

Fig 4

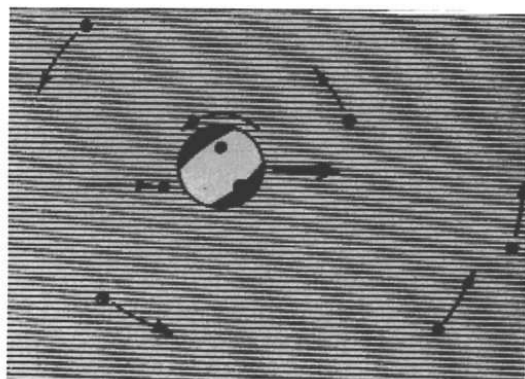


Fig4a

the ship when seen at an angle, but because of one bulge being on the high side of the ellipse and the whole in silhouette, the ellipse becomes a pear.

The delta may have been a similar illusion formed by a different angle, showing the conical bulge on the top side of the ellipse, together with a small scout ship leaving at the lower rear part. The telephone receiver shape is self-explanatory, the two sides being interconnected by some transparent "roof" as depicted in the perspective view in Fig. 3a.

Figs. 4 and 4a give a possible explanation to the behaviour of the scout ships. In Fig. 4 they are shown cruising to and from the parent vessel and in Fig. 4a circling around it, giving an observer the impression that they are, in fact moving back and forth. The latter is the more likely, since it conforms more closely to recorded Flying Saucer behaviour ■

SETI: A MANIPULATION?

By Dr. Pierre Guérin, Astronomer and Maître de Recherche Honoraire in the CNRS (French National Centre For Scientific Research).

(Translation from French. G.C.)

(Please see, as a preliminary note about this piece by Dr. Guérin, my article *The Gigantic "Con"*, on page 4 of our last issue, FSR 37/4. Editor)

On October 15, 1992, it has just been announced, the programme for SETI (*The Search For Extraterrestrial Intelligence*), sponsored by NASA, has begun. The giant parabolic antennae of the world's big radioastronomical observatories are now aimed at the sky, "listening" for the Extraterrestrials. Highly perfected ultra-sensitive receivers have been set up, capable of simultaneously registering, on tens of thousands of channels, all the "noise" from the Cosmos, via the window of the decimetre wavelengths left transparent by our atmosphere. The signals of artificial origin, if there are any, will be automatically sorted out and reported to the operators in the control-rooms. In this way, step by step, over ten years, the entire sky will be examined in every direction. But certain observatories will apply themselves particu-

larly to "listening" to those stars that are of *solar type*, or *neighbour type*, around which the chance of finding planets resembling the Earth are greatest. (Two relatively near stars answering to these characteristics, TAU CETI and E. ERIDANI, had already been "listened to", with less effective receivers, since 1960, without it being possible to detect any intelligent signals).

We are told that it is by "listening" to the sky in this fashion — or perhaps rather by pointing up certain anomalies in the spectra of such or such a star — that it will be possible to obtain proof of a non-human intelligence active in the Cosmos, and not by following the advice of the "cranks and visionaries" who claim that proof of this intelligence *is already there right in front of our eyes*, in our sky, and on our soil. For the UFOs, as everybody knows, only exist — for our officials — in the eyes of those who *think* they see them, as has long been demonstrated by the enquiries conducted by the U.S. Air Force. And, incidentally, so they tell us, the other planetary systems — if there are any — are vastly too far distant for craft so small as the alleged

UFOs to possibly have come from them. The journey would, they say, take hundreds or even thousands of years, at speeds necessarily less than the speed of light, since that is unattainable and, *a fortiori*, cannot be exceeded, according to the Theory of Relativity which is today well established by all the experiments with which it has been possible to test it.

THE PUBLICITY DRIVE

But let us now return to SETI. This month (October 1992), all the magazines, all the newspapers, and of course all the popular science journals, are devoting an article to it. So too are the radio stations. So far as I am concerned, I have for some days past been receiving letters and 'phone calls from enthusiasts telling me of their high hopes that the Project will succeed. Even Aimé Michel has just telephoned to me to ask how the matter will be made public in the event that a message is detected, and to enquire whether, being an astronomer myself, I have any contacts that will permit me to have advance notice about it? (The answer is: *no!*)

My reaction in the fact of all this powerful type of publicity is to feel a strong impression that we are being sold down the river. Because SETI has very little likelihood of being successful. And the very topmost promoters of the Project cannot be unaware of this, as you will see. They are using the media to propagate the hope that in launching such a programme backed by such powerful technical means, if there are existing technological civilizations within a radius of a few thousand light-years it will be possible to detect at least some of them.

