

RECENT ASTRONOMICAL REPORTS FROM RUSSIA

1. SCIENTIST CLAIMS "SIGNS OF LIFE" FROM FOUR DWARF STARS OF OUR GALAXY

(Translation from Spanish newspaper, *La Vanguardia*, Barcelona, of May 1, 1987. Credit and thanks to FSR Consultant J. Plana Crivillén.)

MOSCOW — *EFE Spanish News Agency*. The concentrations of radio waves — as distinct from "cosmic noise" — around four dwarf stars located in our Galaxy may be an indication of extraterrestrial life of a high technical level.

Alexei Arjipov, a member of the Ukrainian Institute of Radio-Astronomy affiliated to the USSR Academy of Sciences, asserts that he has located various radio signals floating around in the Cosmos and has interpreted them as the work of some intelligence or other.

"The radio waves, which range from 100 megahertz to 1,000 megahertz, are", so he says, "very distinct from the background cosmic noise, and it is my theory that we have found an industrial centre of some other civilization that has a high degree of intelligence."

According to advanced studies that have been made, there are about 600 million planets in our Galaxy, the Milky Way, which could possess the conditions necessary to sustain life, and in some 530,000 of them the life could be intelligent and technological.

All these figures derive from the work of a large number of specialists in various countries.

This discovery and location of the four dwarf stars by the Soviet scientist is apparently the first proof which might confirm the theoretical studies made on life outside the Earth.

Some theories, supported by the early work of the American chemist Stanley Miller, assert that the formation of life is a common phenomenon on planets that are similar during their period of formation and have as their components water, ammonia, methane, and hydrogen.

Miller investigated the consequences of mixing these four basic components of planets in formation in a sterile container, applied ultraviolet rays as a substitute for the Sun, and put an electrical charge through it. A week later it resulted in the appearance of complex molecules, including glycine and alanine, the simplest of the aminoacids contained in proteins.

Here in the USSR, the discussion of possible extraterrestrial life is handled with great prudence, inasmuch as in this country all the means of communication belong to the State and, as a consequence, seek to avoid sensationalism.

This report of the discovery of cosmic radio waves by the Soviet astronomer was issued by the official TASS news agency, and although they gave the report without comment, they indicated that the discovery is important, and opens a new path in the investigation of Space. However, the Soviet authorities have not indicated the precise locations of the four dwarf stars which might harbour intelligent life, and this has aroused the curiosity of many specialists in other countries, who have now launched an intensive search for the four stars.

2. "RUSSIANS SCOUR SPACE FOR INTELLIGENT LIFE"

An article under this title in *The Times* newspaper, London, September 8, 1987, quotes Soviet astronomer Nikolai Kardashev, Deputy Director of the Soviet Institute of Space Research, as saying recently that he is optimistic about finding signs of the extraterrestrial civilizations "by the end of the 20th century".

(Older FSR readers will recall that many years ago — maybe nearly twenty — Kardashev issued a fabulous claim that extraterrestrial signals had been picked up by him and had been "decyphered". Very soon after that he was obliged to retract the statement. For all we know, he may indeed have actually "decyphered" something — the Russian word used was *deshifirovat*, which is unequivocal — but Western scientists, with the Soviet Government, all poohpooed the story at the time.)

The Soviet News Agency APN goes on to say that Academician Vitaly Ginzburg, a leading Soviet theoretical physicist, shares Kardashev's views. Both say that failure so far has been because our astronomers were uncertain as to which areas of the sky they ought to concentrate their efforts on, and uncertain about the best radio frequencies likely to be used by any notional transmitters that aliens might be operating. Ginzburg assumes that any extraterrestrial civilization would be broadcasting in the 1.7 millimetre waveband, this belief deriving from the work done by U.S. scientists over 20 years ago when they discovered "relic radiation" containing information about the evolution of the Universe after the "Big Bang", and they found that the most powerful signals coming in were precisely on the 1.7 mm. wave-length. Furthermore, this particular wave-length would, it seems, be ideal for communication over vast distances owing to the almost total absence of any other transmission.

In a single year recently the Russians allegedly recorded nearly 20,000 new sources of infra-red emissions with one of their tracking satellites. Of these, the brightest emission came from the constellation of Sagittarius, in the Southern Hemisphere. The *Times* article says the Russians concluded that this "might be coming from an artificial body".

