

# SOME RECENT LATIN-AMERICAN PRESS REPORTS: AND A NEW 'SPECTACULAR' FROM ARGENTINA, "THE VAMPIRE UFO"

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(Translation from Spanish)

## Mexico

The Buenos Aires newspaper *La Razón* of April 30, 1983, carried a *U.P.* report that, according to Mexican investigators, UFO sightings had created uproar and commotion in various districts around Puebla, some 100 km. to the south of Mexico City, and tape recordings of "alien voices" had allegedly been secured by some of the investigators. On March 21, one group of watchers had seen a vivid red light rising and falling in the air over Lake Alchicha, a salt-water lake near Puebla.

## Bolivia

A report in the Argentinian newspaper *Tiempo Argentino* of May 4, 1983 (Buenos Aires) stated that, according to an account published in the much respected Bolivian Catholic paper *Presencia*, UFOs had been sowing alarm and disturbance among miners in the towns of Totora, Vitichi Ramadas, Cazón, and Tapy, in the south of Bolivia, near Tupiza and close to the Bolivian/Argentinian frontier. The Catholic paper said the entire populace of these districts was filled with fear. Mine-owners were alarmed, because mining output had fallen off badly, due to the panic of the miners who were spending sleepless nights on the alert for UFOs. The reports mentioned landings of UFOs that dazzled and blinded eyewitnesses.

*The UFOs were described as coming generally from the South, from Patagonia in the far south of Argentina,* but it seems that until recently they had usually moved off over other regions and had not visited Bolivia so much as now.

## Chile

*Tiempo Argentino* (Buenos Aires) of June 12, 1983, carried a report that scores of Chileans had been seeing "shining UFOs" again in the northern areas of the country. One sighting was at Iquique, 1,800 km. north of the Capital, Santiago, on April 28. Another was over Arica — a region much visited in the past by UFOs — and was described as a huge very luminous "cigar" travelling at a staggering speed. It flew over Putre, an area especially well known in South

American Ufology as a "UFO corridor".

At Huepúl, 700 km. to the south from Santiago de Chile, a crowd of 200 young folk who were watching a football match observed a UFO which came along at a height of only five metres from the ground! It stopped briefly to watch the match, and, needless to say, the match stopped too. Then the UFO made off at a fantastic speed and vanished over the Andes.

## Argentina

*La Razón* (Buenos Aires) for June 16, 1983, reported that a UFO had been seen at El Bolsón, in the Andean foothills, some 650 kms to the south-west of Neuquén, an area often mentioned in UFO reports. The sighting was at 9.00 p.m. on Saturday, June 11, and the object was observed in flight for some 15 minutes. Many local witnesses, including personnel of the Argentinian *Gendarmería*, said that it was "cone-shaped" and emitted flashes of vari-coloured light. A patrol was sent out by the *Gendarmería* Squadron 35, but they came back with nothing tangible to report.

*La Crónica* (Buenos Aires) of June 21, 1983, carried a report of the same date from their representative in Mendoza, in the eastern foothills of the Andes. The report said that, according to the local Mendoza newspaper *Los Andes* of same date, many eyewitnesses at Rivadavia (60 kms to the east of Mendoza) had seen a huge shining, silvery, craft which had appeared in the evening sky soon after 5.30 p.m. and had been seen by large crowds watching a football match in the Mendoza stadium. It had remained visible until sunset, and then vanished.

*La Crónica* (Buenos Aires) of July 11, 1983, carried a report of the same date from their man in Rosario (north of Buenos Aires) that a UFO had been seen west of Rosario on the previous day, July 10. It had appeared at 7.50 p.m. and was huge, shaped like a spinning-top (*trompo*), emitting orange flashes of light from its central part. After remaining stationary for a few minutes, it slowly moved off towards the S.E. (There are no regular air-routes in that part of Argentina, and the witnesses emphasised that there could in any case be no question of its being any sort of known terrestrial aircraft).

