

A NEW SOUTH AMERICAN WAVE

Gordon Creighton

FSR's correspondents in South America have recently sent me a number of press-clippings which indicate that a new UFO Wave has been building up in that Continent.

BRAZIL

In a letter dated May 25, 1982, from Mrs. Irene Granchi of Copacabana, Rio De Janeiro, she says: "Here in Brazil we have had quite a large UFO Wave, which started in early February."

The Newspaper *Última Hora* (published in Pôrto Alegre, in the Southern Brazilian State of Rio Grande do Sul) (month of May, 1982, but precise date not given) said that a UFO had appeared one night recently over the beach at Sepetiba and alarmed the population. For several minutes it had flown around over the stretch of shore known as Praia da Brisa, emitting powerful multi-coloured flashes of light and illuminating a vast region around. When it vanished, as suddenly as it had appeared, it left behind a streak of greyish smoke. Altogether more than 15 local people said they had seen it. Estimates put its diameter at about four metres. The first to see it seems to have been a businessman named José Rosca. He suddenly noticed an enormous light floating in the sky above the Praia da Brisa beach. At first he thought it must be an aircraft, but soon perceived that it was round in shape and was moving around in circles.

At the same time another man, Paulo Gineu dos Santos, was fishing from a bridge in the same area when he saw the UFO. Its light was blinding, but after a while he managed to see that it came from a circular object — "different from anything I've seen in my whole life!" He said it was moving from side to side when he saw it. Then, it gave out smoke of a metallic-greyish colour and, losing height gradually, finally vanished into the sea off the Praia da Brisa Beach.

According to Sergeant Sá Cunha of the public relations section of the Brazilian Air Force Base at Santa Cruz, authorities of the latter contacted the military installations at Pedra de Guratuba and Restinga da Marambaia, and asked them whether they were engaged in any military manoeuvres or exercises on the particular Thursday night in question. The replies were negative, thus fortifying the hypothesis that the object seen was a UFO.

A woman named Josefa Gomes said she had seen a similar thing six months previously over the same area, Praia da Brisa.

A hotel porter, José Olavo Araújo Torres, said that at about 7.30 on the night in question (a Thursday) he and others with him had watched for about five mi-

minutes a UFO flying over the Praia da Brisa beach area, and skimming and touching down either on the water or the sand. He thought it was about five metres wide and said it was flashing powerful beams of red, green, and orange light. He said he was just feeding his three dogs, when they started barking and dashing towards the garden wall in the direction of the sea. Simultaneously he caught sight of the spherical object flashing its coloured beams. For about five minutes it remained at a distance of no more than 20 or 30 metres from him. He called his wife and seven other people, all of whom came out and saw it.

Another Pôrto Alegre paper, *Folha da Tarde*, reported on May 21, 1982, that on the night of the Thursday preceeding (i.e. May 20) people in and around Pôrto Alegre and the suburb of Vila Cruzeiro do Sul saw two spherical UFOs emitting beams of light of four colours. A girl college student, Vera Lúcia, said at first she thought the lights in the sky "must be something to do with the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) and were aircraft, but later I saw that they were two disc-shaped saucers with salient points on top and the size of aircraft. Both emitted four horizontal beams of light, green, yellow, red, and blue". She watched them moving about for several minutes.

ARGENTINA

According to a full-page report in the provincial Argentine newspaper *El Chubut* of August 28, 1981 (published at Chubut, in Patagonia, about 44° S., 69° W.) one of the many local farmers of Welsh origin, Sr. Emrys Evans, aged 70, had an astonishing experience on his little property at Trevelin shortly after 9.00 p.m. on the night of Sunday, August 16. As he opened the door of the farm to pass to another building nearby, he found the whole area around over a diameter of some 600 metres or so lit up "as brightly as if it were broad daylight". All the farm horses and the fowls and turkeys were creating a fantastic din. Approaching more closely to the source of the blinding light he found that it came from a strange lemon-shaped craft about 12 metres in diameter which was hanging stationary at a height of about two metres from the ground. It seemed as though supported by what looked like a number of yellowish stems and had four windows, and he was close enough to perceive the rivets on its surface, and to make out that on its top it bore what looked like a searchlight about a metre in diameter from which the powerful illumination was coming.

As he leaned against a tree and tried to recover from the shock and amazement the dazzling light

grew so much stronger that he was forced to put up his arms to hide his eyes and make for the shelter of a copse some distance away. His eyes were now streaming with tears. He hid in the copse until the light had gone and then came out and looked around, but the craft had vanished.

