

# AN EXTRAORDINARY FIELD-INVESTIGATION TRIP TO BRAZIL (1986)

Bob Pratt © 1987

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Six years or so ago Gordon Creighton wrote to Mrs Mimi Hynek and asked her about a report in the *National Enquirer* of December 29, 1981, to the effect that four hunters had been killed by UFOs in a place called Parnarama in north-eastern Brazil. Mimi referred the query to me because I had worked on the *Enquirer* (until July of that year) and had myself gone to Brazil that summer.

I had no personal knowledge of the Parnarama case, but, while temporarily working at the *Enquirer* later that year, I was able to look at the reporter's file on which the story was based, and I duly passed on to Mr Creighton the gist of what I had found.

Now, however, I have had a chance to go to Parnarama myself, although the visit was unfortunately only a brief one. For I have just spent 18 days in Brazil — the latest of six trips I have made there for the purpose of looking into UFO reports (the first two visits as a reporter for the *National Enquirer* and the last two on my own).

## Parnarama

The visit to Parnarama came on the 13th day of my trip, after a tiring 12-hour drive from Fortaleza to Teresina the day before. I went there with Jean Alencar, a 48-year-old lawyer who strikes me as a serious, conscientious UFO investigator who shuns the mysticism and other nonsense that appeals to so many in the UFO field. He took an entire week off from his practice to take me to a number of places in Fortaleza and the state of Ceará to interpret for me and help me look into a number of sighting and encounter reports.

He was as interested in the Parnarama case as I, and had never been there, nor even to Teresina (capital of the state of Piauí), but he did have UFO contacts in Teresina. We arrived on the evening of Sept. 17 1986 and Jean phoned these people. About an hour later, several young men from a local UFO group came to our hotel. Curiously, they knew absolutely nothing about the case, even though Parnarama is only 80 kilometers to the south. However, they agreed to go with us to Parnarama the next day.

Originally, we had planned to spend at least two days in the Parnarama area, but shortly after we arrived in Teresina Jean Alencar phoned home and learned that he had to return to Fortaleza almost immediately because of a court case. That was a Wednesday, and a judge had ordered him to have some papers ready for him by Friday. So we were able to spend only several hours in Parnarama the next day.

In the morning, we drove to Parnarama, a small town of two or three thousand inhabitants on the west bank of the Parnaíba River, in the adjoining state of Maranhão. The road from Teresina on the Piauí side is paved only a third of the way and is gravel the rest, very dusty. There is no bridge, but the ferry, which carries one car at a time, takes only five minutes to load and cross over to Parnarama.

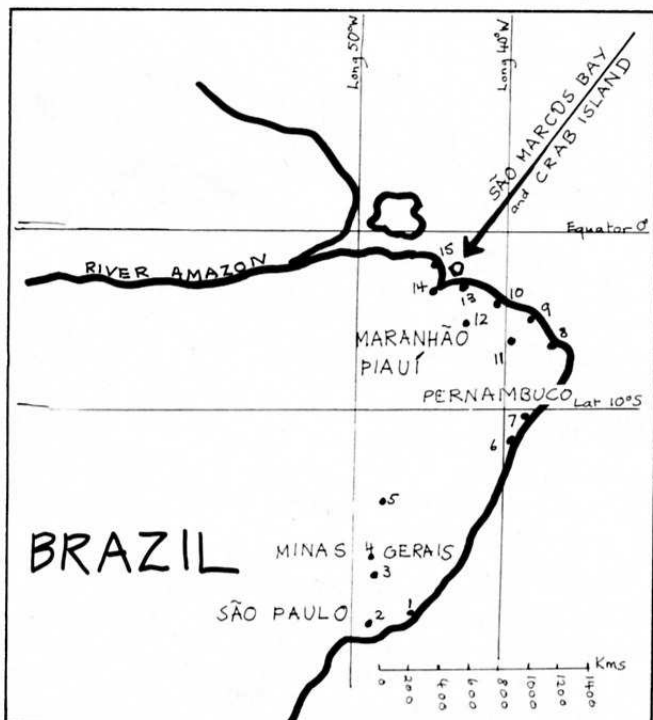
Since the *Enquirer's* story and other stories quoted the mayor and local police chief as sources, we went to City Hall first. Naturally, there was a new mayor and a new chief, but we began asking questions anyway. At first, no one knew anything about the four hunters, but suddenly we began to get swamped with people

