

of this written material? We are told that "numerous witnesses" have seen and photographed the comings and goings of Meier's contacts, which now number "well over 130" meetings, but none of these witnesses are named and none of their testimony or photographs are published. Do these witnesses really exist?

The photographs themselves raise some interesting questions. Although the investigative team lays great stress on the positive results obtained through the computer analysis, we have yet to be convinced that this method can infallibly sort out the genuine from the faked. The results still have to be interpreted by a human investigator. Noticeable about these pictures, and possibly of some significance, is: (1) All the UFOs are seen against the sky, even when close to the ground with rising ground in the distance; (2) All the skies are overcast and without cloud detail, although the photographs have been taken at different seasons; (3) In several photographs where the UFO is in sunlight all of the ground below appears to be in shadow. Anyone planning to hoax a UFO photograph by double exposure would prefer the conditions described under points 1 and 2. Strong cloud or landscape detail would be likely to show through the UFO. Point 3 could indicate that two photographs have been combined, each

having a different type of lighting on it. All the pictures have the same 'look' about them, because all the UFOs appear to be equally distant from the camera.

If Meier is on such terms of familiarity with these ufonauts, why are there no dramatic close-ups of a hovering craft, partially obscured by large trees which are at a known and measurable distance? One picture does show a UFO partly hidden by a close tree branch, but it is impossible to judge its distance from the camera. And is it not time that his group of friends raised a subscription to provide Meier with a better camera than his present one with its jammed focussing? One of the current models of auto-focussing, self-winding compact cameras would seem to be ideal.

If this is a hoax, then it is elaborate and well thought out, and must be a group effort. It is more than one able-bodied individual could construct, and Meier has only his right arm. Although Lorenzen's criticisms appear to leave little doubt as to the true nature of this affair, Wendelle Stevens has, we understand, an answer for each of his points, though as yet we have not heard what they are.

We hope other reliable, unbiased investigators will be invited to examine the whole case, and we will await their findings with great interest.

THE CHEMILUMINESCENT CONNECTION

Gordon Creighton

I feel that I owe an apology to FSR readers over my recent article, *The Spruce Budworm Connection*¹, which was submitted as a genuine attempt to report what the very foremost of minds were thinking on the troublesome subject of UFOs.

When I wrote the piece, I was feeling reasonably satisfied that the judgement of eminent American entomologists Dr. Philip S. Callahan and Dr. R. W. Mankin, as well as of such experts as the science correspondent of the BBC and of the London *Daily Telegraph*, could surely be taken as decisive, namely that these glowing things seen flying around all over the place are indeed luminous moths.

But then, with some mortification, just as my spruce budworm piece was about to appear in print, I found that a far more authoritative statement had turned up in the Soviet journal *Aviation and Cosmonautics*². This indicated that far, far bigger experts than even the American wizards of Project Blue Book or the pundits of the BBC and the *Daily Telegraph* had now entered upon the sacred task of pontification, and had come up with a fresh and indeed a final ruling, namely that the so-called "UFOs" are after all not luminous spruce budworm moths, but microscopic chemically active particles of ozone, nitrogen dioxide, organic compounds, etc.

Writing in the London *Daily Express* for July 30, 1979, Antony Buzek was good enough to furnish British readers

with an account under the headline UFOs: HAS RUSSIA FOUND THE ANSWER? of the startling new Soviet discovery:—

"Forget all those little green men coming to earth and demanding: 'Take me to your leader.'

"Forget about flying saucers, spaceships, UFOs or whatever you choose to call them. The Russians have a down-to-earth, scientific answer for all that high-flying nonsense — and its chemiluminescence.

"The Iron Curtain is certainly no obstacle to — dare we call them — UFOs. They've been coming down thick and fast, in all shapes and sizes, over Russia and Siberia.

"And from many carefully recorded Encounters of the Soviet Kind comes what may be a true answer to the flying saucer mystery, all recorded very scientifically, of course, in the Soviet journal *Aviation and Cosmonautics*.

"First let's look at some of the Soviet encounters related by military and airline pilots. On October 11, 1977, three new Soviet military aircraft were tested near the city of Ryazan. At 1800 hours, flying at the height of 27,000 ft. and keeping a distance of 50 miles apart, these reliable, trained observers spotted a luminous, pulsating object. Its front part blindingly white; the rest, also white, looked as if surrounded by white cotton yarn.

"It first approached the aircraft, flew alongside, and finally began to ascend at an angle of 70-80 degrees. As it was drawing away, the intensity of its light faded, and

finally the object looked just like a little twinkling star in the dark evening sky. Only then were the pilots able to exchange between themselves their excited impressions.

"For the 24 minutes while the unidentified 'thing' was in their vicinity, their VHF radio stations did not work.

"A similar experience was also had by the crew of an *Aeroflot* airliner. Its pilot and crew saw a light-emitting object. As it came nearer, its dimensions gradually grew. The crew first thought it was the rising Moon, and switched off the cabin lights so that the passengers could see it better.

