near Stonehenge, they had the shock of their lives as they watched the whole sky turn a dark golden colour.

Two large, bright orange and gold spheres appeared from over the horizon, then two more appeared beneath these, and then two more at the sides. Said Mrs. Ruth Waistell: "It was absolutely fantastic. We had never seen anything like it before".

Their youngest son, Martin, aged 11, was reported to be still in a state of shock and refusing to go out alone, after what happened next. This was the appearance of a 'moving star', which appeared soon after the sky had turned golden. Martin watched it change colour, first from white to red, and then to green.

Further along the A303, as they headed towards London, the family saw other things. Just after 11.00 p.m., Mrs. Waistell caught sight of what seemed to be a large dome-shaped object standing in a field, just before a road-sign pointing off to Quarley.

Flashing

The object — the size of a house — seemed to have many 'windows' from which was streaming forth a bright yellow-golden light. They turned round and drove back to take another look at it, but by then they found the field was empty.

Further along the A303, Martin again caught sight of the 'star' moving across the sky. It was still flashing and changing colour, and increasing in size, until finally it split into two bright yellow 'stars'. These then re-combined once more, turning first to red, then to white, before finally vanishing.

However, Mr. Waistell was the next member of the party to spot something strange in the sky. Martin seized the binoculars and observed 'a strangely shaped object with lighted windows'. According to his mother this again split into two white lights, which turned red as before and then dashed away across the sky at an unbelievable speed.

It was now past midnight, and the sightings had lasted for more than one hour. The Waistell family reported their experience to the authorities and, according to the *Biggleswade Chronicle*, 'the Ministry of Defence is investigating their claims'.

ANOTHER FRENCH REPORT ON G.E.P.A.N.

UNDER the title of *E Finita La Comedia*, Dr Jean-Pierre Petit, Maître de Recherche at the CNRS (French National Centre for Scientific Research) has published a biting account of G.E.P.A.N. in *Lumières Dans La Nuit* No. 245/246 (November/December 1984).

Much of the article refers to personalities whose names would not be known to FSR's readers outside of France, and is of a generally discursive nature, and we cannot spare the space for reproducing it in full. I therefore confine myself to making a précis translation of the main points.

Dr Petit begins by saying that Monsieur Velasco, the present Head of G.E.P.A.N., told him a year ago: "We are collecting UFO reports, but we don't know what to do with them. Once a case has been investigated, we publish a note on it, and that is that. We have no scientific structure behind G.E.P.A.N."

Petit then goes on to say that he doubts whether there had in fact ever been any intention that G.E.P.A.N. should engage in serious work, and he proceeds to recall that, at a large gathering in Studio 105 of La Maison de Radio in Paris on June 12, 1984, organized by *France-Inter*, with the G.E.P.A.N. representatives present, plus no less than 55 journalists from the French press, Monsieur Metzle, public relations officer of G.E.P.A.N.'s controlling body, the C.N.E.S. (French Space Exploration Agency, based in Toulouse) let the cat out of the bag seriously when he made the following extraordinary admission:—

"In 1977, it was necessary to tranquilize public opinion concerning the UFO phenomenon. And it was in that spirit that G.E.P.A.N. was created."

"Which I interpret to mean" — continues Petit — "that G.E.P.A.N. was simply a tranquilizer."

And he goes on: "You may rest assured at present that there is nothing more to be expected from this organization, which is in any case moribund. Credits cut to 200,000 Francs per annum (which is virtually nothing, when you realize what the C.N.E.S.'s norms are). In Toulouse a staff of just two persons, Velasco and one girl secretary, their job being to receive the Gendarmerie reports and other documentation.

"Though recently promoted to be a 'house engineer', Velasco started out with only a technical college diploma in Optics, and his scientific knowledge is slight, not to say indeed non-existent.

"When they are interviewed, G.E.P.A.N. put on a show of collaboration with scientific organizations. But — let us be blunt about it — that's all hogwash, total hogwash. It's just pure bluff." G.C.

"ALIEN LIFE IN OUR GALAXY"

Writing in the *Daily Telegraph* on Friday, November 2, 1984, Adrian Berry, their Science Correspondent, reported statements by Miss Heather Couper, the first woman president of the British Astronomical Association.*

"UFOs do not exist, and people who believe in little green men from the stars are 'just dotty'."

That is the firm opinion of the first woman president of the British Astronomical Association, Miss Heather Couper.

But Miss Couper, 35, who has the difficult task of succeeding Patrick Moore as leader of the 94-year-old Association, does believe advanced intelligent alien life exists in our Milky Way Galaxy.

"There's no scientific evidence for it yet, I admit, but I feel emotionally that it's likely to exist out there," she told me yesterday.

"I'm not convinced by the current argument of some astronomers that the reason we have detected no signs of alien technology and that no aliens have visited us is because they do not exist.

Counter argument

"I would suggest a counter-argument. If the Galaxy contains a large number of alien civilisations, then why should they trouble to visit an ordinary, commonplace solar system like ours?"

"I very much approve of the current radio searches for possible alien civilisations being carried out in America and elsewhere, and I hope they will continue."

A former Director of the Greenwich Planetarium, Miss Couper will continue her work as a writer and broadcaster on astronomical matters.

Interviewed on the LBC night programme on February 26, Miss Couper said the *Daily Telegraph* had misreported her views on UFOs, and then went on to

repeat that there was no evidence for the existence of a single reliable UFO report. She then made the very interesting admission that the U.S. Government DOES have a cover-up on the subject. The reason? "Because the Americans fear the UFOs are Soviet secret weapons"!
G.C.

* *Not to be confused, of course, with the "senior body", the Royal Astronomical Society. ED.*

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We understand from our Legal Adviser and from a couple of readers that, over in the depths of Wales, one of our more obscure opponents is propagating the idea that FSR has (1) ceased to exist and, simultaneously, (2), under the present editorship, is "blocking all UFO research" — a remarkable double-feat presumably comprehensible only to Janus himself.

In the days ahead we certainly intend to go on providing material that ought to set certain types of alleged "UFO research" back by quite a notch or two. Such "blocking" by us should anyway meet with widespread approval, since our critics say that UFOs don't exist and are merely piezo-electrical effects or birth traumata — a view that Governments certainly won't be slow to applaud either, seeing that they have been scraping the bottoms of their barrels lately for some "good explanations" — and will be having a harder job than ever, now that the book CLEAR INTENT is safely in print and sundry cats are well and truly out of the bag!

EDITOR