## South and Central Brazil

1. Rio de Janeiro
2. São Paulo
3. Belo Horizonte
4. Conceição do Mato Dentro
5. Montes Claros

## North-Eastern Brazil

6. Maceió
7. Pernambuco (Recife)
8. Natal
9. Fortaleza
10. Paraíba
11. Quixadá
12. Terezina
13. São Luís
14. Pinheiro
15. Alcântara



## The Two Cases at Crab Island

who had seen or encountered UFOs. We soon found ourselves at a big conference table in the City Council chambers, surrounded by people, everyone talking at the same time, and one man did confirm that at least one of the hunters had died.

This man said the hunter (identified as Abel Boro) and a companion saw a UFO one night in October 1981, and the companion ran and hid, and when he returned he found the other man dead. No one we talked to knew anything about any other hunters dying as the result of UFO encounters, but the areas mentioned in the news stories were some distance from Parnarama.

I have never taken *Enquirer* stories as "gospel", but only as leads to possible investigations. It is, however, quite possible that four men died. Since the locations of the other three deaths were some distance from Parnarama, the others could have occurred as well. The young men from Teresina will be looking into this in the near future.

We learned that UFO sightings are fairly common in the Parnarama area (*the new mayor told us there were "at least 100 cases" in the Parnarama area*), and there had been sightings as recently as 10 and 20 days before we went there (September 18). In one case, a landowner (the witness who told us about the hunter) said he tried to shoot at a UFO one night and received what felt like an electric shock. In another case, a council woman who was fishing in a lake with a companion one night said a UFO came down and hovered over one end of the lake. She said the light was so bright she could see the fish swimming around in the lake.

All this was, I believe, an eye-opener for the young men who had gone down there with us from Teresina. There have been enough sightings in the Parnarama area alone to keep them busy for at least a year.

Francisco Savio Pereira Pimental, the leader of the little group, was only 23 at the time (1986), but he is very intelligent and he seemed to be the most serious of the lot.

My trip to Parnarama was quite successful. I was able to take another look at the always fascinating and sometimes bizarre UFO situation in Brazil (things, often traumatic, seem to happen there that I never hear of in other countries). Although I went to only a relatively few areas, it was enough to show me that *virtually all the things that were going on back in 1977 and 1978 (which took me to Brazil the first time) are still going on, and have been going on virtually non-stop through the years.*<sup>3</sup>

People in the interior are still being terrified by UFOs. They're still being panicked by the sudden appearance of a brilliantly-lighted object just over their heads as they walk in country areas at night. And, as they run in fright, they are still being "chased", if that is the proper word. Maybe they're simply being "followed" out of curiosity or for some other reason, although in at least one case there was a prolonged, deliberate attempt to get at a witness-victim in his hiding place. (In 1981, people in a small village on the Amazon west of Santarém told me they were afraid to fish at night anymore because the UFO would suddenly appear overhead, and they would flee into the jungle, terrified that they would step on a poisonous snake.)

Some people are still being injured (usually the mild-burn type of thing). Some are definitely being persecuted in the sense that a UFO will persist over a period of time in trying to do something (what?) to them.<sup>4</sup> And I believe several more deaths can be attributed to the UFOs, although the deaths may have been an unfortunate "by-product" of the encounters.

Perhaps most fascinating of all is that virtually the same things that happened in the 1977 "Crab Island case" near São Luís (of four men aboard a wooden fishing boat, one died and two were seriously burned) have occurred again, nine years and one week later. This time one man died and a second was injured somehow, and two others became ill and fell unconscious for at least fifteen hours. Again, there is no explanation. (It is possible that neither Crab Island case is a genuine UFO case, because the link in the first case was tenuous at best and in the second there appears to be nothing whatsoever tying it to a UFO. But in both cases something truly inexplicable happened, and if a UFO wasn't responsible, then some equally baffling phenomenon is at work.)