SOME FACTS

I hope nobody will get me wrong. I *hope* that SETI will succeed. But I simply believe that its failure almost assuredly stands written in the facts, and I will now recall the reasons, which I have already set forth on previous occasions.

Radioelectrical "noise" of intelligent origin received from a planet harbouring a technological civilization *which does employ this method of transmission* can be classed under two types:-

1. Emissions aimed intentionally in our direction (or towards any other inhabited planet), for example by means of three big parabolic antennae like those used in our radiotelescopes, and
2. The diffused cacophony sent out in all directions of Space from the emitting planet and resulting in the sum total of the various long-wave emissions in the decimetre field put out by the planet's inhabitants.

This second type of emission does not carry very far. With a giant antenna like the one at Arecibo, we wouldn't be able to detect the radio cacophony of the Earth beyond a distance of five light-years, which is derisory, since there is only one star (actually a double-star system) that is nearer to

us than that — namely at four light-years. Clearly one might suppose that a civilization more advanced than ours would employ more numerous and more powerful emitters for its domestic use, but saturation is reached rapidly, while on the other hand we must not forget that the detection threshold varies inversely to the square of the distance from the emitting planet. The detection of radio activity from an inhabited planet at twenty light-years would appear to be the maximum, and then only on condition that the receiver was a battery of several tens of giant telescopes, such as does not yet exist here.

This is the reason why the SETI Project depends almost entirely on the detection of radio messages *intentionally* emitted towards the Earth in a narrow band of frequencies and reaching, in this case, to considerable distances, the energy being concentrated in a narrow beam. For example, it would suffice for the Arecibo antenna to emit with the power of only 3000 watts (the power of two domestic pressing irons!) to be detectable at a distance of 100 light-years by an antenna of similar diameter. At 10,000 light-years the energy required would be enormously greater, due to the dispersal of the beam, but would still remain comparable with the energy possibilities of an advanced civilization.

The question therefore is, not one of knowing whether the transmission of messages is possible over very great distances, but whether it is realistic to expect that we would receive any — i.e., that the "others" *send us any*.

And why send us any? Simply to tell us that they exist, and that they are waiting for an answer? What a lovely dream!

Supposing, for a start, that there is an extraterrestrial civilization that has arrived at precisely the same technological level that we have, or at a level scarcely more advanced than us, can one then imagine that they would consider it an intelligent or a profitable thing to do to send out into Space, towards the thousands of stars surrounding them — and without knowing more precisely towards where — a series of radioelectrical messages conducted over a very long period of time, in the hope that one of those messages will be picked up, and identified, and decyphered, by at least one similar civilization?

Bear in mind, meanwhile, the fact that, according to the distance involved, the message will require tens, or hundreds, or even thousands of years before it arrives at its destination, and just as much time also for the receipt of a reply to it, if there ever is one!

We ourselves, should the occasion arise, do not envisage sending out such a message *except in reply to a signal already received by us*.

A QUESTION NEVER RAISED

If, at present, an extraterrestrial civilization is significantly ahead of us scientifically, the ques-

tion — WHICH IS NEVER RAISED BY THE SUPPORTERS OF SUCH PROJECTS AS SETI — is this:-

IS IT REALISTIC TO BELIEVE THAT SUCH A CIVILIZATION WOULD HAVE DISCOVERED NOTHING BETTER FOR COMMUNICATION (AND MAYBE EVEN FOR TRANSPORTATION) THAN THE ELECTROMAGNETIC WAVES, OF RADIO OR OTHER KIND, WHOSE SPEED OF PROPAGATION (300,000 KMS. PER SEC.) IS RIDICULOUSLY SLOW IF MEASURED ON THE SCALE OF THE STELLAR UNIVERSE?

