

naive and gullible. As an example, John Searl and his ridiculous claims are apparently taken at face value and he is credited as being a "British scientist" with "the National Space Research consortium." Searl's true status and the reality of his "consortium" can be quite easily checked, so if the author can be so inaccurate and misleading about this, what in the book can the reader accept as accurate? This 192-page softcover book, though nicely produced and illustrated with black and white and colour photographs, is only likely to be of interest or value to those who enjoy collecting all UFO-related material whatever its quality. It can be obtained from GAF International, P.O. Box 1722, Vista, CA 92083, U.S.A., price \$9.95 plus \$1 postage in U.S.A., \$3 postage abroad.

Arcturus Book Service are issuing a variety of publications of historical interest, and the following are currently available from A.B.S. at 263 N. Ballston Ave., Scotia, NY 12302, U.S.A.: *UFO Propulsion Systems, Origins and Purposes* by Behrendt (20-page booklet, price \$3.50); *Truman Bethurum's Personal Scrapbook*, an exact reproduction of the contactee's personal

newsclippings and memorabilia (72 pages, price \$10); *Those Saucers*, a Gisholt Machine Company newsletter from 1958 devoted to UFO sightings (8 pages, price \$1.50); *Capsule History Behind the Flying Saucers* and *Technical Briefing Behind the Flying Saucers* both by Frank Scully (both 2 pages, both price 50 cents); *A Survey of Press Coverage of Unidentified Flying Objects, 1947-1966* by Herbert J. Strentz, a full-length treatment of how the U.S. Air Force and the media handled UFO reports in the first 20 years of UFO history (341 pages, price \$24.50). Arcturus Book Service also provide a superlative service in supplying old and new UFO books, and their catalogue (price \$3.50 outside U.S.A. and Canada) is well worth getting.

U.K. readers who may wish to obtain out-of-print UFO books and magazines will also be interested to know that Middle East Books (16 Brockenhurst Gardens, Mill Hill, London NW7 2JX) from time to time issue a catalogue of new and second-hand UFO publications for sale. They also offer books on Atlantis, ancient mysteries, pyramidology, the occult and other subjects.

THE CASE OF THE VANISHING GENERAL

Since, as we all know, UFOs do not exist, many folk must have been surprised indeed to see the following item, in extra black type, right in the centre of page 8 of London's evening paper, *The Evening Standard*, for August 19, 1982:-

'UFO kidnap' puts U.S. Army in a flap

Standard Reporter

LOS ANGELES, Thursday. A REPORT that America's Vietnam Commander, General William Westmoreland, had been "snatched by a flying saucer", sparked off a full-scale emergency alert.

The report was made by 49-year-old Mrs. Edith Mello. Security Police immediately tried to track down the general. They failed. And troops at El Paso Army Base in Texas were put on full alert.

"We put out an all-points bulletin", said Army spokesman Ed Starnes. "But four hours later we decided the woman's claim was just too much so we called off the search."

The Army said later that General Westmoreland had been found . . . but refused to say where."

Goodness me! *Don't the U.S. Army know* that UFOs don't exist? And *don't they know* that folk who report UFOs are nut cases? (This is even worse than Ike Eisenhower's famous 'disappearance', allegedly secretly

to view a UFO or UFOs at Muroc (Edwards Air Base), California, on February 20 1954.)

On the following day, Friday, August 20, a London morning paper, *The Sun*, ran a briefer version of the story:-

General in UFO Scare

PANIC broke out when an American Vietnam War hero was reported kidnapped . . . by a flying saucer.

Twenty thousand U.S. troops were put on full alert.

A woman told police in Monahana, Texas, that she and General William Westmoreland had been robbed by aliens, who had whisked him into outer space.

The General turned up safe . . . and the woman is under psychiatric observation.

But is it possible that the last two lines of this report contain a serious warning for folk who might be disposed to turn in UFO reports?

Isn't it the Soviet Union where people who displease the authorities in some way or other find themselves in the notorious Serbskiy Institut or some other hospital and forced to undergo injections, some of which inflict damage of a permanent nature?

Are we seeing the Shape of Things to Come? — G.C.

UFO REPORTS FROM CHINA (1)

Paul Dong

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ON November 13, 1978, China's principal newspaper, the *Jen Min Jih Pao* or *People's Daily* (Peking) carried an article under the title "UFOs, An Unresolved World Puzzle". This was the first article on UFOs ever to appear in the Chinese press. Its author, Mr. Sheng Heng-yen, is one of the editors of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

Almost a year later, China's second-most important newspaper, the *Kuang-Ming Jih-Pao*, carried a second article on the UFOs. Published in the section chronicling scientific matters, the article posed the question of whether the flying saucers might not actually exist. The author of this second article, Mr. Chou Hsinyen, is in charge of scientific programmes in the Central Radio and Television Office in Peking.

Mr. Chou reported that a group of Chinese scientists had observed some UFOs during an expedition they were making in the province of Hupei. The sighting was confirmed by elements of the Chinese National Liberation Army who chanced to be on manoeuvres in that area at the time. The article also mentioned other UFO sightings in other provinces of China.

It was necessary to wait until May 12, 1980, for the next article on UFOs in the *Kuang-Ming Jih-Pao*. This article, of which I was the author, reproduced detailed reports made not only by aircraft pilots but also by scientists, and also by other eye-witnesses of professional status throughout the world, who had seen UFOs.

These three articles in the press aroused the interest of the public throughout the whole of mainland China. And the journal *Space Knowledge* received several hundred letters urging the Chinese Government to launch a project to study the UFO Phenomenon. The appearance of such a request in that journal duly engendered an enormous response from all the Provinces of China, and this induced the Government to set up a study group under the auspices of the University of Wuhan, in Central China. Thus the *Chinese Association for the Study of UFOs* came into being. This body, the first of its kind in China, has correspondents in the Capital, Peking, and in Shanghai and in Kuangtung Province, in the Kuanghsi Autonomous Region, and in four other provinces.

The Association publishes its own journal, *UFO Investigations*, and its membership includes workers, students, teachers, journalists, doctors, and scientific researchers. Although the Association had been founded

in May 1980, it was December 4 of that year before the *New China News Agency* (NCNA) published the fact.

There were two important developments which had led the Government in Peking to authorize a serious study of UFOs. The first was on a summer evening in 1965, when two bright disc-shaped objects crossed the sky above Peking, a city with a population of 8 millions. The second was two years later, when a similar thing was observed over some of the Peking suburbs. In this second case, thousands of people saw a round glowing object with flashing red lights shoot across the sky at a fantastic speed, then stop suddenly, and pause, before darting away at top speed and vanishing

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