At no time did he hear any sound from it. When close to it he had observed a smaller, fainter light on its under-part and noted that some sort of illumination from inside showed through the four cabin windows.

When explaining his experience to the reporters he said he was so frightened that he dashed back to the farmhouse. With teeth chattering and knees trembling he tried to pour himself a stiff glass of wine, but could not manage to hold the glass properly and had to take it from the bottle. (Photostat of article received from CEFANC UFO Study Group, Buenos Aires. Précis translation from Spanish by G.C.). (During the decade of the 1960s FSR published a considerable number of UFO reports from the Chubut area, which lies near the Atlantic seaboard of Argentina and to the north-west of the Falkland Islands. Tr.)

Santa Rosa, Catamarca Province (N.W. Argentina)

According to a report in the Mar del Plata paper *La Capital* (November 1, 1981) two local residents noticed that there seemed to be mysterious lights at night inside a primary school. Two policemen were called, and for more than one hour the terrified four watched what seemed to be the figure of a woman, dressed in an overall, floating about at some distance from the ground and visiting various rooms in the building. During the whole period of the sighting (two to three a.m.) it was impossible to keep any of the doors shut, as these kept opening and closing. (There was no report of any UFO seen. The Catamarca Province, up in the Andes in N.W. Argentina, has, however, been noted for its very numerous UFO sightings in past years.)

Credit: reader **Marta N. Plevani**, Mar del Plata.

Numerous UFO reports from Northern Towns

According to a report in *La Razón* (Buenos Aires, November 6, 1981) their correspondent in Resistencia, Northern Argentina, had telegraphed that UFOs had been seen over wide areas, including the towns of Presidencia Roque Sáenz Peña in the far North and the western Andean towns of San Juan, Mendoza, Córdoba, and Neuquén, as well as over various places in Chile.

Near Presidencia Roque Sáenz Peña, a number of local people saw three yellowish coloured spheres flying at high speed from East to West and following a rising trajectory, and emitting yellow, orange, and red flashes.

In the Andean towns hundreds of people, including control tower officials at Mendoza and San Juan airports, saw similar sights. Near El Plumerillo a civilian airline pilot of Aerolíneas Argentinas likewise. All these reports referred to globular lights travelling northwards at high speed and emitting sparks and flashes of various colours. Some of the reports mentioned extremely vivid and powerful "electronic white flashes" inside the UFO itself. In a statement issued soon afterwards the director of the San Juan Observatory said that his office had received no information and his staff had seen nothing, but added that the reports received seemed to indicate some sort of meteorological phenomena.

(Credit as above.)

Mendoza

According to a report from Mendoza in the Andes, in the newspaper *La Capital* (Mar del Plata, 6 November, 1981) a group of 18 students from Agrimensura and two teachers had watched for five minutes, when travelling on the road to Los Molles, "a perfectly round luminous cloud" in the early hours of the morning, in a clear grey sky. Other reports mentioned "a circle of luminous smoke, with a darker nucleus, and having at its centre a bluish, star-like flash." When first observed, the phenomenon seemed brighter than the Moon; later it seemed like a ring of smoke with a more luminous periphery, finally vanishing from sight.

(Credit as above.)

Squadron of UFOs photographed and filmed over Argentina

In March 1982 the newspaper *Presencia* published in La Paz, Bolivia, carried a report dated March 17 from its correspondent at Santa Fe in North-Central Argentina, to the effect that residents of the suburb of Guadalupe of that city (which lies 537 km. to the north of Buenos Aires) had both photographed and filmed a squadron of UFOs.

In the early hours of the morning the family, named Schwartz, saw a great number of objects in the sky, "too bright to be stars", and travelling from East to West. Neighbours were called to see the sight. One of the "saucers" appeared to be larger, as it were "the mother-craft", and was accompanied by a number of smaller ones. Witnesses were not agreed as to the total number of these.

A number of people spent half an hour in photographing and filming the craft, until finally they were lost to sight. A local ufologist, Alberto Frutos, analyzed the photos, and pronounced the objects seen to be UFOs.

Credit: **Sr. Juan Telleria Rios** of La Paz, Bolivia.

New UFO Wave over Argentina

According to an AFP report of early March from Buenos Aires, published in the newspaper *El Diario* (La Paz, Bolivia) of March 14, 1982, the Argentine was experiencing a new UFO Wave. The Wave had apparently begun with the report from the Andean city of San Luis (837 km. due west of Buenos Aires) that a car in that city had been struck by a "blinding blue light" and the driver slightly injured.

The driver, Gregorio Fernández, aged 47, said he was driving to San Luis from Villa Mercedes (S.E. of San Luis) when a "blinding blue light" struck his windscreen and knocked him unconscious for two hours. When he came to, he found he had suffered slight burning, which necessitated treatment from the local hospital.