## Other Cases in Central Brazil

It is going to take me months to sort out all my notes and transcribe all my tapes but briefly this is what I learned:

1. In Rio, Irene Granchi, FSR Consultant, gave me a photocopy of a four-page summary of 27 sightings that had occurred in different parts of Brazil between March 19 and June 15 1986. Each one gave a few details, time, place and duration of the sighting, plus the name of the investigator. Included was the radar-tracking of UFOs and the chase by six Brazilian Air Force (FAB) jets on May 19, 1986. (Reported by Dr. Willy Smith in FSR 32/1. Editor.)

(Two weeks after that event, I wrote to Brigadier Moreira Lima, chief of the Air Force, requesting permission to talk to the pilots and air traffic controllers, but never received a reply. When I arrived in Brazil, I learned that nearly every ufologist in Brazil had done the same thing, and they never received replies either. When Moreira Lima held his nationally televised press conference to announce the sightings and let the pilots be interviewed, he promised that the Brazilian Government would investigate and issue a report within two months. More than six months have passed now, [written in October 1986], and not another word has come out. Meanwhile, a friend of Irene's in São José dos Campos, a retired FAB officer who now works as a technical consultant, says the controllers there have tracked UFOs on other occasions since then, but have been told to keep quiet about it.)

Also included was a sighting at 3.30 a.m. on May 18, 1986 (there was a lot of UFO activity throughout Brazil in May) in the Jardim Botânico district of Rio by a woman psychologist who is currently living in New York. When I visited Irene, this was one of the cases she discussed in detail. This woman psychologist had watched a group of seven to ten small objects and one large object moving from north to south and taking up five different formations over a 15-minute period. (I am planning to visit my son in New York around the Christmas holidays and will try to interview this woman myself.)

Irene Granchi also told me about a case she is investigating that occurred on the night of May 23-24 1986, in Rondonópolis, involving a man named Edivaldo who was (I believe; I haven't had a chance to check my tapes) driving in a truck when he saw a lighted object off to one side of the road. He then saw a flash of light and was unconscious for 72 hours. He has no recollection of what happened to him. Irene hopes to have a psychologist in São Paulo hypnotize the man.

Irene had another case involving five persons who had close encounters on two consecutive nights, while fishing at a beach south of Rio, with an object the size of a two-storey house coming down and hovering within 30 meters of them. On the second night, they saw a plane apparently chasing the UFO and one of the witnesses, an Air Force veteran, said it was a FAB (Brazilian Air Force) jet.

2. In Rio I also talked with Cynthia Newby Luce, an American who has lived in the Teresópolis-Petrópolis area, (just north of Rio) for 15 years or more. She had three interesting cases between Teresópolis and São Paulo dating back to 1981, and I had a chance to see some of the interviews with the witnesses, because Mauro Costa, a philosophy professor from Rio, had gone with her to re-interview the witnesses and he videotaped the interviews. In one close encounter, the witness, a 30-year-old male, *felt as though he was being pulled up (like a magnet) by the UFO, which was just four or five meters above him.* However, with tremendous effort, he broke free and ran to a small bar 150 meters away.

In her second case, a man believes he gave a ride to an extraterrestrial. He was riding a bicycle one night, and was hailed by a strange looking fellow standing by the road who asked for a ride. Because the stranger was big, the man didn't dare to refuse and off they went. The stranger talked to him but then told him to stop. About that time the bicycle owner saw an object in a field nearby, and the stranger walked out to it, went aboard and the object went away.

The third case involved a man who was driving one night and saw a bright light following him, which he thought was a truck. But the light overtook him, flew on over him and landed in the road several hundred meters ahead. The man stopped and, shortly after, the object went away.

3. Since May, 1986, UFO sightings and encounters have been occurring in and around a small village named Conceição do Mato Dentro in the State of Minas Gerais, north of Rio. This is in the "Valley of the River of the Old Women", which is four or five hours' drive north of Belo Horizonte, where Húlvio Brant Aleixo<sup>5</sup> (to my mind one of the best and most thorough UFO investigators alive) has been investigating cases for the past thirty-five years or so. I was in Belo Horizonte September 9, 10 and 11, and the most recent sighting in the Valley had been on September 2. This information came from Albert Eduardo, a young man about 30 who is a member of AMPEU in Belo Horizonte and is one of the editors of *Jornal UFO-LOGICO*. Húlvio has also investigated some of the same sightings and he also gave me a number of details. Albert Eduardo went to the area recently with another young man and they videotaped their interviews. One evening we looked at the videotape. Among the cases:-

(a) A shy, 18-year-old youth was returning to his home on the night of September 2, 1986 when a big reddish light suddenly "turned on" above his head. It frightened him and he ran and hid under a tree, injuring his arm as he scrambled for a hiding place.

