

THE CHICKEN POACHERS ON PUERTO RICO

Jorge J. Martín

SOME of the events described below occurred at 3.30 a.m. on March 3, 1980, in the patio of a house in Buen Consejo, a suburb of the town of Río Piedras on the Island of Puerto Rico, while the others took place at the same time in the nearby district of Sabana Llan. Altogether four eyewitnesses were involved, two at each place.

The Events at Buen Consejo

A sixteen-year-old girl, Vivian Cruz Rodríguez, and her twelve-year-old brother, José Celso Cruz Rodríguez, were asleep in their home at No. 148 Interior, Calle Canales, in Buen Consejo, when Vivian was suddenly awakened by the sound of some zinc sheets being moved in the patio and by the frantic barking of the household's two small dogs (chihuahuas).^{1*} Getting up and going to the window to see what was causing this disturbance, Vivian beheld five figures moving about in the patio, and from their appearance it was at once evident to the girl that these were no ordinary thieves as she had at first expected. For, although they were human-like, these beings were not normal in several respects, and their behaviour in the patio indicated that something weird was afoot. She at once aroused her brother José Celso, and with him she continued to watch as the strange beings moved about in the patio as though seeking something, and seemingly displaying most particular interest in a number of pens containing chickens.

Description of the Entities

According to Vivian and José Celso, the entities "were strange" — resembling humans, "but different." Two of the five beings were taller — about five feet in height —

* The superior figures throughout refer to the Notes and Comments by Gordon Creighton which follow this article.

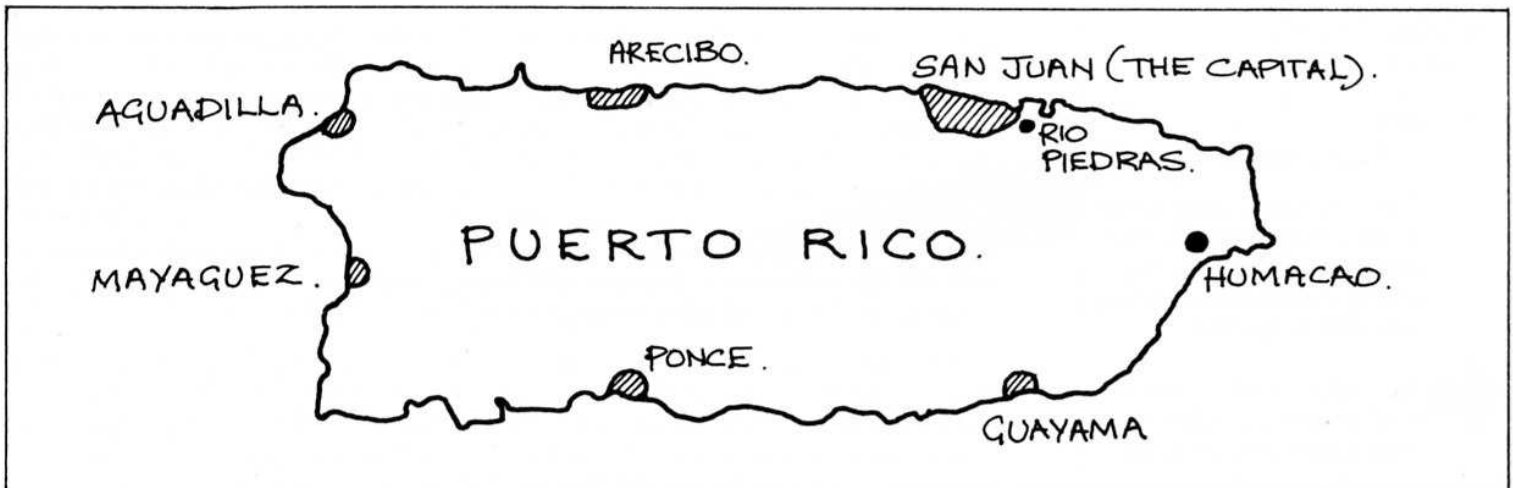
Our contributor is a member of the CIFONI UFO Investigation Group of Puerto Rico. We are indebted to Sr. Pere Redón, Editor of the Spanish journal *Stendek*, for permission to reprint this article from Vol. 12, No. 42 (December 1980) of that journal. Translation by Gordon Creighton who advises us that the original title "Encounter at Buen Consejo" (in English: 'Good Counsel') involves a pun which is not easily conveyed, so we have changed it.