It will be objected that it is impossible to go faster than light, and that is true, *but it applies to movements within the three dimensions of our Visible Universe.*

Well now — certain modern theoretical physicists already suspect the existence of other Universes “consubstantial” with this one, via which spatio-temporal “short-cuts” (or “worm-holes” as vividly described in the current jargon) could be used for the despatch of information, or for travelling, without any violation of the relativistic limitations!

“SHORT-CUTS” IN THE UNIVERSE

For those who know that the UFOs *are a reality here*, it is wellnigh a certainty that such “short-cuts” do exist. And for those who know *nothing* about UFOs, or pretend to know nothing about them, the exponential growth occurring currently in our own scientific knowledge ought to suffice to prove that — after a lapse of time impossible for us to quantify precisely at present, but which will assuredly be brief measured against the duration of geological epochs — the employment of electromagnetic radiations for the transmission of messages over vast distances in the Cosmos will have become totally obsolete here, and have been replaced by techniques based on an enlarged conception of Space-Time — the necessity for which concept is already appearing now in our own theoretical Physics.

Such being the case, it is as vain to seek to capture radio messages sent by the extraterrestrials as it would be for a primitive tribe to expect a message from the white man in the form of signals emitted by wisps of smoke in the Bush.

For, in view of the enormous disparity in the ages of the stars (and of any planets that they might have) and, in view of the certainly very small proportion of the planets that would have developed a scientific civilization, the probability is virtually non-existent that there might be, within a radius of several thousands of light-years around our Sun, *even one single civilization* that had reached precisely the same stage of development we have (and even in such a case as that, we have already seen, from what I have said above, that such a civilization would no doubt not think it worthwhile to send us radio messages). In fact, either our neighbours are still

in the Stone Age — or even earlier than that — or, alternatively, they are in possession of an advanced Physics and it would be of no use to them to send us messages by radio. *For they would already know about us without that. Namely by other means.*

WE ARE BEING HOODWINKED

The SETI Project consequently errs by reason of its *anthropocentricity*. And this brings us back once again to the UFO Problem, which to me appears to underlie this entire business.

I find it difficult to believe that all the arguments set out by me above, and which militate against the success of SETI, have not been clearly analyzed by the instigators of the SETI Project at the very topmost political and scientific levels.

And that would still be the case, even though many astronomers who ask themselves no questions regarding future progress in theoretical Physics must genuinely believe, in all good faith, in the success of the SETI operation.

It is moreover interesting to note that the astronomer most conspicuous as a supporter and as a collaborator in Project SETI is — if we are to believe his own public statements — perfectly well aware of the great disparity in the ages of planetary systems and of the enormous technological advance that must result from it among any scientific civilization existing in our galactic “neighbourhood”. But he won’t go further, and he does not draw the conclusions. Or — at any rate — he doesn’t reveal them to the media.

Why then offer our public this doubtless vain hope that SETI will enable us to establish contact with Extraterrestrials *for the first time* (sic!) since the beginnings of human history?

I venture to suggest — with of course all the necessary reservations — that the explanation for this may well be as follows:-

EVER SINCE 1947, IT HAS BEEN KNOWN HERE, AT THE VERY HIGHEST LEVEL IN THE GOVERNMENTS AND THE SECURITY SERVICES, THAT THE UFOS DO EXIST AND THAT THEY ARE NOT OF TERRESTRIAL ORIGIN. EVERYTHING POSSIBLE IS BEING DONE TO HIDE THIS FROM THE PUBLIC, EITHER BY ROUNDLY DENYING THE WHOLE THING OR — MORE CLEVERLY — BY MERELY SUGGESTING THAT THERE MIGHT BE A GREAT NUMBER OF POSSIBLE EXPLANATIONS FOR THE UFOS OTHER THAN THE ONE OF EXTRATERRESTRIAL VEHICLES.

THE DEGREE OF DISINFORMATION HAS IN FACT BEEN SUCH THAT A MAJORITY OF OUR SCIENTISTS, AND IN PARTICULAR OF OUR ASTRONOMERS, REALLY DO HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO “BELIEF” IN THE UFOS.