(b) A middle-aged man returning to his home was riding a donkey and leading another that was loaded with goods of some kind. An enormous light appeared as he neared his mother's house and "chased" him. The light then turned off and he didn't see it any more. He was temporarily blinded. His pack mule ran off and the other mule refused to walk. The man described the object as a "flying refrigerator" with four

red and yellow spots on it, and said it made a buzzing sound.

(c) On the same night, a young man who used to mock people who said they saw flying saucers was chased by a UFO and had his "clothes torn off". He said the UFO had maltreated him, but I don't know the details of this case. Now the young man will not walk alone at night any more.

(d) A woman and two small boys walking in the dark saw a UFO come over the top of a hill and they hid under a tree. The UFO approached the tree and they ran on to a grove of bamboo trees, crawling in on their hands and knees to hide. A woman living nearby saw all this happen from her house (she could see the people running because they were illuminated by an electric light in the street). She said the UFO flew very low, was silent and looked like a "fire torch". This woman said: "Everybody runs away from the light. Everybody's afraid of it." She also said a peasant claimed to have seen a UFO land on a field behind his house; he felt heat, got scared, and locked the door. She also said the UFO was being seen almost every night.

(e) On the night of May 15, 1986, a 70-year-old farm worker named Joaquim watched as a UFO hovered about 50 paces away from his house, maybe 10 to 15 meters above the ground, for a half hour. He said it was flashing a beam of light all around the hills and occasionally shone it on him. He was standing in a doorway, with the lower half of the two-part door closed, looking at it. He shielded his face with his left arm, holding it up to cover his eyes. But on one occasion his right eye was exposed, and he lost about 80 per cent of the vision in that eye and his left arm was burned (like a sunburn). He said he heard voices, but couldn't understand the language. When the UFO finally lifted off and went away, it hit some electricity lines, breaking one of them.

(f) Many people began carrying guns and one such man, aged 22, said he saw a UFO shaped like a "refrigerator" land one night about 20 meters away from him. He saw an occupant descend on a stairway. The witness was carrying a .38 revolver and he fired twice. Apparently he didn't hit the object nor did he hear any ricocheting sound. He became frightened and ran home.

4. Alberto do Carmo, an excellent, veteran UFO investigator in Belo Horizonte, told me that Albert Eduardo had talked to a policewoman and a pilot who were among a number of people who saw about a dozen objects flying figure eights and in triangular and square patterns near the airport at Montes Claros in May 1986. The objects appeared to be in an intelligent formation and one looked bigger than the others. Some of the smaller ones were seen entering bigger ones. All this lasted for about two hours. I did not get a chance to talk to Albert Eduardo about this. (A similar sighting was described to me once by two night watchmen in a suburb of Mendoza, Argentina; they said that before dawn one day in July 1978, a large number of small objects — one witness said 25 to 30, the other said hundreds — were flying in and out among the light-pylons of Mendoza's new soccer stadium.)

#### The Cases in North-Eastern Brazil

5. I went on to Fortaleza, in N.E. Brazil, and Jean Alencar spent a week with me, taking me first to Paraipaba, near the coast west of Fortaleza, where we stayed overnight in a peasant's house on a farm. We talked to nearly a dozen people in the Paraipaba area who had had UFO sightings or encounters as long ago

as ten years before and as recently as 7 o'clock the night before, the latter just a few miles from where we were staying. In one incident, a man and his grown son had a close encounter that left them both feeling burned and suffering from headaches.

Jean Alencar and I then went to another small coastal village called Pecem, where there are several very serious cases:

(a) One involved a farm worker, now 52, who had gone fishing one night in 1983 at a place on the beach where he had fished for 30 years. At 2 a.m. a bright light suddenly appeared over his head and he ran and hid under the nearest tree. For the next four hours, he said, the UFO stayed above him and every few minutes shone a beam of light down on him and his hiding place. He was terrified and every time the light went off he felt frigid cold. When dawn broke, the UFO disappeared and the man ran home. He hid under a bed at first and was sick and nauseated for weeks. Ever since then he has refused to go out at night and will not stay home by himself. His family says he now has "mental problems".