EDITOR

while the other three were only about three feet.² The taller two were slim and well-shaped, more like us. They were wearing close-fitting overall garments ("diving-suit" type) of a dark brown hue, leaving only the faces, ears, and hands free. The ears were large and pointed, and the colour of the faces, ears, and hands seemed to be grey. The hands were particularly large, with what looked like membranes between the fingers, like the webbing of ducks' feet.

The smaller creatures, only about three feet high, looked more "ordinary" as regards the body shape, and had somewhat broader chests. The arms of the taller beings were long, and so were the arms of these small ones, but in the smaller creatures the arms were rather "pendant" and more "forward-hanging," which made the smaller ones look as though they were hunchbacked, though in fact they were not. The bodies of the smaller beings were covered with a sort of scaly-looking material full of small dark brown protuberances (described by the eyewitness as "rather like *acne*") over the whole of the body except for hands and faces. Like the larger beings, the three smaller ones had big pointed ears.

As Vivian continued with her statement: "We got a good view of the face of one of the little ones when he seemed to perceive that we were watching them, and he



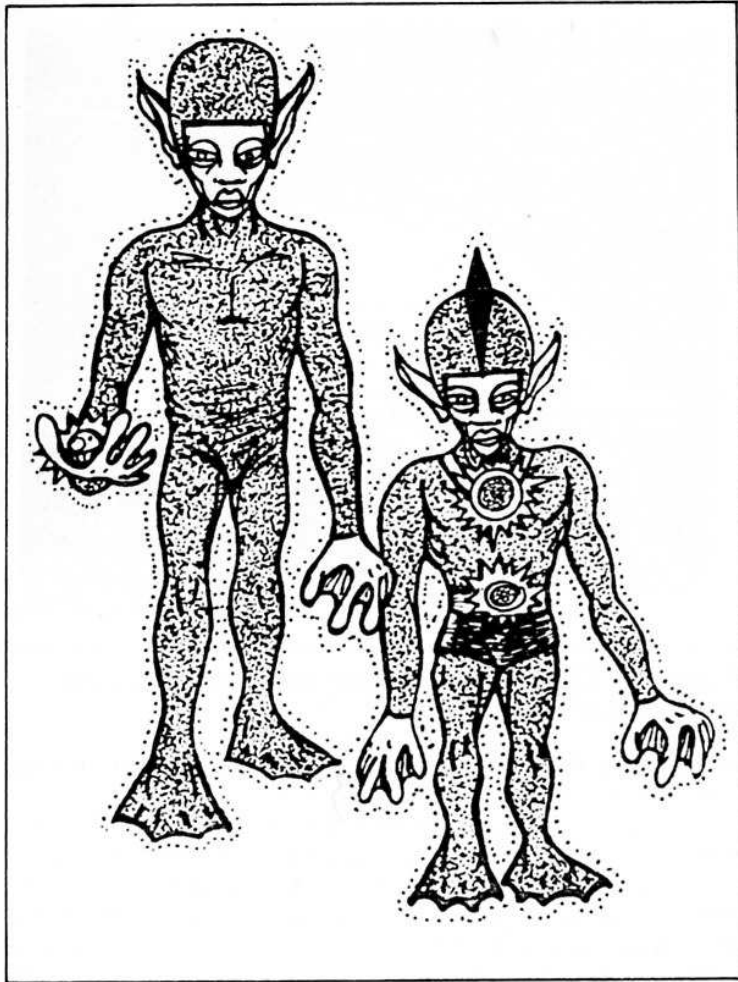


Figure 2: Stendek artist's impression of the two kinds of entity.

looked straight at us. His face was grey and elongated, with pointed chin. His head was pear-shaped, with big eyes and big eyelids, and his eyes were shining as a dog's eyes do in the dark. As regards the nose and mouth, I didn't get a good idea of them, as my attention was taken up so much by his shining eyes. He was wearing a helmet, as all of them were, and in his case the helmet had a sort of centre crest on the top of it.

"The hands of all five were identical, and so were their feet — all looking like ducks' feet.

"None of the five beings was walking. They seemed to move around by little jumps, as though floating over the ground."

Vivian and her brother both said that they thought the two taller, slimmer, beings seemed to exercise control or command over the three little ones.

José Celso agreed on all details with the account given to us by his sister Vivian, although actually he did not watch the beings for so long as she, as he felt himself overcome by a sensation of great tiredness or sleepiness,³ so that he had to go back to his bed and off to sleep again.

