

World round-up

of news and comment
about recent sightings

More Reports of UFOs over Greece

From the *Athens Daily Post* (English-language paper) of Friday, November 13, 1981:—

FLYING UFOs were observed on Tuesday and Wednesday nights, over the cities of Larissa and Edessa at 7.40 p.m. The UFOs were about 7-10 metres round (*sic*) and were moving slowly from East to West.

From the *Athens News* (English-language paper), Saturday, November 14, 1981:—

UFOs in Greece: Reality or Baloney?

The UFOs of Larissa and Edessa have now been sighted by citizens and by Air Force pilots ordered to search the skies in the Salonika regions of Mihaniona, Langada, and Kalohori.

Pilots carrying out regular flights at 10,000 ft. reported that they saw the objects at a great height. Statements of citizens who had seen the UFOs said they were immobile, and this was confirmed by Gendarmerie patrols who also "saw something".

Three Salonika Police officers followed the two UFOs closely for nearly two hours from the Triandria District of Kalohori.

Late on Thursday night the Police announced that the descriptions of the three officers coincided. Other eyewitnesses' reports said that the UFOs were polygonic and changing rapidly in colour from green, via blue, yellow and red to carrot orange.

Meanwhile, in Salonika itself rumours were spreading like wildfire, some saying that one UFO had landed at Kalohori, others that the UFOs were red, or blue, etc. Police services, professional photographers and the merely curious were all in an uproar on Thursday, dashing here and there to places where the UFOs were either alleged to have landed or been sighted.

A very large UFO has also been reported at Vermio, and is said to have been visible from Edessa, Naoussa, Yanitsa, and other parts of Western Macedonia.

An Astronomer's View

Astronomer D. Ilias says all this is a load of baloney, however. "Although we are constantly skimming the skies, we have not yet seen a real bona fide UFO," he comments. "It's usually a case of meteorological phenomena, or artificial satellites, or one of the bright planets like Venus and Jupiter, or even an early morning aeroplane flight which often results in a bright illuminated exhaust trail that causes interesting shapes."

The UFOs disappeared from the Salonika skies around 8.00 p.m. on Thursday evening.

Further Reports

From the Piraeus (Athens) Greek-language paper *He Eleuthera Ora* of Saturday, November 14, 1981:

Under the scare-headlines, PUBLIC IN UPROAR AT SIGHTINGS: UFOs INVADE GREECE, this paper says: "The UFOs, with the help of the local Observatory, are trying to drive us all crazy". It goes on to say that, on the previous day, the UFOs had been seen in the skies over many cities and towns of Central and Northern Greece, throwing both public and officialdom into uproar. The Salonika Observatory says it is merely the planet *Aphrodite** which at present is very bright in the sky of Greece.

Karditsa and Trikala

According to reports received early on Friday evening, the paper goes on, bright, strangely-shaped objects were seen over and around Karditsa, Trikala, Kavalla, Volos and other places. Astonished residents were besieging the police stations with phone calls to report the presence of UFOs. Police patrols at these places confirmed the sightings, but were unable to give an explanation.

But the explanation given by the Salonika Observatory does not account for the fact that (whether stationary or not) the objects seen by so many thousands of people over the last few days were low in the skies, es-

timated at altitudes of no more than "3,000 kms." and no less than "1,000 metres".

Volos and Kavalla

At Volos thousands of people saw, between 7.00 and 8.00 p.m., an object that was ten times the size of an ordinary star. The glare from it was tremendous and from time to time it changed in shape. Its shape seemed to be of an uneven "X", with the top-left arm missing. It resembled a semicircle at times, while at other times it was described as "similar to Concorde". The object remained low and stationary at 30° to the horizon, south-west of Volos. By about 7.50 p.m. there was no more light and it was out of sight.

At Kavalla the UFO was sighted at 6.30 p.m., moving very slowly. Many folk watched it for about 40 minutes before it vanished. It looked like a bright star. Many thought it was a man-made satellite.

At Karditsa a bright object resembling a star was seen to travel very slowly from East to West through the sky at 6.30 p.m.

At Trikala the UFO was seen moving towards the South-West. Local residents and people in the villages round about watched it for 30 minutes. It was shaped "like a bright tray" and changed shape from time to time. Finally it vanished behind the Pindos Mountains.

(Translation from Greek: Gordon Creighton)

(Credit and thanks to reader J.M. Hammond of Boston, Lincolnshire.)

Translator's Note

*Normally one would not take the trouble to translate what seems a typical scare-story generated by the amazingly bright planet *APHRODITE* (Greek name, of course, for our old girl-friend *VENUS*). But the first two reports (in English) are curious, as it is clear that more than one object is spoken of. Is it possible that the presence of a very bright *APHRODITE* low down on the horizon coincided with a genuine outburst of UFO activity over Hellas? — G.C.

A NEW SOUTH AMERICAN WAVE

Gordon Creighton

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

BRAZIL

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ARGENTINA

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

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