

information on UFO reports and research ideas. We at FSR have received them — and correspondence from other interested individuals, who have sent reports to us. Robert Chapman of the *Sunday Express* tells us he has received a card too, in his case a request for a copy of his book, and a local newspaper in Kent has been asked for details of a report (see *Sunday Express* of 21 January 1979, page

7), and there have been a number of other recipients. So, any chance to collect new material and ideas could well be attractive to them. Whether or not it would be on an exchange basis is another question.

One last thing has to be said at this stage, and that is that Drs Hynek, Vallée and Poher, and Lt. Colonel Coyne and the rest, seem to have done a very good job.

World round-up

*of news and comment
about recent sightings*

United States of America

America's leaders forced to own up about UFOs.

We read with amazement on page 3 of the *Daily Mail* of January 20, 1979, the following item which appeared under the signature of *Simon Winchester*, the newspaper's correspondent in Washington, D.C.; amazement in view of the *Mail's* ridiculous Editorial on page 6 of the same issue (see page 3 of this issue of FSR):

"The Pentagon's bland response to flying saucer reports was always the same: It's nothing. Yet all the while they were compiling hundreds of secret files on sightings.

"And yesterday, America's military leaders were forced to admit that UFOs had spied on many of their nuclear missile bases and bomb stores during a fortnight in 1975.

"No fewer than 900 pages of official records have been prised out of them by a private organisation, the Ground Saucer Watch, of Phoenix, Arizona, who took their case to court last summer.

"They reveal that experts are at a loss to explain the rash of sightings over nuclear bases in the first two weeks of November 1975.

"The sites in Maine, Michigan and Montana — where there are several squadrons of Minuteman missiles and atom bomb storage compounds — were all 'visited'.

"At Malmstrom Air Force Base in Montana, a captain Thomas O'Brien reported seeing an aircraft 'resembling a helicopter' approaching the underground weapons silo.

"It had two red and two white lights on the front, a white light on the bottom and another on the rear. The object hovered for a minute or so before flying off soundlessly, said the report.

"Military crews at two nearby sites also reported seeing 'moving lights' in the air on the same evening.

"The 'activity' logs' kept by commanders of the North American Air Defence Command show that during that period witnesses at another launch site saw an object hovering over the missile silo 'issuing a black object from it, tubular in shape'.

"The revelations follow Thursday's warning to the House of Lords by the Earl of Clancarty, chairman of the UFO movement Contact, that it is time people were told the truth."

Credit: John M. Lade

Having read the foregoing, readers might care to refer to the World Round-up item in FSR Volume 23, No. 5: "CIA sued over UFOs"

Italy

The following item from the *Birmingham Evening Mail* of November 30, 1978, was from John Ashton, that newspaper's correspondent in Rome —

"The fish markets along 60 miles of Italy's Adriatic coast are closed, with fishermen demanding naval or coast-guard escorts to cross the offshore waters which have seen mysterious and terrifying events for the past six weeks.

"It all began when the bodies of two fishermen were discovered beside their capsized, but intact, boat. A subsequent autopsy revealed there was no water in their lungs and that their deaths could be attributed to no known causes. A riddle has kept medical experts and scientists alert ever since: hair-thin lines, almost invisible across their chests.

"These deaths were followed by a series of eerie sightings: 60 ft-high columns of foaming water burst from the otherwise glassy sea beside the boats.

"Red lights rocket skywards up to 200 ft. White 'globes of fire' travel at high speed underwater.

"Unidentified echoes on radar that followed trawlers back to port finally broke the fishermen's nerves.

"Despite an unusual spate of UFO sightings, discarded as illusion, no explanation has been found for the strange stirrings in the sea."

Credit: Gordon Creighton

Israel

Police alert after Mount of Olives sighting

The Guardian of January 5, 1979, the following interesting report, a UPI item from Tel Aviv, —

"Israelis yesterday reported a spate of unidentified flying objects — sightings of brightly lit objects hovering, zigzagging, or streaking through the skies over the Holy Land from Haifa to Jerusalem.

"But the Air Force said that nothing had shown up on their radar screens. And police, some of whom sighted UFOs, refused to comment on the report.

"The sightings occurred only days after widespread reports of UFOs in New Zealand. Police in Jerusalem alerted all mobile units after three mysterious objects were seen hovering above the city at a high altitude.

"One policeman told the newspaper, Ha'aretz, that he drove up to the Mount of Olives to get a better look. He said: 'I saw a startling thing: three objects with irregular colours of red, blue, and purple — like a sparkling diamond in the sun. They moved forwards as they went up and down, like an electro cardiogram reading. The third moved north and south. The colours flashed like the blue light on top of a police car.'

"Earlier, a member of the staff

at the Hilton Hotel said he saw a blinding light in the area.

"And in Haifa, on the coast north-west of Jerusalem, Karol Braunstein, 51, said he saw something quite different while walking his dog at night. He said he saw a red globe about 10 times bigger than a basket-ball shoot across the sky faster than a jet fighter. 'It moved from north to south for a few seconds without a noise,' Mr. Braunstein said. 'Then, the ball disappeared.'"