José Celso's own further comments on the beings were as follows:—

"They certainly seemed to be looking for something out there in the patio, and they were moving the zinc sheets about. They seemed to be very interested in the chickens too, for most of the time they kept shaking the pens and at times they peered closely and fixedly at the chickens. It was something to do with the chickens, that's for sure!

"One thing that surprised me very much was that though the dogs had been doing a lot of barking, neither the hens, nor a goat⁴ that was there in the patio, near the fowl pens, seemed to be in the slightest bit affected by what was going on. They were all calm and quiet, even though the beings kept touching and shaking the pens. After a while even the two little dogs became sleepy too, even though the beings were still out there, and the dogs came back on to my bed and went to sleep again and did not take any further notice.⁵

"One of the two taller beings, who seemed to be the leader, had a silvery metal ball in the palm of his right hand.⁶ At one point he bent down and picked up an old car-mirror that was lying on the ground there near the fowl-pens, and he spent a few minutes examining it. I can't think why — maybe he was attracted to it by its power to reflect, or maybe because it was made of nickel. Afterwards he put it back again on the ground.

"One strange thing is that, just beside the car-mirror, there was a metal sheet that our neighbour Dona Ana used for blocking up a hole in the chicken-pen, and next day, when we went out to examine the spot, we found the silhouette of a hand outlined on the metal sheet. The hand hadn't been there before, and the strange fingers shown on the metal sheet are the same as we saw on the beings. And another thing is this: we found that metal sheet was so hot that we were obliged to wait till one o'clock in the afternoon before we could examine it well.

"And when we went to look at the spots where the beings had been standing in the patio, we saw what looked like damp patches made by some strange liquid, which took a long time to evaporate or dry."

* * *

Vivian then took up the story again: "We had been watching the beings for about half an hour when suddenly we heard the noise of a car and saw its lights approaching. This seemed to alarm the beings, and they departed in the direction of the Avenida 65 de Infantería."

When we asked Vivian why she had not awakened her parents when she saw what was going on, she explained that their house is divided into two separate sections, and that the only way in which she could have got to her parents and let them know would have been by crossing the patio, which was precisely where the beings were. She went on to say that another reason why she had not called out to her parents was that she had been immensely fascinated by what she was observing, and that she feared the beings might depart if disturbed.

She even said she had felt a great desire to go out to the beings, but that she had refrained from doing so out of a sense of prudence, although her own intuition was telling her here that the beings would not harm her.[!]⁷

As for the parents, Sr. Celso Cruz de Rodríguez and his wife Ramonita, they both assure us that they fully accept the account given by Vivian and José. Indeed they also told us that they had both been so irritated by the persistent barking of the two dogs that they had attempted to get up and go and see what was happening, but felt themselves so overcome by a sensation of growing drowsiness that they were totally unable to get out of bed. (Just as their son José Celso and the two dogs were all overcome by drowsiness too.)

The second event: Account given by Senor Luciano Rivera

The other witnesses were Sr. Luciano Rivera, aged 47, living at No. 433, Calle 21, in the Hill Brothers Precinct at Sabana Llan (also a suburb of the town of Río Piedras), and a friend who was with him.

We interviewed Sr. Rivera, but did not manage to see the friend. At this point we should explain that Sr. Rivera is a mute. Although unable to speak to us, he made great efforts to convey to us as exact an account as possible of all that he and his companion had observed, and we are particularly obliged in this connection to the young man José (Timba) Rodríguez,⁸ who served as the interpreter when we were interviewing Sr. Luciano Rivera.

Sr. Rivera's story is as follows:—

“On the night in question, I was in my car with my friend (who is also a mute). We had had one or two drinks, but we were of course by no means intoxicated. However, we were both quite tired, and it was late. So we had pulled up, and parked the car, planning to rest for a while. We had switched off our lights and my friend had already dozed off.

“After a while, I opened my eyes, and saw something about 12 metres from us. It was shaped like a flying saucer and was lit up. It had three metallic supports, on which it was standing. It had a big metallic cupola, with a number of windows emitting a deep orange-coloured light. The cupola was silver-coloured, like aluminium. From the top of the cupola an antenna projected, shooting beams of white light in various directions.