(b) We then talked to two women, one 34 and the other 28. Four years ago, they and a third woman (a sister of the 28-year-old) and two children had been in the sand dunes near the beach a short distance east of Pecem gathering wood. This was at dusk, and suddenly a big orange light appeared above their heads and they ran. The wood they were carrying slowed them down so they threw it away. They ran some 500 meters before reaching some trees, where they hid, and the UFO chased or followed them all the way and then passed on out of sight.

All of them were sick and nauseated and had headaches for more than a week, and nine days after the incident, the 34-year-old woman, who was then seven months pregnant, gave premature birth. Her baby, Kelvia, is now 4 years old and is a sweet, good-natured child. She smiles a lot and chatters a bit, but she does not walk and she has heart problems. The third woman who was two months pregnant, aborted and lost her baby. You could argue that any pregnant woman who runs 500 meters risks losing her baby, but if the UFO had not appeared, these women would never have run. So, in that sense, one death and a premature birth of a child that may never walk can be blamed on a UFO.

6. On my fourth day in Fortaleza, Jean Alencar, Reginaldo Athayde, and I went to Quixadá, where we first interviewed Antônio Moreira Magalhães, a physician who had treated Luíz Fernandes Barros, then 52, a well-to-do Quixadá businessman and ranch owner, 10 years ago after Barros had a UFO encounter. At about 7 a.m., on the morning of April 23, 1976, a cowboy found Barros dazed and sitting in a two-wheel carriage behind a donkey, several kilometers from his plantation (16 kms from Quixadá).

When Barros became coherent, he said that about two hours before daybreak a big lighted object came down and hovered just above him and the donkey. A door of some kind opened on the bottom, and a beam of light was projected down on him and the donkey. He didn't know what happened after that. Barros complained of being very sick, suffering from nausea, diarrhoea, headaches and vomiting.

His wife, Teresina, took him to Quixadá to see Dr. Magalhães, who was then 40 and had known Barros nearly all his life. The doctor listened to Barros' story and gave him medicine to alleviate his sick feeling. However, the medicine didn't help, and the doctor sent Barros to Fortaleza to see a psychiatrist. Teresina told us she had her husband in Fortaleza for two

months and he was seen by 12 psychiatrists and psychologists, and the only conclusion they came to was that he had a brain lesion. He was sent home.

In the meantime, Barros had stopped telling his story about the UFO, because almost no one believed him, other than his wife and Dr. Magalhães (who was also ridiculed by his fellow physicians for believing the story). Further, Barros' speech began to deteriorate, and three months after the incident his hair turned white. By the end of six months, he had lost all his mental faculties and had regressed to the age of a one or two-year-old child. And ever since, the only words he says are "Mamãe", "Medo" and "Da" (mama, fear, and give). He recognizes only his wife and needs a fulltime nurse to take care of him. He reacts to no stimuli, except when someone takes a picture of him with a flash unit. He screams when he sees the flash of light.

We went to see Barros, who lives in a large, well furnished home in Quixadá and he simply sits staring, occasionally moving his eyes but apparently seeing nothing. Dr. Magalhães who seems to be a very sensible, intelligent man, showed us that Barros has control of his arms and legs and did not suffer a stroke.

This is one of Reginaldo Athayde's cases. Apparently there have been many UFO happenings in the Quixadá area, and some of the residents refer to the city as the "UFO capital of the northeast". We ran into a radio announcer friend of Reginaldo Athayde who said he had seen a UFO on the airfield at Quixadá in 1985 (We had intended to meet this man in the afternoon to get the details but we didn't get back to him.)

7. In the afternoon, we attempted to check out a report in *O Dia* several years ago that the village of Jaburu, near Quixadá, was being terrorized by UFOs. We never reached Jaburu. Some distance east of Quixadá, we turned off the paved highway onto a one-lane dirt road and followed that for at least 17 kms before giving up because the road became impassable. We stopped from time to time to get directions, and usually heard some reference to strange lights being seen in the area. Near the end of our search, we stopped at a peasant's small mud-and-thatch house and heard two separate reports of sightings. The father had seen something flying by one night, and on another night two of his teenage sons said they had been "chased" across a field by a bright light.