Meanwhile, at the Special Astrophysical Observatory in the Caucasus Mountains, a group of other Soviet astronomers, under Viktor Shvartsman, are concentrating on a different line of research — namely *optical signals* — by the use of *lasers*.

In a "unique experiment", says the Soviet despatch, this group are scanning the Universe for artificial laser signals, using the six-metre mirror of the BTA-6 optical telescope, which is the world's largest. This telescope, linked to a multichannel Analyzer of Man-Second Variations in Brightness (known by the "somewhat unfortunate" Russian acronym "MANIA", as *The Times* observes) can detect any change in the brightness of a cosmic source, provided that it lasts one-millionth of a second. The Caucasus Group of

Soviet astronomers is concentrating its attention on stars of the same category as our Sun. (Credit and thanks to Paul Whitehead, FSR Consultant, and several other readers who drew attention to the report in *The Times*. — G.C.)

A Thought

Why — we might wonder — all this constant “search for life in Outer Space” WHEN ALL THE LEADING GOVERNMENTS ON THIS PLANET ALREADY KNOW THAT ALIENS ARE HERE IN HUGE NUMBERS, PROBABLY BOTH “EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL” and “INTERDIMENSIONAL”, AND HAVE BEEN HERE FOR A LONG, LONG TIME?

The explanation must surely be that the Governments are all “*over a barrel*”, as the Americans say. While aware of the aliens, the Governments have been suppressing the truth for forty years. For doing this, the Governments are not in any way to be blamed or censured. They are doing the right thing, for much of the truth is proving to be highly *unpleasant*.

So, this is one excellent reason for official silence.

BUT, OVER AND BEYOND THAT, IS THERE NOT THE FEELING OF IMPOTENCE AND INFERIORITY IN THE FACE OF ALIENS WHO CAN COME HERE, WHILE WE CAN'T GO THERE!

MY GUESS THEREFORE IS THAT, WHEN THEY HAVE ACCUMULATED A GOOD COLLECTION OF “EXTRATERRESTRIAL SIGNALS”, THE GOVERNMENTS WILL THEN FEEL THEY ARE IN A STRONG ENOUGH POSITION TO TELL US:-

“LOOK CHUMS — SEE WHAT WE'VE FOUND! THERE ARE MILLIONS AND MILLIONS OF E.T.s. BUT DON'T WORRY! THEY ARE ALL AWAY OUT THERE — UMPTEEN MILLION LIGHT YEARS FROM US. SO THERE'S NO DANGER THAT THEY WILL EVER GET HERE AND THREATEN US!”

(SUCH AN OFFICIAL STATEMENT, WHEN IT COMES, MAY WELL BE ISSUED ON THE SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS OF THE PARTICULAR ALIENS, WHO HAVE RUN THIS PLACE, AND OWNED US, FROM TIME IMMEMORIAL, BUT WHO DON'T SEE WHY WE SHOULD KNOW THIS. AFTER ALL, IF YOU WERE IN THE ALIENS' SHOES, WOULDN'T YOU DO THE SAME? — G.C.)

THE NEW “FRENCH DISEASE”

Gordon Creighton

IT is extremely fashionable nowadays to quote “the French” as being paragons of virtue where ufological study is concerned. Time and again we hear the same old story being repeated, that “the French are doing great things in UFO research”, that GEPAN is churning out the stuff, and that therefore God's in His Heaven and all's right with the world.

Well of course it is quite true that, away back in 1974, when the French Minister for Defence gave his famous interview on the television, we ourselves shared this naive belief about France and about GEPAN and (we admit this with sorrow) we were the ones who advertised this glorious news most strongly.

But the years have rolled on since 1974, and anybody who has been reading FSR with any degree of care will have perceived long ago that the GEPAN bubble has been pricked and that GEPAN has been proved to be a total nonsense, a cover-up like all the rest.

Unfortunately however there are important folk in Britain who do not appear to realize this, and are still beating the GEPAN drum. (The Foreword to Timothy Good's *Above Top Secret* is an excellent example!)