“The projecting central part of the craft, below the cupola, was of pale yellow colour and seemed to be lit up, but was not dazzling. Beneath it there was a smaller section that looked like a minor cupola, but inverted. There was an opening in this cupola, from which a small metallic ladder ran down to the ground.

“When I saw that, I woke my friend up. When he saw it, he got very scared. Then, when we saw the antenna on top of the craft beginning to descend into it, I decided it was high time for us to leave. Then, when I started up the car and switched on the lights, we saw five strange figures moving slowly on the slope of the nearby piece of property.

“When these five figures reached the edge of the property, they floated⁹, almost at ground-level, to the path and then over a chain-link fence. After which, arriving at the craft, they entered it by the little ladder underneath. (The distance from the edge of the property to where the UFO was standing is about twelve metres.) Then the UFO drew in its legs or supports and, rising silently with an up-and-down movement (seen elsewhere in other cases and known to Ufologists as the pendulum movement, — AUTHOR) and with the central portion rotating, it went off like a shot at an ascendant angle of 45° towards the East (towards Luquillo).

Luciano Rivera continued:

“What scared me most was that ‘antenna’ shooting out rays of light. How can anybody be sure that he isn't going to be destroyed by a beam like that? When I saw that antenna, as well as the legs being drawn in, my one thought was to get out of there and not to stop to know anything more.”

According to Luciano River's account, the craft or

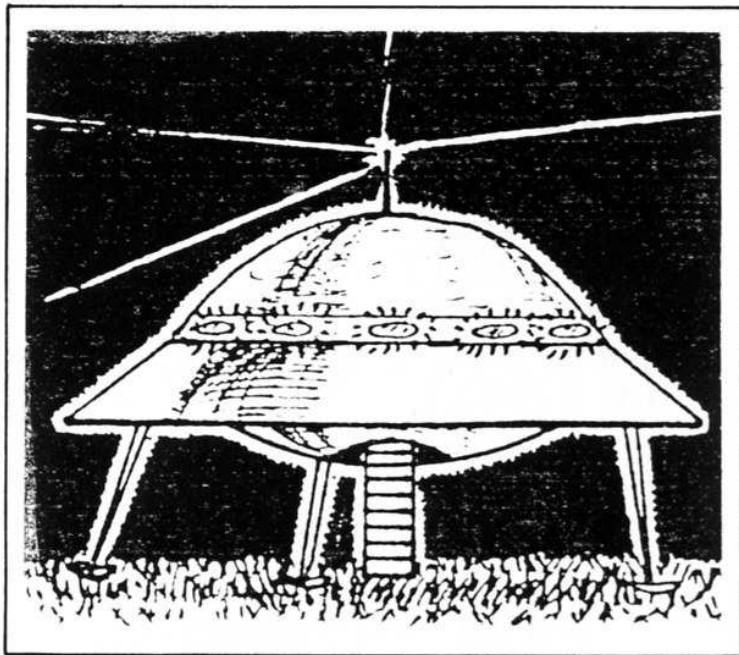


Figure 3: Stendek sketch of the object, based on witness's description.

saucer was about 25 ft. in diameter and stood about 10 ft. high.

As regards Luciano River's description of the beings, it must be emphasised that the number of the beings, and all his details about them and about their behaviour, is in full agreement with what Vivian and José Celso Cruz Rodríguez saw, the only exception being that Rivera saw some circular metallic medallions¹⁰ which the smaller of the beings were wearing on their belts and on collars hanging on their breasts, which medallions appeared to be emitting small flashes of blue and red light.

A further detail that Rivera gave was that he could see that the entities appeared to possess large nostrils, and also that their lips were thick.

He laid stress on the fact that one of the tall beings appeared to be a female, as he was able to see certain physical details suggesting this.

Further interesting details

(1) A highly interesting detail is the fact that one of the tall beings was carrying a shining metallic sphere in his right hand. He carried it the whole time, never altering the position of his arm, and never changing the sphere to the other hand.¹¹ This is in full agreement with similar cases in other countries where beings from UFOs have been seen, although in the majority of such cases the beings seen have been very similar to ourselves — which point is not at all in concordance with the Puerto Rican case with which we are dealing here.

(2) Both the tall beings and the small ones had on their bodies or on their clothing certain additional fittings which either emitted light or reflected it. (The tall ones had luminous points on their backs and the little ones had things resembling medallions on their breasts and on their belts).