*Tiempo Argentino* (Buenos Aires), August 9, 1983,

carried a report from La Rioja in the Andes. It said that a number of motorists had seen a UFO at Cerros Colorados on the night of August 5. (Cerros Colorados being some 100 kms to the west of La Rioja.) The UFO, shaped like a gigantic dish irradiating flashing lights of various colours, was seen for three minutes and then vanished at a staggering speed. The sky was clear and there was no mist or haze. One of the reports came from a truck-driver on Argentinian National Highway 74, who said he had seen the UFO at a distance of about 400 metres or so. He heard no sound. It was emitting coloured flashes of light, and finally vanished at high speed. The truck driver added that the sighting was "nothing new", and that he had had many such sightings when driving on the roads.

Our final report deals with a spectacular close encounter, and comes from these newspapers: *Diario Popular* (La Plata-Buenos Aires) of August 12, 1983, and *Tiempo Argentino* (Buenos Aires) of August 12 and August 13, 1983.

Under the headline... EL PLATÍVOLO VAMPIRISTA ("THE VAMPIRE UFO") the reports all agreed that a 34-year-old man named Julio Platner, living at Winifreda, in the Province of La Pampa, south-west of Buenos Aires, claimed to have had a hair-raising experience of the usual sort with UFO entities who had extracted blood from him.

Platner, highly regarded locally, is known to be a non-drinker and a steady and reliable person. The critics and enemies of our subject have consequently had a rather difficult job to prove him to be an alcoholic or insane, and most of the local folk think he is not lying.

Talking to journalists, the nervous and frightened witness, still visibly suffering from shock, described how, at 7.30 p.m. on Tuesday, August 9, 1983, he had opened the front door of his house, which lies out on the prairie lands some 15 kms north of Winifreda. He beheld a bright light approaching, which he thought must be from some vehicle. He got into his van and drove towards it. And when he pulled up and stepped out, the light suddenly came at him and blinded and paralyzed him.

The first thing he perceived, after the initial shock, was a "small being" who "talked to him without moving its lips". Then he saw three more of them, including one that was seemingly a woman, with round eyes and a flattish nose.

As Platner was relating his story to the press he got more and more excited and nervous and had to be calmed down. Then, continuing, he said: "*Suddenly I found myself, along with my van, inside a craft! The beings tranquilized me by touching me on the arm. I tried to touch them in return, and I noted that it seemed as though they were made of foam rubber.*" (The papers took this as probably referring to the texture of their clothing.)

Platner continued: "*Although they did not actually*

*talk to me, I understood what they were transmitting to me, seemingly by some sort of telepathy. Thus they gave me to understand that they would not harm me, but would merely extract blood from me. Then they undressed me, and pricked me slightly on the right wrist and the right elbow. They gave me to understand that they were doing this with other people too, in the course of a study they are making of us.*"

Growing more excited again, Platner went on: "They took all my valuables off me, but gave them back afterwards. After that, I don't remember anything more, until I came to again and found that I had been lying asleep on top of my van, on a rural road leading to Villa Mirasol."

Some employees of the Argentinian National Telecommunications Board, who were unwilling to divulge their names, said that on the day when this happened, (*Tuesday, August 9, 1983*), and at precisely the same time when Julio Platner claimed to have had his encounter with the entities, *the telegraphic link between Winifreda and the nearby town of Eduardo Castex was interrupted. And the break occurred precisely in the area where Julio Platner said he had had his experience.*

*There is also confirmation from two of Platner's rural neighbours, who have testified that, at the precise time of his alleged experience, there was a break in the picture on their TV sets, lasting several minutes, after which matters became normal again.*

Furthermore, a livestock breeder in the same part of the country, named Fischer, has reported that he had noticed some strange behaviour by his horses, which usually graze on one particular area of his property. But on the next day after Platner's alleged experience, Señor Fischer found that all the horses were on a quite different section of his land, and when he tried to catch them and take them back there they put up a lot of resistance.

Quite apart from the sheer weirdness of the story, say the papers, one unchanging feature throughout is Platner's insistence in sticking to it. There are no contradictions to be found in his various accounts of it, and the state of shock and anxiety in which the man found himself was obvious to all.

Platner was taken in due course to Santa Rosa, where he was examined and questioned. He was still in a very nervous state and bore clear marks where the blood had been extracted from him.