THIS IS NOT THE PLACE FOR US TO ENGAGE IN AN ANALYSIS OF THE REASONS FOR SUCH DISINFORMATION — REASONS

WHICH MAYBE DERIVE ABOVE ALL FROM FEAR AND FROM A SENSE OF HELPLESSNESS.

THE QUESTION WHICH I NOW ASK IS THIS: IN SETTING UP THE SETI PROJECT, AND IN GIVING IT SUCH GREAT PUBLICITY IN THE MEDIA, ARE NOT CERTAIN FOLK HOLDING VERY RESPONSIBLE POSITIONS HERE MAYBE HOPING TO BE ABLE TO PRETEND THAT THEY ARE DISAPPOINTED WHEN, AFTER A FEW YEARS, THE FAILURE OF THE SETI PROJECT HAS BECOME GLARINGLY OBVIOUS, AND ALSO HOPING TO BE ABLE TO "PROVE" TO

PUBLIC OPINION THAT EXTRATERRESTRIALS QUITE CERTAINLY CANNOT REACH THE EARTH BECAUSE IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THERE AREN'T ANY OF THEM ANYWHERE IN THE UNIVERSE ANYWAY?

"A PARANOIC INTERPRETATION", ONE MIGHT SAY, "AND ONE WHICH POSTULATES THE ELABORATION OF A TRULY DIABOLICAL CONSPIRACY".

AND WHAT IF SUCH AN INTERPRETATION WERE IN FACT A VERY REALISTIC ONE? ■

SOME RECENT UFO SIGHTINGS IN POLAND

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*(Translation from Polish, Robert Lesniakiewicz)
(Edited and corrected by G.C.)*

A. NOVEMBER 5 1990

On November 5, 1990, three men from a Polish Army infantry unit at Opole, Arkadiusz Adamiec, Tadeusz Krzyzak, and Mariusz Skaznik, observed a strange phenomenon.

"It occurred at a few minutes after 7.00 p.m. We had just finished supper, and went outside. Then suddenly, looking up, we saw a group of probably as many as about 20 red shining balls travelling rapidly towards the centre of the town. Most of them had 'tails' which glowed brightly, just as red as the balls themselves.

Then, about 5-8 seconds later, a second group of the balls appeared, also with 'tails'. The number of balls in this second group was smaller.

At exactly the same time, on the other side of Opole, other eyewitnesses were also observing strange balls. One of these witnesses was Mr. Pawel Wozniak, a pilot, and this is what he later told me:-

"No — it was no question of 'rockets', or 'fireworks', or of 'jet planes'! I could detect no sound of engines whatsoever. I likewise rule out any possibility of meteors, because the trajectory was totally different from the trajectory of meteors. These things had pulsating flames..."

That same evening, on the road from Opole to Wroclaw (old German name Breslau. G.C.) a large number of cars were to be seen parked along the way. Their drivers had got out and were looking up at the sky. Among these drivers was Mr. Jan Czabanowski of Nysa. He said later:-

"It was a cluster of lights, very similar to stars, all of them red and pulsating. I counted a total of more than 40 of them".

A twelve-year-old girl, Miss Joasia Kruszewska, who lives at Glubczyce, near Opole, said that, after attending mass, she had come out of the church and seen "strange 'glow-worms' in the sky — like a swarm of shining red stars. Some of them looked like comets and had long 'tails'. They vanished just as rapidly as they had appeared".

Mr. Grzegorz L— (name withheld from publication) was standing at about 7.00 p.m. at a tram-stop in Czestochowa when he saw some bright shining points of light, of varying sizes, passing over rapidly from West to East. He said they were red and yellow in colour. The leading one was larger than the others. The sighting lasted about half-a-minute.

An almost identical report came in from a Mrs. Zofia P— (name withheld from publication) of Myszków. She too saw the formation of lights with a larger one leading. She said there were about ten of the lights, and they had trails. She said that most of them were moving slowly, while two were faster.

On the same day, at about 7.00 p.m., a sighting occurred at Chmielnik (district of Kielce) where a Mr. Kazimierz Slomka and his family saw a group of flashing lights travelling rapidly from West to East at an altitude estimated by him to be about 500 metres.

Mr. Zdzislaw Kilim of Kielce also reported a