Sr. Rivera is emphatic that at one point he saw one of the leaders “say something” into a device which he took

from his belt, and that simultaneously with this action, the "medallions" of the smaller beings lit up.¹² (A communications system?)

(3) Vivian Cruz Rodríguez is likewise emphatic that, at a certain moment, to her great surprise, one of the smaller beings seemed to take water from an open receptacle that the next-door neighbour keeps in the patio for his ducks.

(4) After this episode of the entities seen in the patio of the Cruz Rodríguez household, two of their hens were found dead, but neither Vivian nor José or their parents or the neighbours had attributed any importance to this at the time. (We shall discuss this point at length later.)

(5) All the eyewitnesses agree that the two taller beings seemed to control the smaller ones. (Were the latter perhaps some type of biological robot?)¹³

(6) At no time were any sounds or words heard coming from the beings. All that could be observed were various gestures, coming principally from the leaders, and responded to by the smaller beings.

(7) The movements of all the beings were very slow. "Like in a slow-motion film," as Vivian put it.

Concluding commentary

Summing up then, we see that there are two groups of witnesses, each consisting of two persons, making four persons in all, and all four of whom observed certain strange beings with humanoid features, more or less around the same time, without of course either of these groups knowing that the other group was observing the same phenomenon as themselves. There was no communication between the two groups of witnesses until late on the same day, Monday, March 3, 1980, when some of the neighbours told Vivian and José Cruz Rodríguez that Sr. Luciano Rivera had called in at about 8.00 a.m. and had told them what he had seen in the earlier hours of the night (i.e. around 3.30 a.m.). He asked the neighbours for their permission to go to the spot on their property where the beings were when he had first caught sight of them. When he made this request, the neighbours at once realised that he had evidently seen the same phenomenon as had been observed by the two younger members of the Cruz Rodríguez family. (When we conducted our investigation of the case, at 3.30 p.m. on Friday, March 7, and we interviewed Vivian and José, neither of these two had yet talked to Sr. Luciano Rivera.)

What is very striking is that I interviewed all four eyewitnesses separately, and all four were in complete agreement about what they had seen — except of course for the craft itself, which the Cruz Rodríguez youngsters never saw at all.

While we were making our enquiries, the neighbours expressed most favourable opinions about Vivian and her brother José, and also about their parents, who are held in high regard as serious and respectable people. The neighbours likewise emphasised that Vivian is known to be a serious and excellent student, and in no way given to fantasy. (A fact which we too could see for ourselves.)

One detail that struck us was that José and his parents spoke of having experienced a sensation of a sort of

weakness or drowsiness. José even went so far as to say that he felt his legs "had gone to sleep" or "were heavy." (This impressed us, because in many of the UFO reports the same thing has been noted — both in witnesses and in animals, so that this feature would appear to be something that is a very essential part of the UFO phenomenon, and is, maybe, induced deliberately by entities, either in order to prevent interference, or as a security measure.)¹⁵

The fact that the episode should have occurred right in the area of the Capital itself marks an important stage in the whole history of the UFO phenomenon on the Island of Puerto Rico, because, although on other occasions, beings or craft have been seen, never before had so many beings been seen in direct association with an actual UFO, and even less has there ever been such a case in such a thickly populated area close by a principal highway, although of course the late hour (3.00 — 3.30 a.m.) could have had a lot to do with this.

Bearing in mind the area in which it took place, we cannot but be surprised that, so far, there is no knowledge of any other witnesses of this case. However, we do know that, at a late hour that same night, a UFO was seen over the Plaza Carolina Commercial Centre, which lies in the same direction towards which Sr. Luciano Rivera and his companion saw the UFO departing from the Buen Consejo area.

SPACE AGE PUBLICATIONS

- UFOs, Past, Present and Future**, by Robert Emenegger £1.05
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As regards the behaviour of the entities, I can only think that their motive was to be seen.¹⁶ But why *there*? Or, was their principal interest maybe in the *hens*?

It should be mentioned that during the year 1975 a series of weird events occurred on Puerto Rico, predominant among them being the phenomenon of the so-called "*Moca Vampire*"¹⁷ — thus called owing to the fact that the bodies of the victims (animals such as cattle, fowls, goats, etc.) presented strange circular wounds through which certain organs or the entire blood had been extracted, the cause of such happenings never being discovered.¹⁸

Our investigation group (CEOVNI) subsequently made a study of all the facts and came to the conclusion that there was seemingly a connection between these strange happenings and the UFOs.