The report states that the San Luis region seems to be a place much visited by UFOs. On May 14, 1978, 100 people at Villa Mercedes watched a fly-over by more than 50 UFOs, which were performing evolutions over the town for more than two hours.

Shortly after that, on the banks of the Florida Dyke, very near San Luis, various local people claimed to have seen a UFO land and an occupant emerge from it, clad in an aluminized green one-piece suit.

For many years past, says this report, "in two years out of every three", Argentina has seen these cyclic waves of UFO sightings extending right down the whole country from the far North to Antarctica. According to the statement of someone in civilian aviation, "these strange flying objects resemble no known type of aircraft or balloon." According to this correspondent, the most spectacular of all Argentina's UFO sightings was on December 5, 1974, when a squadron of UFOs was seen, flying on a 'meteoric and spectacular' zig-zag course and shooting across the Provinces of Misiones, Tucumán, Corrientes, Chaco, Salta, and Santiago del Estero.

The report goes on to say that recently, at Punta Arenas, Chile, one of the most southerly towns in the world, a UFO almost collided with a civilian airliner.

Likewise, in Mexico some tourists recently claimed that a mysterious light had suddenly descended out of the sky, and attached itself to their windscreen and carried them and their car for more than 100 kilometres. And similar cases have occurred in every American region, from Cape Horn northwards, via Peru, Colombia, Costa Rica and other states, and in the USA, Canada, and Newfoundland.

The report quotes an Argentinian aeronautical engineer, Emilio Alvarez Ojeda, author of a recently published book, *Confirmado: Llegaron los OVNIS* (*Confirmed: The UFOs Have Arrived*), who said, in a statement to the Agence France Presse:

"This crucial moment signifies a scientific revolution, involving extraordinary revelations like those things seen at San Luis, which many folk would prefer to ig-

nore, as running counter to religious and technical prejudices."

Credit: Sr. Juan Telleria Rios of La Paz, Bolivia.

CHILE

UFOs Seen over Chile

According to an ANSA report in the Bolivian newspaper *Meridiano* (March 23, 1982), from Santiago de Chile, farmers over a wide area of the Valley of Azapa, in the extreme North of Chile, had observed an oval-shaped UFO that emitted intermittent pinkish flashes. The account of one man, Carlos Sanqui, was as follows:

"It was a pitch-dark night, when suddenly the dogs began howling and running around in circles. I was alarmed and, looking upwards, I saw an oval-shaped object over the peaks of the Quebrada Del Diablo Range. It was like a huge egg, stationary in the sky."

He added that the UFO was shooting out intermittent flashes of pinkish light, and was astonishingly bright. He said he observed no movement by it, and heard no sound, and that it vanished just as suddenly as it had appeared.

Twenty minutes earlier, at a spot some three kilometres or so distant, another farm worker, Dionisio Quispe, saw a similar sight.

He said: "An unusually powerful wind started to blow. I was worried, and, looking up at the sky, I saw, at a height of around 100 metres or so, a dish-shaped object with a pink-coloured glow around it, moving along. Inside it, there were what looked like moving blades — like the blades of a ventilator. Other workers in the vicinity saw it too and had to run to the paddock and tie the animals up."

Another man, Víctor Lovera, mentioned that sightings of UFOs are particularly frequent in that part of Chile, this, in his opinion, being due to the extremely clear atmosphere.

Víctor Lovera went on to say that, just before this last Christmas (1981), a large tract of land owned by him in the Valley of Azapa had been lit up by the light of a UFO, and "since that day the soil of the whole area in question has been totally unproductive. The whole of that region, once so fertile, is now dried up."

Credit: Sr. Juan Telleria Rios of La Paz, Bolivia.

Translator's Note:

I started translating South American UFO reports for FSR twenty years ago (in 1962), and many of those early accounts were just like these — with the heavy emphasis on multi-coloured beams of vivid light. However much governments and the ordinary man and woman on the street may have hoped during these twenty years that the UFO Phenomenon would go away and leave them in peace, the problem is still there, and its features are unchanged.

MAIL BAG

Correspondence is invited from our readers, but they are asked to keep their letters short. Unless letters give the sender's full name and address (not necessarily for publication) they cannot be considered. The Editor would like to remind correspondents that it is not always possible to acknowledge every letter personally, so he takes this opportunity of thanking all who write to him.