8. After Fortaleza came the trip to Teresina and Parnarama, and from there I went on to São Luís while Jean went back to Fortaleza. In São Luís, Mônica Carneiro and Ana Teresa Britto, who had worked as my interpreters on my first Crab Island investigation in 1978, helped me track down the latest Crab Island mystery.

#### Crab Island Case No. 2

As may be recalled, on the night of April 25-26, 1977, four men who had sailed a day or two earlier to Crab Island to get wood intended to awaken about midnight (when the tide came in, floating the boat once more in the shallow stream), load the wood (which had been cut and stacked on the river bank next to the boat) and sail back to São Luís on the outgoing tide. Instead, they didn't awaken until about 6 the next morning. By then, one man, a 22-year-old, was dead in his hammock and his older brother, Firmino, was badly burned and his cousin, Auleriano, was less severely burned. Only Apolinario, another brother, was apparently unharmed, and he had to sail the boat back to São Luís by himself. Firmino was left

crippled by his burns. The men could not remember what happened, not even when they were put under hypnosis by Dr. Silvio Lago, a physician and former medical professor. Police investigated, and were not able to determine what happened, although they were convinced the three survivors were telling the truth.

This occurred during a period of extremely heavy UFO activity in the general area stretching from São Luís on the east to Pinheiro, a two-hour ferryboat ride and 70-km drive to the west. Crab Island is in between. That, plus the fact that a doctor who was skeptical of all UFO reports said he heard Firmino (at the time in a hospital in a semi-coma) mumbling something about seeing a light or "fire" (*fogo*) (a common description of a UFO), are the only reasons for suspecting that a UFO might have been involved in this case.

Recently, in 1986, four men in a similar boat also went to Crab Island to get timber. They sailed there on April 28, 1986, spent two days cutting more than 300 pieces of wood (actually, poles three to four meters long) and had stacked them on the river bank next to their boat. On April 30, they quit working about 6 p.m. (at dusk) and at about 8 p.m. one of the men, Juvencio, 22, began to cook their supper. However, he complained about feeling dizzy and he fell to the deck unconscious. Another man, Anselmo, and a third, Lázaro, 44, also began to feel dizzy and they too fainted. None of these three know what happened to the fourth man, Verissimo, 21, but when Lázaro regained consciousness at noon the next day (the first to awaken), Verissimo was dead, with no marks on him, although some blood was trickling from his mouth. The other two revived shortly after, but all three were sick and nauseated. Juvencio also had a head injury of some kind, with the right side of his head being swollen.

The two uninjured men tried to load the wood onto the boat, but quit after getting less than 30 pieces on board and, with difficulty, sailed the boat back to São Luís.

The port authorities investigated and cannot determine what happened. Mónica, Ana and I were able to locate only Juvencio, because Lázaro was somewhere near Alcántara, across São Marcos Bay, and Anselmo had gone into the Interior and no one knew exactly where he was.

None of the survivors know what happened to them. They are certain that food poisoning was not to blame, and the authorities do not believe any kind of poisonous gas could have been the cause. No autopsy was performed on Verissimo; by the time the boat reached São Luís, his body was badly decomposed. His death certificate, which I saw in the Port Authority headquarters, simply says the cause of death was "undetermined".

The only thing unusual that the men think happened that night is that, sometime between 6 and 8 p.m., they heard a loud crashing sound somewhere nearby in the darkness, as if a large tree had fallen over. However, they have never known of a tree falling over on Crab Island (a swampy, uninhabited island in São Marcos Bay, about 25 miles long, seven miles wide and laced with streams at high tide).

Juvencio and Lázaro refuse to go aboard a boat any more, and Port Authorities have forbidden anyone to go to Crab Island to gather wood any more. (This supposedly had been prohibited all along, but never was enforced, and after this second incident the authorities notified all boat owners in the port that the law would be strictly enforced henceforth.)