In recent weeks we have seen a recurrence of such happenings in the Puerto Rican towns of Cidra and Cayey. In one of these cases 18 hens were found totally drained of their blood, which had apparently been

removed through a strange orifice located on the spine, while all the feathers and the skin remained in a completely normal condition — a fact that rules out any possibility of the killings being the work of any ordinary animal. Moreover the case resembles in every respect the previous events of 1975.

Consequently, in view of the great interest which these beings seen at Rio Piedras seemed to be taking in the hens and the goat, is it not now feasible to ask ourselves whether these entities are not in fact the "*Moca Vampires*"?¹⁸

Our investigations into this aspect of the matter are still going on, and I want to emphasise that the metal sheet supposedly bearing the silhouette of a hand of one of the entities is now in our possession, thanks to Senora Ana Delgado, the owner of the metal sheet (who assures us that there was previously no such silhouette of a hand upon the said metal sheet. This sheet is to be subjected to laboratory analysis, and, if anything interesting turns up in the results of the analysis, we shall report upon it.

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NOTES & COMMENTS ON THE PUERTO RICO CHICKEN POACHERS

With some observations on American, British, and other cases of animal mutilations.

Gordon Creighton

1. These dogs, as we must explain at the outset, were *inside* the house, in one of the bedrooms (José Celso's room).
2. The literature of our subject does not contain very many cases in which different-sized beings have allegedly been seen in association, but I recall at least three or four such cases.
3. This "drowsiness" or "tiredness" is a very important feature of the techniques of at least certain species of UFO creature, though possibly not of all of them. The most striking and famous case that comes to mind is of course that at Trancas in Argentina. This has received very thorough treatment. See Case 34 of "The Humanoids in Latin America" (in *The Humanoids*). See also: FSR Vol. 17, No. 3 (May/June 1971).
Another interesting case in which this technique was used will be found in "Tranquilizing Visitation at Bouahmama" (FSR Vol. 19, No. 3). There is no way of knowing to what extent this weapon is employed against our species, and it may well be that it is the very reason why most of us, so far, "do not think we have ever had any UFO experiences."
4. Although we are not told so specifically in the present report, the goat must surely also have been safe inside one of the pens. Otherwise there might no doubt have been a bloodless goat's corpse there next day.
5. Note again the similarity with the Trancas case.
6. For the "metal ball", see Dr. Oscar A. Galíndez's "Anthromorphic Entity at Villa Carlos Paz." (FSR

Vol. 26, Nos. 5 & 6). [and this issue — ED.] Note however that the altogether "nobler" looking entity at Villa Carlos Paz held the ball steadily in his *left* hand, and not, as here, in the right.

7. That the young lady had no feelings of fear at the sight of these beings shows clearly that she too "was under an influence" from them! But it was evidently not the same influence! The entities were anxious to keep everybody else — parents, son, dogs, goat, and chickens — in a nice cosy state of drowsiness. *But the girl was under an influence to go out to the entities.* We may assume that, had she done so, her family would not have seen her again. Alternatively, if abduction was not under consideration, there is the not so pleasant thought that, besides collecting animals' and hens' blood, they might have been interested in human blood too.
8. It seems clear from the text that this José Rodriguez (nicknamed Timbá) is *not* the same person as José Celso Cruz Rodríguez.
9. "Floating" is a common ingredient in contactees' reports.
10. "Medallions" on the chests of entities have been reported in a number of South American cases.
11. In the Villa Carlos Paz case the entity also held the ball the whole time in one hand (the left) never changing it to the other hand.
12. Illumination of "medallions" or flashes of light from them have also been reported in other South American cases.

13. The possibility of "bio-robots" has long been under discussion among Ufologists, and is of particular interest in view of Leonard Stringfield's recent revelations about the creatures said to be kept in pickle by the Americans at Wright-Patterson A.F. Base. (See FSR, Vol. 25, Nos. 4,5,6).
14. Eyewitnesses have spoken quite frequently of the slow gait of beings they have encountered.
15. I fail to see the difference between wishing to prevent interference and wishing to ensure security.
16. Sr. Jorge J. Martín, author of this article, says he and his CIFONI Investigation Group have already made a thorough enquiry into the animal mutilations on Puerto Rico, and that they found it had a UFO connection. I am most surprised, therefore, that he should adduce, as the *first* possible reason for the presence of the entities in the patio among the fowls and the goat, the possibility that they could have been wanting to be *seen*! Surely that was the last thing they wanted. That is why everybody else in the house (but the girl), and all the birds and animals, were lulled into a state of drowsiness.
- 17 and 18. It is not surprising if there is a massive cover-up in every country, and most particularly in the USA, about the fearful plague of animal mutilations.