Dr. Hynek's article

Dear Sir, — I found Dr. J. Allen Hynek's article 'The UFO Phenomenon: Laugh, Laugh, Study, Study' in *FSR*, Vol. 27 No. 6, most intriguing because it gave a precise overview of his approach to the UFO subject.

However, I was puzzled by one or two points which I hope you can clear up for me.

In the first half of his article Dr. Hynek acknowledges that a majority of UFO misidentifications could be due to our worries about population, resources and technology and as such constitute 'signs of the times'. And he goes on to point out that an extreme orientation towards a belief in UFO visitors leads to the formation of "space people" cults led by people who claim visits to Mars and similar exotic locations.

To justify investigation into Ufology, other than by psychologists and sociologists, he points out that such 'emotional, even neurotic aspects of the UFO scene... impugn the integrity and perhaps the competence, of our scientists, pilots, engineers, and others judged sane and responsible who have related sober albeit incredible accounts of UFO encounters'.

So he makes a distinction between responsible, sane, "UFO observers" and emotional, mentally unstable, "UFO believers." Which goes along with his view that, with enough discriminative research and investigation, some aspects of a new empirical phenomenon will be found, eventually.

He then goes on to note the 'paradoxical dualistic' aspects of the sightings made by the responsible UFO observers e.g. they report seeing apparently physical objects which do not obey the known laws of physics.

This leads him to note that subjective variables are at work, indeed, he wonders if UFOs are 'events in the mind' generated by interlopers from some 'parallel reality'. He boldly states 'The UFO Phenomenon is experienced largely through human consciousness and the human psyche'.

It is at this point in his article I become puzzled. How does Dr. Hynek differentiate between "UFO obser-

vers" and "UFO believers" if there are subjective variables at work? From his text I can only see that the criteria depends on whether you are a scientist, pilot, engineer, or a similarly qualified person. But people who have such occupational roles are still subject to emotional problems, even delusions as in the case of Kelvin which Dr. Hynek mentions, as much as lesser mortals. Thus, why should events in their minds be any more valid than the mental events in the minds of the "UFO believers?" Because if we are being manipulated by external forces why should we attempt to use 'normal' standards of sanity and insanity, when we are not responsible for what we perceive in certain circumstances?

One argument might be that instrumental evidence supports the claims of the "UFO observers", but does not support the "UFO believers'" case. But in my opinion such evidence is poor, whichever cause it supports. In fact, Adamski's photographic evidence is as 'good' as anything anybody else has been able to provide!

If we are able to be ruled by parsimony of explanation, and employ the simplest possible explanation available, then it would seem that the two groups are experiencing the effects of the 'signs of the times' phenomenon to varying degrees depending on their psychological status. Such an explanation is efficient because it does not invoke the intervening variable of some 'external' force or forces involved in our cognitive processes, and can account for the paradoxical dualism inherent in many UFO reports.

I hope you can clarify some of the points made above.

Yours faithfully,
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July 2, 1982

Dr. Hynek's article

Dear Sir, — In his article, *The UFO Phenomenon: Laugh, Laugh, Study, Study* (Vol. 27, No. 6), Dr. Hynek claims that Claude Poher was able to show a statistical correlation between UFO events in France and the vertical component of the geomagnetic field as recorded at the Chambon-La-Forêt Geophysical Station. Poher certainly did claim 'a good statistical correlation between disturbances of the earth's [magnetic] field and UFO observations during one month in... 1954' (see C. Poher: 'Time Correlations Between Geomagnetic Disturbances and Eyewitness Accounts of UFOs' in *FSR*, Vol. 20, No. 1, pp 12-16), but that he demonstrated the correlation is doubtful.

1) Poher made a comparison between UFO reports emanating from an area up to 100km round Chambon-La-Forêt since 1886 (the date from which magnetic measurements were available) and 'abnormal' fluctuations of the field. He stated that the UFO reports came from 'private specialised organisations' but did not name them. We have no idea of the quality or reliability of these reports. He did not explain what was meant by 'abnormal' fluctuations nor did he describe the causes of normal fluctuations. The result of this study was that there was no direct correlation.

2) Despite this negative result, he proceeded to compare UFO reports for 1954 with recordings of the field at Chambon-La-Forêt. These UFO reports (635) came from all over France, none, so far as we know, from anywhere near the magnetic observatory. These reports were taken from Saunders' catalogue, but again we do not know the quality of the reports. His Figure 3 compares (for 1954) the number of disturbances of the magnetic field per month with the number of UFO reports per week. It shows a peak UFO report rate in October coinciding with a peak magnetic disturbance rate. But it also shows that another peak in the disturbance rate (in February and March) is *not* associated with any rise in the UFO report rate. Despite this Poher claimed 'a