The third of these three press reports about Julio Platner (*Tiempo Argentino*, Buenos Aires, August 13, 1983) concentrates on the findings of Platner's family doctor, Dr. Adolfo Pizarro. The paper says that, while Platner's own friends and neighbours and acquaintances believe him, a lot of effort has been expended by the disbelieving public in the Provincial Capital, Santa Rosa, to describe the affair as "*a hallucination with connotations of extraterrestrial vampirism.*"

Unfortunately for these theorists, Platner's family

doctor, who has attended to Platner and his family for years past, put paid to all this by announcing that Platner had indeed had blood drawn from him, "but not by means of the needle, such as we traditionally employ for this." A statement which inevitably has caused a sensation and given rise to a lot of thinking...

Platner, a 34-year-old man who does not drink and enjoys a high reputation among his neighbours is, according to Dr. Pizarro, in excellent physical and mental health.

As Dr. Pizarro says, Platner is a simple, straightforward sort of man, who had never in his life before "believed in strange things". But, after what has now befallen him, Platner said, on August 12: "I have already told you: the Extraterrestrials AREN'T Science-Fiction! Anything but...!"

The doctor showed the marks on Platner where the blood had been taken. One of these places, right on a vein, was very clearly visible.

Life in Winifreda is unquestionably normally a bit dull and monotonous, and the "anti-brigade" have therefore been trying to spread the idea about that "Platner had made the story up as a piece of escapism." But Dr. Adolfo Pizarro's testimony has floored them. He has also floored those who were trying to prove Platner to be an alcoholic, and were confidently putting it around that his "close encounter of the third kind

was simply a hallucination caused by drink."

Like so many other experts on Ufology, they will have to think again. It will be interesting to see what they come up with next.

#### NOTE BY EDITOR

Not only are Jane Thomas's English and Spanish (no doubt like her French and her German, etc.) exemplary and perfect. She is equally accomplished in *Spanglish*, in which language some of her running commentary on the Platner case is couched. I translate the following extract from her latest letter:-

"The La Pampa case (of Platner) is still only at an early stage. My information is only what the papers have published. I also saw Platner on TV. He looked O.K., and does not look crazy — though with all the interviewing and the investigation of him he may well end up crazy before long. If he was lying — hard luck for him. And if he *wasn't* lying, it's still hard luck for him, because he won't be left in peace! What with all the newspapers and the TV and the radio and the investigators and the crackpots, the poor chap doesn't know yet what he has let himself in for. But how familiar this story of having tubes applied to draw off blood sounds to us! And if the poor chap knew nothing about our subject, then the other details which he has given are surely food for thought."

## NEAR-LANDING OF A HUGE "SPINNING-TOP" IN BRAZIL

Irene Granchi

(Translation from Portuguese)

OVER a spot some 300 metres or so from the Sorocaba Airport, lying to the west of São Paulo, in southern Brazil, an outsized "spinning-top" appeared one evening in June 1979 and "stood still" for at least one hour, above the wall surrounding the backyard of a local surgeon-dentist.

The dentist, Dr Roberto Domingos, aged 45, and his wife, Regina Clara, a University Professor, watched the extraordinary spectacle in utter amazement. Dr Roberto thought the UFO was about 4½ m. in height and, 3 m. wide, while his wife thought it was at least 5 m. in height and 6 m. in diameter. It was totally silent, and both witnesses agree completely as to its shape (see sketches).

After the lengthy period of observation of the object (Dr Roberto thought "at least one hour" while his wife thought it was nearer to 1½ hrs), it slowly moved away north-westwards towards the town of Salto de

Pirapora.

While both witnesses agree that it remained suspended over the same area throughout the sighting, they are in disagreement on one point, inasmuch as Dona Regina Clara thinks that she observed it to be *spinning*, while her husband did not have this impression.

A rapidly pulsating red light (just like those on Brazilian ambulances) surmounted it, while along a central band a series of circular windows were lit from within with a pale yellowish light. The bottom point of the "spinning-top" also carried a light, which was emitting successive pulsations of green, red, and yellowish tones. Dona Regina Clara says that both the upper portion of the object (above the row of windows), and the lower part, were spinning in a clockwise direction, but Dr Domingos says he did not notice this, nor did he observe the colours so well, for