Republic of South Africa Landing with occupants, near Johannesburg

Again, from *The Guardian* of January 5, 1979, we learn that in the Krugersdorp area, —

"... a South African woman and her child said they saw half-dozen 'beings' standing in front of a brightly coloured craft illuminated with pink lights on a lonely country road.

"Mrs. Megan Quezet, a former nurse, and her 12-year-old son, Andre, said the creatures tried to speak to her, but they jumped into their craft and flew away after she became excited and shouted.

"The sighting, at Mindalore, about 30 miles north-west of Johannesburg, was the first reported in South Africa this year. Police would not comment."

Credit: John M. Lade

Norway Bergen men claim radio-contact with UFO

The newspaper *Morgenavisen* of September 9, 1978, carried a report of an unusual claim regarding a UFO contact. The article was initialled "HHS" and the translation from the Norwegian was by Gerda Jensen, and Roma Browne:

"On Friday night three private radio-hams, at different places, claimed to have made radio contact with a UFO which was over the town of Bergen, and in the morning had disappeared behind clouds. A signal, recorded during the UFO visit in 1969, was sent out and immediately similar signals were returned.

"For the first time mankind has had radio contact with a UFO. The night of 7th September, 1978, and continuing towards mid-morning, Jan Erik Søreide, Frank Haug and some others had contact with a UFO which was over Bergen. Contact was said to have been established when Søreide sent out some signals which somebody

else had taken on a cassette in 1969 — two or three minutes after the signals, were sent out similar signals were returned with such strength that they blocked all other sounds. But even then they were so accurately directed that a walkie-talkie a hundred metres away heard nothing.

"People who are interested in sending out their own radio messages, often do it during the night because it is quiet then. Frank Haug discovered a UFO round about 2.00 a.m. over Isdalen, and mentioned it to the others who were also on the air. They saw it and they also heard a sound similar to that which an aircraft makes just before landing. Frank Haug asked Søreide to send out all the signals which he had on his cassette. The UFO must have recognised the sound as the tribal yell, because it sent similar signals back. Haug received on the cassette those signals which Søreide had sent out and also got an answer. Those signals which came back, Jan Erik did not hear.

"The three private radio-hams, Søreide on Landås, Haug on Nygårdshoyden and another on Nordnes, talked together and they all heard the signals. But only one at a time heard them! 'I have had a walkie-talkie for eleven years, but I have never heard anything like it,' said Jan Erik Søreide. It is quite out of the question that anyone could have sent up signals, because there is no apparatus which is so finely directed that it can go through one place on all the channels and not give any reaction on an apparatus 100 metres away. During the day there were 'industrial sounds' on the air, but not in the night. Besides, such noise is found everywhere; it does not choose a single apparatus at a time.

"We talked with Søreide at 9.45 a.m. on the Friday, and asked if there was still contact? — 'I will listen,' he said. And soon after we heard, through the telephone, a humming sound which rose to a higher pitch so that it was almost like a morse-signal. It lasted less than a minute and then suddenly disappeared. While it lasted it came through so strongly that Jan Erik Søreide's walkie-talkie was blocked.

"Frank Haug looked at the UFO through binoculars and said it looked the size of a small hand-ball. Round it there was a shining ring which moved and changed colour. The light was not equally strong the whole time, it pulsed and became strongest when the UFO moved, and at the same time the sound also increased.

"Søreide saw the light over Fløyfjellet and noticed that it went

towards Isdalen. It was discovered about 2 a.m., but disappeared behind clouds which came up between 4 and 5 a.m.; but as late as 9.45 a.m. it continued to send signals. The light was so strong, said Haug, it was painful to look at. It was not very high up — 1500 metres perhaps — as the light got stronger, the sound got stronger.

"Søreide and Haug came up to this newspaper's office and they had their walkie-talkie and cassette-player with them. Many of us heard the signals which were sent and the signals which were returned. The sound was in a way like the sound of gurgling, rising to a high-pitched sound, but with no regular rhythm. It was as if they were known communication signals. 'Unfortunately no one had a camera to hand,' said Søreide, 'but even then we were lucky because it is not every night that one sees a UFO and gets space signals, and has the equipment on hand to pick up the answers.'

"A light in the sky can be created by man, but as far as I know there is no radio equipment which can retain signals in such concentrated beams that they are not heard on equipment near-by.

"When the big UFO-wave swept the country I got a visit here from a man who received unknown signals on his cassette-player. They reminded me of those signals we have just been hearing about. They have been played at different speeds but until now no experts have managed to interpret them. When one has the signal which is sent, and the answer, then perhaps one can get a bit farther. We must remind ourselves that UFO stands for Unidentified Flying Object. Both the sounds and the lights are unidentified and we cannot believe that human beings are behind it. But even then we can hardly believe our own ears.

"If no one can find an earthly explanation for this phenomenon, is it possible that Bergen has had a close encounter of the second kind?"

Credit: Eva Erichsen of Bergen, Norway.

YOUR CLIPPINGS of newspaper items are very welcome. We apologise here for being generally unable to acknowledge these items as the pressure of work on our tiny staff and on our postage resources is too great. However, please do not be deterred by this seeming lack of courtesy. We really do appreciate anything you care to send.