As further proof, we now invite attention to the article published below, which we have just received from our Consultant Dr Jean-Pierre Petit, a Senior Scientific Officer with the CNRS (French *National Commission for Scientific Research*). We hope that Dr Petit's statement, written at the end of July 1987, will provide the *coup de grâce* that was apparently needed, and will finish off this hoary old myth about GEPAN and the wonderful work it is doing to solve the UFO Problem. The actual truth of the matter is of course that nobody on this planet is more terrified about the

UFOs than the French, and that there is not the slightest possibility that anything is going to come out of any Government-sponsored or Government-controlled body in that country. (Or, for that matter, in any other country either.) We do not doubt that a few private and civilian French investigation groups; like the valiant *Lumières Dans La Nuit* team will carry on as usual. They will however, as we say, be few, for Ufology in France is gravely afflicted now with the severe new disease known as “*sociopsychology*”. In recent months we have received much highly interesting information about the bearers of this new species of plague, and it has come to us from several of the best known and most respected of the French leaders in our subject. The general tenor of their conclusions is well summed up in the words of one of their number, who writes:-

“While not *directly* manipulated by the Communists, these ‘new French leaders’ are a muddled-up sort of mess of marxo-cartesianism plus ‘soixante-huitard’ leftism, * left-wing Catholicism, and God knows what else ... You might say their general inspiration very much resembles that of the ‘*New Scientist*’ in Britain. ‘Sociopsychology’ is of course just a fad and, like all fads, it will expire in due course”.

* * * * *

(* NOTE. By ‘*soixante-huitard leftism*’ our correspondent indicates the particular brand of left-wing ‘woolliness’ -cum-marxist-thuggery which animated the so-called “Student's Revolt” of 1968, when a revolutionary attempt to bring down the government of General de Gaulle was defeated on the streets of Paris. — EDITOR)

GEPAN = CONDON

Dr Jean-Pierre Petit

Senior Scientific Officer with the CNRS

(French National Commission For Scientific Research), and Consultant to FSR.

(Translation from French)

JUST a week ago (July 1987), I was in Quebec, attending an international scientific exhibition. And by pure chance I found myself face to face with a man known to me by name. As a matter of fact, I had seen his initials at the foot of an official letter from the CNES (French *Commission For The Exploration of Space*, Toulouse) which Claude Poher had shown me in 1977, confirming the creation of GEPAN. This man was at that time the Secretary-General of the CNES.

We were in the cafeteria of the University of Quebec, and I had no difficulty in getting him to talk about GEPAN. And I am here reporting what he said, for it carries a lot of weight. We had all had our suspicions before that, but now we have from this man's own lips *the proof of the imposture*:—

JPP: Were you one of the people who created GEPAN?

Reply: Yes — I was one of those who created GEPAN. At the CNES we had received requests from various quarters to do this. There were for example the Military, the IHEDN (Institute of Higher Studies on National Defence), and certain politicians, including, if I remember rightly, Debré . . .

JPP: Why had this organization, GEPAN, been set up?

Reply: I make no secret of the fact that the creation of GEPAN was aimed to serve a task that was totally negative. It was merely a question of reducing the UFO problem to a group of natural phenomena, in order to calm and cool down public opinion on the subject . . .

JPP: GEPAN didn't do much in its ten years.

Reply: It seems to me that Esterle did some pretty good work, but of course, indeed, given the objective being pursued . . .

JPP: According to my calculations, GEPAN has cost the taxpayer between 1,000,000,000 and 2,000,000,000 centimes* in the ten years.

Reply: Oh — do you think so? As much as that?

JPP: Well, just count it up. For a while they had three engineers working full-time, two of whom, Esterle and Canbel, were graduates of the big universities, and then there was Zappoli, a DSc (Doctor of Science).

Reply: Ah — you may perhaps be right . . .

JPP: And, besides, GEPAN is still in existence.

Reply: Oh, well — very small . . . You know, that's how you go about it when you want to make a department disappear. You let it die off gradually.

I then talked to him about the critical situation in which I and my research colleague Lebrun now find ourselves; our lack of resources; and the fact that, a month from now, Lebrun will be unemployed. He replied:

JPP: "You researchers — you don't know how to organize. You should regroup; produce some coherent project aiming at a concrete result, and make contact with industrialists, with banks . . ."

(In other words, "finance yourselves, while *we* go on squandering the Nation's funds with impunity".)