For in the single year 1975, some American investigations calculate that about 1800 cattle were mutilated and killed in the USA alone. This figure would mean that 108,000 pints — or over 50 tons — of animal blood are missing. The American authorities would have us believe that all this is simply the work of coyotes or of a few covens of crazy dabblers in the modern fad of Black Magic.

The truth, as Sr. Jorge Martín says, is that *we do know* what is responsible for all these animal mutilations in the USA, Canada, Britain, Puerto Rico, and elsewhere. We *do know* that UFOs are involved, and we *do know* at least what some of the entities look like. We have not only this article by Sr. Jorge Martín, but we have at least two reports, with sketches, that appeared in FSR long ago and that gave clear indications as to the beings responsible. As I have already pointed out, we have this evidence in two reports in FSR. These are: Dr. Oscar A. Galíndez's "*Violent Humanoid Encountered in Bolivia*" (FSR Vol. 16, No. 4) and "*A 'Flying' Humanoid in Puerto Rico*" by Sebastián Robiou Lamarche (FSR Vol. 23, No. 6). This last-named article contained a sketch made by the eyewitness in the town of Quebradillas, Island of Puerto Rico, in July 1977, when he had a close view of one of the creatures at a distance only a few feet from him as he sat on a balcony. His sketch shows the creature (estimated height about 3½ ft.) as seen from the rear, *and the sketch clearly shows the pointed ears.*

The other humanoid cattle-mutilating creature, seen in Bolivia in 1968 was about the same height, and the two sketches show many details that are similar. (The ears are not visible in the Bolivian sketch, which shows them as covered up, so it is not possible to say definitely whether they were pointed too.)

As regards FSR's very full coverage of the animal

mutilation scene on Puerto Rico, we have also had the undermentioned reports from our correspondent there, Sr. Sebastián Robiou Lamarche:—

"UFOs and Mysterious Deaths of Animals" in FSR Vol. 22 Nos. 5 & 6.

"More mysterious deaths of Animals" in FSR Vol. 25, No. 3

While I have here laid stress upon a certain species of small humanoid entity as being directly involved in animal mutilation, it should not be thought that I do not think that these creatures have any sorts of other "animals" that help them or accompany them. Careful study of all the available literature will show that on numerous occasions strange dog-like or wolf-like animals have been seen, which assuredly do not originate from "here." And in many of the cases in the USA, witnesses have reported seeing shambling shaggy creatures of the "Sasquatch" or "Bigfoot" type.

Here in Britain, only two or three months ago, we seem to have had a nasty case of animal-mutilation on a farm in Wales. After an initial burst of publicity about the affair in newspapers and on TV, in the course of which we learnt that the culprit was one of Britain's "pumas," a blanket of silence suddenly descended on the case. A few days later, we learnt that a "puma" was active in Scotland and had been killing animals there. Shortly after that, the "puma responsible for it all" was captured in Scotland and displayed to reporters. Those who saw the caged animal at close quarters soon perceived however that it bore all the hall-marks of a puma that had long been in captivity. Much doubt was expressed as to whether *this* docile creature could have been capable of the terrible injuries inflicted on the animals on the farm in Wales. **And many have voiced the conviction that this tame puma was a "plant" organised by the British authorities, released in Scotland and then "captured," for the benefit of the public, and, hopefully, as an "explanation" of what had happened in Wales.**

Not surprisingly, the British magazine *Penthouse*, which usually gives us rather more interesting things to think about, carried in its issue for January 1981 (Vol. 15, No. 11) an article by David Rorvik entitled "Cattle Mutilations: The Truth at Last."

He writes:—

"Despite the combined efforts of the media, conspiracy freaks, cultists, and UFO fans, U.S. investigators have found the real answer to the greatest non-mystery of our time.

"The culprit is just the humble coyote."

In conclusion, we might note two points. First, this article in *Penthouse* appeared just around the time of the mutilation episode in Wales, of which nothing more has been heard. Secondly there are rumours to the effect that animals are not the only victims, and that humans have now begun to be victims too.