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In association with Grand Metropolitan Hotels, BUFORA and CONTACT have pleasure in announcing that they will be hosting:

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Dr. Allen Hynek and leading ufologists from European countries will be amongst the speakers.

In addition to the conference lecture papers, it is hoped to screen a documentary film on UFOs and include an optional visit to the London Planetarium. Closed session working parties will discuss terminology, data analysis and electronic processing, and put forward recommendations for adoption by the Congress, which it is hoped will carry sufficient weight to achieve international recognition. The Congress will be publicised extensively overseas and an attendance of up to 500 is anticipated. It is not intended for the cultist fringe, but should interest all people with a genuine and practical approach to ufology. As early as January 1979, several UFO groups in the UK had expressed interest and enquiries had been received from over 100 individuals.

BUFORA – The British UFO Research Association – has been organising annual conferences and monthly lectures since its formation in 1962. In recent years, its two-day national research and investigation conferences have received considerable acclaim.

CONTACT – Contact International – was founded by Lord Clancarty (a founder and editor of FSR) in 1967, and has members in 34 countries. The UK Branch is a national UFO research and investigation society in its own right and will co-host the Congress with BUFORA.

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THE ITALIAN MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND UFOs

SIGNS OF A NEW ATTITUDE FOLLOWING UNEASY STEPS FORWARD

Roberto Pinotti

Dr. Pinotti, who here makes a welcome return to our pages, is Vice-President of the Italian National UFO Research Centre (C.U.N.), which has its Headquarters at Via Vignola 3, 20136, Milano. Dr. Pinotti lives in Firenze (Florence).

AS Gordon Creighton has reported in FSR,¹ three helicopters of the Italian Army's Light Aircraft Corps (Aviazione Leggera Esercito) had a close sighting of an "orange circle" over the military airfield at Elmas (Cagliari) on the Italian island of Sardinia on October 27, 1977.

The Commandant of the Elmas Air Force Base, Colonel Mario D'Angelo, sent a detailed report to the Italian Minister of Defence, and as a result we now have details of the first *official* military investigation which the Italian authorities admit to ever having made into a UFO sighting by military pilots.

I give below a résumé of what has happened in this case, following on from what Mr. Creighton has already reported.²

The case received wide publicity from the Italian media, but the reaction of the Ministry of Defence was at first one of total silence about the affair.

In an attempt to break through the screen of silence, our research group, C.U.N. (Italy's most important and most authoritative group) made a thorough enquiry of our own into the case, and we managed to secure a number of confidential reports on it which showed clearly that the business was very mysterious and certainly did not involve an aircraft.

We then launched a vigorous campaign, writing letters to numerous newspapers, urging the Minister to make an official statement, and these letters were all published.

Finally, on January 5, 1978, the Italian Defence Department put out an *ad hoc* press release in an attempt "...to answer the citizens who had been writing to the press." This press release stated that the UFO had been identified as "an aircraft operating over Sardinia in the course of an ordinary flight mission," but which the Air Force Personnel at Elmas had been unable to identify at the time "owing to particular weather conditions during twilight."

This vague and quite ridiculous statement, totally disavowing the earlier military reports, was promptly refuted by us in a letter which we (C.U.N.) sent to the Minister of Defence. In this letter we reminded him of the evidence that had already been given by the various eyewitnesses at the Elmas Air Force Base,

and we made a request for a serious, confidential exchange of information and data with the Ministry on the Elmas case, and also on the UFO problem as a whole.

The remarkable result of all this was that in due course we received from the Ministry of Defence, on March 31, 1978, a file containing details of six un-classified UFO sightings by Italian military personnel during the year 1977. These included the Elmas case, plus two repetitions which had taken place at Elmas on November 2 and November 5, 1977, *neither of which had been revealed until then.* In both these repeater cases, the report of the sighting came from the personnel of the control-tower at the Elmas Air Force Base. Moreover, in the case of the sighting on November 2, the eyewitnesses also included Italian Air Force pilots who were flying over the area at the time and the pilots of two German Air Force F104G jet interceptor aircraft from the German Forces detailed for operation at the NATO Base on the Island of Sardinia.

In all three cases at Elmas, the eyewitnesses had described the UFO as a circular or elliptical "ball of fire" flying at tremendous speed.

When the Air Ministry released these six cases to us at C.U.N., the issuing official in the Ministry misunderstood his instructions, and, instead of sending the material only to C.U.N. (as established and authoritative National Civilian UFO Research Group of Italy) he also sent a copy of it to another small research group, CNIFAA, who were once part of C.U.N. but broke away from us in 1973. They are doing good work and still collaborate with us closely. But the official also sent a copy to a third group which employs the resounding title of *International Centre for Study and Research on UFOs* — but only consists of two teen-agers. The two teen-agers passed the material, plus the Ministry's covering letter, to the press, with the result that before long, *IL Lavoro*, a socialist newspaper published in Genoa, published the whole story and poked fun at the Air Ministry for having "a couple of teen-agers as its UFO consultants."

This unfortunate turn of events caused the personnel of the Ministry of Defence to take affright and