*One other weird coincidence: Both Juvencio and the young man who died, Verissimo (Juvencio's brother-in-*

*law), were related by blood or marriage to all four of the men who were involved in the first Crab Island incident, in April 1977, nine years before.<sup>6</sup>*

There is no obvious UFO connection in this case, only the unexplained crashing sound. A neighbor of Juvencio's, one of many people who gathered around as we interviewed Juvencio, told us that one night in 1983 he had been on a boat in a stream between Alcántara and Itaúna, which are across São Marcos Bay from São Luís, and a big bright light came down, hovered overhead and shone a beam of light on the boat. He and his companions dived overboard and hid in bushes along the bank. He said people in several other boats in the area had similar experiences that year.

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So, the UFO phenomenon is "alive and well", at least in Brazil. I find it difficult to understand<sup>7</sup> how such things can go on year after year without the authorities learning about them or ever trying to do something about them. What does it take to get them or the scientists interested in this bizarre and sometimes harmful phenomenon?<sup>7</sup>

The phenomenon is also very much alive in the United States, or was in 1983-1986, when thousands of people saw a large boomerang-shaped object in the area just north of New York City. I am writing a book about these sightings (in collaboration with the late Dr. J. Allen Hynek and the chief investigator, Philip Imbrogno. Titled *NIGHT SIEGE: The Hudson Valley UFO Mystery*, it will be published by Ballantine, probably in September next year.<sup>8</sup>)

#### FOOTNOTES BY EDITOR, FSR

- (1) No account of my China sighting was ever published in FSR. So far as I am aware, the only mention of it — a brief one — is in a book which deals mainly with the United Kingdom scene. This was *Unidentified Flying Objects*, (Arthur Barker, London, 1969) re-issued as paperback: *UFO: Flying Saucers Over Britain: (Mayflower Books, 1969)*, by our old friend Robert Chapman, formerly Science Correspondent to the *Sunday Express* newspaper.
- (2) Nobody would of course suggest that Brazil could have as it were a "monopoly" of the unpleasant, for clearly there have been, and are, UFO reports of a most unsavoury character from every part of the world. Nevertheless, there are certain well-known factors about the mental and psychic climate of Brazil, and it cannot be denied that these undermentioned cases are the most horrific of which we have ever heard:—
  - (a) FSR 6/1 (Jan/Feb. 1960). The Itaipu Fort case, in which, on November 4, 1957, two soldiers on night guard duty in a Brazilian coastal fortress received appalling burns and possibly also mental damage from a huge low-flying disc.
  - (b) FSR 8/6 (Nov./Dec. 1962). At Diamantina a boy watched his father, Rivalino Mafra da Silva, vanish instantly in a cloud of dust, apparently seized by two small mysterious balls.
  - (c) FSR 13/2 (March/April 1967); 14/4 (July/Aug. 1968); 17/4 (July/Aug. 1971). Case of the two "men in the lead masks" found dead on a hill near Rio de Janeiro and thought to have been killed by a UFO.
  - (d) FSR 19/2 (March/April 1973). The terrible death of João Prestes in February 1946. Struck by a mystery beam of light, within a few hours the flesh of his entire body "melted" and fell away off the skeleton.
- (3) This holds true for the whole of South America. The same sorts of reports, from Argentina, Brazil, the Andes, Colombia, and the other republics, have continued to reach us ever since the start of the "UFO Phenomenon".
- (4) When Bob Pratt wrote this report, we still did not know why the UFOs were pursuing people, especially women.

Now alas, *we do know* (See Budd Hopkins' article "What They Are Doing To Us", in FSR 33/2.)

- (5) Over a period of many years this fine investigator, Húlvio Brant Aleixo, has sent reports to FSR.
- (6) See Budd Hopkins' two books, "Missing Time", and "Intruders". Thanks to all the work that he has done, with qualified psycho-therapists, in hypnotizing women who have been the victims of these undesirable "guests", we now know that the entities pay great attention to family-strains, siblings, etc., and appear to study whole families of us through several generations. So it is most probably no "coincidence" at all that the Brazilian men involved in two cases nine years apart were inter-connected either by blood or by marriage.
- (7) Bob Pratt must surely realize by now that things *do not*

"go on year after year without the authorities learning about them or ever trying to do something about them". Clearly the Governments know only too well what is going on! But what can they do about it except pray and hope that the pestiferous visitors will go away? And the Governments are 100% right in adopting their current policy of silence! WHAT ELSE DO YOU EXPECT THEM TO DO? WHAT WOULD YOU DO IN THEIR PLACE?