I have no idea whether there is any substance to such rumours, but it would not surprise me in the slightest if it turned out that there is. One has the feeling that Pandora's Box has been well and truly prised open, and that many creatures from the Pit are now among us.

* * *

P.S. Anybody seen any coyotes in Wales yet?

UFOLOGY IN THE USSR

An assessment of the present situation

Nikita A. Schnee

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“‘CLOUDY, CHANGEABLE.’” These two words suffice to sum up the situation of Ufology in the USSR at the beginning of the year 1980. The task which I set myself when I decided to write this article has been an extremely difficult one, and it is entirely possible that before the article reaches the reader the situation may again have undergone a sharp alteration. Nevertheless it is well worth while having a stab at it.

This past year, 1979, has seen, repeatedly, sharp changes in the work of the Soviet Ufologists. To start with, it seems that Ufology, following on Parapsychology, is now beginning to “lose” its status as a “pseudoscience” in the eyes of the more “orthodoxly-minded” members of the USSR Academy of Sciences. Within the last-named body — to be more precise, within the Academy’s Institute for the Study of Terrestrial Magnetism and Radioactivity — a group has been created, and is now functioning, which concerns itself with the study of UFOs — although its name for these latter is *anomalous atmospheric phenomena*. But, anyway, the pith of the matter doesn’t lie in a *name*; it lies in the attitudes of the investigators themselves towards the problem which they are studying. And, to the most profound disappointment of all honest investigators of the UFO problem, this particular group has adopted the derisory attitude, towards the problem, which has already become habitual among the public at large and is, in essence, nothing but a rather worse version of those former American investigations known under the label of *Blue Book*.

In issue no. 3/1979 of the weekly publication *Nedelya* (“The Week”), Migulin and Platov, the leaders of this Academy of Sciences group, published an article on the UFO phenomenon, and, to tell the truth, I couldn’t control my laughter when I read it. Three-quarters of their test was given over to showing that UFOs are unquestionably natural phenomena. A mere total of two little lines mentioned as it were quite casually that “. . . there are a number of phenomena that are resistant to a trivial explanation, including the phenomenon observed by the inhabitants of Petrozavodsk”¹, but all the rest of the article is just a heap of harsh accusations aimed at the “buffs” who interest themselves in the UFO problem and who, by their “inept” investigations and their popularization of the UFO problem are in fact only serving to hinder this group from arriving at an entire explanation of the UFO

problem within the next few months. Especially hotly do these “scientists” declaim about the need to put a stop to the widespread dissemination among the public of knowledge about the UFOs, which dissemination, so the group alleges, gives rise to unnecessary sensationalism and to “unhealthy hankypanky.”

In my opinion there is no point whatever in criticizing this position which the Academy of Sciences group has assumed. Although under a total ban for almost twelve years past, the UFO problem in the USSR has never at any moment ceased to exist — offensive as this fact may be for certain “orthodox” minds. Indeed, on the contrary, the remarkable sightings of recent times have invested the problem with a fresh sharpness and a fresh quality of reality. Nevertheless, despite all this, the Soviet press (with the exception of a few excellent items in popular journals aimed at the young) has been completely silent on the subject. (I shall have more to say on this later.)

But not everyone — by a long chalk — read the article in *Nedelya* referred to above, at the close of which the two authors urged eyewitnesses of the UFO phenomenon (which according to their own statements *do not exist*) to send the reports of their sightings to the USSR Academy of Sciences.

In the meantime, while all this has been going on, the lectures given by the real specialists on the UFO phenomenon, such as V. G. Azhazha², the leader of unofficial Soviet Ufology, are carrying the knowledge of this astonishing phenomenon out into the wide masses of the Soviet public. On such occasions, when lectures are given, the reaction from the public — in the form of questions — surpasses all expectations. First, at each lecture a few new UFO eyewitnesses always come forward who have hitherto kept silent about their sightings simply because they have not known to whom to report them. Secondly, that disinterested fighter for Science and Truth and great specialist on the UFO problem, Vladimir Georgievich Azhazha, in his profoundly scientific lectures, faces up squarely to the wild, unconcealed ostracism emanating from all conceivable quarters among the official organs and also from a certain other quarter — from a former specialist and keen student of the UFO phenomenon, who is today nothing but an agent provocateur. This is F. Y. Zigel³, lecturer at the Moscow Institute of Aviation. I shall have more to say about the doings of this “pillar” of Soviet Ufology, but I want to