"Everybody then clearly saw that the approaching thing was a brilliant white disc floating at an angle of 60-70 degrees. And behind it was a trail of light visible for seven or eight minutes.

"A third mysterious bright object collided with another *Aeroflot* liner, causing an explosion and fire.

"Is all this not a clear proof that Soviet pilots met with 'flying saucers?'"

"Not quite," says Soviet scientist Dr. M. Dimitriyev in the *Journal*. "What they encountered were not UFOs, but bands of chemiluminescence, cold radiation."

"In the atmosphere, he explains, there are always microscopic chemically active particles of ozone, nitrogen dioxide, organic compounds, etc. Energy released by chemical reactions of these molecules often change into photons, often giving off a faint light imperceptible to the naked eye. When, however, these chemically active particles condense, they create that chemiluminescence —

their light becomes more intense and may, at times, be even ten or twenty times brighter than the Sun.

"These have their own source of chemical energy and can move, rotate, pulsate, emit light, imitate radio waves, or swallow them!"

"As Dr. Dimitriyev sternly reminds his readers, they should not speak of UFOs, but of chemiluminescence.

* * *

Well, there it is. A Super-Power does not have a mere ordinary Oracle. It has a Super-Oracle. And the Soviet Super-Oracle has pronounced. And who, one may wonder, is going to dare, in these days when the volume of Russian weaponry is, in all branches, on an average about four or five times the volume of weaponry of the nations of the free world (it is no less than 100:1 in conventional artillery ammunition, I understand) — who, I repeat, is going to dare to dispute the claim of the Soviet journal *Aviation and Cosmonautics* to speak as the supreme arbiter and to have the last word on all subjects, naturally including the UFOs?

With the matter of these pesky things now safely disposed of, perhaps FSR can close up shop and we can all proceed to more urgent and maybe more interesting tasks.

References

1. See FSR Vol.25, No.3.
2. Soviet journals on military matters are not allowed out of the country. I would imagine, therefore that the chances of our ever seeing a copy of the article are precisely nil.

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THE CONTINUING STORY OF THE IMJÄRVI SKIERS — Part 1

Anders Liljegren

The author, who has made several contributions to the pages of *Flying Saucer Review* and *Case Histories Supplements*, is editor of *AFUs Nyhetsblad* of Södertälje, Sweden, from number 18 (January-March 1980) of which this article has been taken.

IN 1970 the attention of the world was drawn to the news of the strange UFO affair at Imjärvi, Finland, by a series of articles published in *Flying Saucer Review*. Aarno Heinonen and Esko Viljo claimed to have encountered a small humanoid while they were out skiing, and their subsequent physiological problems — suggestive of radiation poisoning — were the subject of the articles^{1,2,3,4} by Sven-Olof Fredrickson of the Göteborg (Gothenburg) team GICOFF. The group had correspondence with the witnesses via a Finnish-speaking member, and maintained close contact with the journalist Bo Ahlqvist, who visited the witnesses and sighting location in Finland, and wrote up his account for a popular weekly magazine.⁵

The story, by now one of ufology's classic cases, had many interesting sidelights. One aspect was the percipients' slowly returning memories of what happened that day. At first there was no mention of a humanoid. Then, in the next version, Heinonen mistook Viljo for a "... very small ... unrecognisable" man. Finally, all the details of the man's encounter with a 90 cm midget figure came to light. The pattern of "slowly returning memories" has become a well-known part of our theme, particularly of UFO-abduction lore.

What may not be known so well by researchers outside

the "language barriers" that surround the Scandinavian countries, is the *continued* story at Imjärvi. For there was a chain of events centering on the witnesses of the January 7, 1970, incident. From what is now known, the 1970 encounter was not even the first sighting by Mr. Heinonen; he later claimed his first UFO sighting took place in 1964!

Details of the continuing experiences of the "Finnish skiers" in this article come from two main sources: first, a series of articles in the Finnish UFO magazine *Ufoaika* (1972/73), and secondly, personal correspondence between Aarno Heinonen and a research colleague of mine, Mr. Jorma Heinonen who, in spite of carrying the same surname, is in no way related to the percipient, Aarno. Jorma also provided translations of the *Ufoaika* articles since I am unable to read Finnish. Jorma's correspondence with Aarno ended in 1973, and since then we have no knowledge of what happened to him, or of any possible further experiences of his.

Admittedly details of what happened are somewhat sketchy and indistinct, but having searched the international UFO literature — in vain — for details of the sequel to Imjärvi, I now submit, for what it is worth, what I am told happened. I do so in the hope that someone



Imjärvi 7 January 1970: Left, the 'little man' in the light beam, the end of which floats above the snow, radiating sparks. On the right, the creature has gone and the beam fades upwards into the saucer like a snaky flame. Based on sketches made in 1970 by Bjorn Högman.