- (8) This excellent book, which we can thoroughly recommend, was duly published by Ballantine Books, New York, in October 1987 (paperback), and was advertised by us on the rear cover of FSR 33/1. Price in USA \$6.95. Postage and packing extra. (Order through a bookseller, as FSR are not booksellers.)

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## AIDS

Long ago I came to a whole lot of conclusions about the true significance of the "UFO Phenomenon" which it might not be prudent to voice. Subsequent events and revelations have only reinforced this feeling, and in a recent letter from a British reader who works in the Defence field (see pages 17/18 of FSR 31/4, *Food For Thought*) certain important possibilities were hinted at.

The contribution from our Californian subscriber, the artist B.- W.- L.-, which I reproduce below, will be found to be in line with that same trend of thought, and I suggest that it deserves careful study, although I must add that since I received it I have begun to see an entirely different possible explanation than the one adopted by the writer, and one that is maybe slightly less ominous for mankind as a whole. I must also add that I would never have considered publishing this article had it not come to me with a personal reference from one of FSR's most respected U.S. Consultants.

So far as one can learn, it seems that the "official" view about the origin of AIDS is that the disease has suddenly emerged from Central Africa, after lying unknown there for who knows how long, and has then passed into the U.S.A. and Western Europe on a large scale probably via Haiti — at least as some have suggested. Well, it is of course true that, after a century of exploration and research, there still remains much to be discovered in the heart of the Dark Continent in all spheres, including the medical. Nevertheless, I find it incomprehensible that so many Western doctors and nurses who have worked in Africa so extensively would not have come upon any trace of it earlier, and, frankly, I rather doubt the "African Explanation", though I admit that it is a very 'handy' one. And I am not entirely convinced that our own Governments believe in it.<sup>1</sup> Alternatively, might it not in fact have been a particularly clever ruse on somebody's part to *elaborate* the disease *elsewhere*, and then to *implant* it in the highly suitable field of Central Africa and let it burst upon the world as a new "African" disease?

As regards the theory that it was launched in order to wipe us out, I don't quite "buy" it at present, because, surely, so many far, far easier methods could have been found by anybody desirous of eliminating us. Moreover, if you are a normal human, with normal habits (i.e. habits provided for by the Great Creative Powers that run this world) then it does not seem to be all that easy to contract AIDS. Far more probable, in my view, would be the explanation that, since there are Alien Powers of an intermediate level — who are probably our *Owners* and would clearly regard us as *herds* to be exploited, or as biological-banks or gene-pools, then they would of course (like any sensible farmer or herdsman) be concerned to keep their cattle normal and healthy and disease-free, and would therefore take effective steps to eliminate any undesirable taints likely to impair the quality or quantity of the genetic material available, and particularly so should they themselves depend in some way on the latter for some part of their own well-being!<sup>2</sup> — EDITOR

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## AIDS . . . AND THE UFO CONNECTION: A POSSIBLE PLAN FOR GENOCIDE?

By B.- W.- L.- (California)

*"Intellects, vast, cool, and unsympathetic, regarded our Earth with envious eyes and, slowly but surely, they drew their plans against us."* — H.G. Wells, "THE WAR OF THE WORLDS" (1898).<sup>3</sup>

By way of introduction, may I state that I am a concerned citizen who happens to be an artist and a printer. Over the years I have built up an extensive knowledge on the subject of UFOs, reading books and articles by such authors as Frank Edwards, Gordon Creighton, John G. Fuller, Jim and Coral Lorenzen, Ralph and Judy Blum, and many other private investigators.

The gravity of the AIDS crisis makes it *imperative* that we consider all possibilities as to its origin . . .

even if the evidence is vaguely circumstantial. If we are to find a cure for this "ANDROMEDA STRAIN" — then finding its *origin* could give our scientists the edge they need.

What I may have discovered is a connection<sup>4</sup> between AIDS and the animal mutilations of the 1970s. For it strikes me as a little more than coincidental that the nature of the mutilations has a parallel with the way in which AIDS is transmitted.

We humans have short attention-spans. Thus, when events are separated by large gaps in time, we have difficulty in visualizing what in this case could be a deadly scenario.

Are we being victimized by hostile alien forces? Before you answer "No!", consider these facts:—