* * * * *

This dialogue which I have reproduced above gives us the historical low-down on the whole business, but these lines will provoke no scandal. We are in France. But now we have a far better understanding of why it was that all our attempts to propose serious research projects remained unanswered by GEPAN. *That body had not been created in order to elucidate, but in order to bury.*

One might perhaps wonder to oneself about this sort of behaviour, about this sort of politics. But we mustn't see anything machiavellian or cynical in it. One might even go so far as to consider it all just as a totally natural reaction. As a simple rejection mechanism, *immunological* in its essence, as I have already described it in an earlier article.

It confirms our impression that we shall get nothing from any organization whatsoever. But we had already known this, for more than a year past. (At the most we might perhaps dream of a providential legacy, from some rich and eccentric widow, full of fanciful ideas and enthusiasms about UFOs. Though alas there's scant enough likelihood of *that* happening . . .)

But it is an astounding situation in which to find ourselves — just at the very moment when Lebrun and I have discovered the keys that would enable us to simulate, in a supersonic wind-tunnel, with jets of cold air, almost as it were under flight conditions, the behaviour of a *magnetohydrodynamic aerodyne* manoeuvring without any "supersonic bang"!

* In other words, between ten million and twenty million French Francs. — ED.

NEW DISCOVERY BY CANADIAN ASTRONOMERS

ACCORDING to a report in *The Observer*, London, of July 5, 1987, recent work by Canadian astronomers indicates that half of certain near-by stars which they have been studying may in fact possess planets, and news of this was announced at a recent meeting of

the American Astronomical Society. Commenting upon the report, Professor Archibald Roy of Glasgow University said: "*These observations suggest that half our Galaxy's 100,000 million stars have planets — and that means we must have a good chance of finding life*"

'out there'. If we haven't found extraterrestrial life by the end of this century, then we will have to conclude that human life is an improbable accident. On the other hand, we may find that life is widespread throughout the Universe — and that will have profound religious and philosophical implications”.

This new work in Canada has been carried out by Dr Bruce Campbell of the Dominion Astronomical Observatory, Victoria, B.C., and Dr Gordon Walker and Dr Stephenson Yang, both of the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, B.C., utilizing an entirely new astronomical measuring technique known as high-resolution spectroscopy.

By means of this method, they were able to measure very accurately the variations in the light from stars, and the slight differences noted by them indicate, as they report, that many of the stars “were being pushed or pulled out of their paths by unseen planets”.

Full details of their findings, as given in the latest issue of *Science*, indicate that, out of some sixteen near-by stars, two, namely *Epsilon Eridani* and *Gamma Cephei*, were definitely being affected by large bodies in orbit around them. And of the remaining 14 stars, at least five or six more seemed also to have “unseen companions”.

The astronomers calculate that these new planets — and planets they definitely are — are far, far more massive than our Earth — maybe several hundred times as big!

As Professor Archie Roy emphasises, if there are 100,000 million stars in the Galaxy, of which about one-fifth are stable and cool like our Sun, and if about half of the stars also have planets, “that leaves us with 10,000 million stars fulfilling the most important criteria for supporting life. It's very encouraging!”

Before long, two important Space projects, the *Space Telescope* and the European satellite *Hipparchus*, are to be launched, and both of these new tools will greatly enhance the astronomers' present capacity to detect minute variations in the motions of stars due to the presence of orbiting planets.

Parallel with all this, the current programme of SETI (*The Search For Extraterrestrial Intelligence*) will also be proceeding, and will be concentrating on the study of radio-waves from those stars thought to possess life-bearing planets.

By the close of this century many scientists are therefore confident that we shall have the answer to the big question: *ARE WE ALONE?*

MAIL BAG

In Search of the “Goodies” (1)

Dear Gordon Creighton, — In answer to your Editorial appeal to hear from people who have, within the past decade or two, had Close Encounters of the “nice”, open, and *plainly friendly* kind so prevalent during the '50s — most often with craft occupants who appeared to be close to us genetically...

Occasionally I learn of a case of this type occurring here lately. I have two in mind, both involving scientists, but from different continents. (They met each other recently ... to their mutual gain.)

On the whole, though, the pattern has changed — for twenty-odd years now — to typically *stranger*-appearing aliens, of a wide variety of types, employing abduction and/or memory-block for part or most of the Encounter. None of these three aspects is, in itself, cause for alarm.

Correspondents are asked to keep their letters short and give full name and address (not necessarily for publication). It is not always possible for the Editor to acknowledge every letter personally, and so he takes this opportunity to thank all who write to him.

But some of the techniques used by certain types of aliens strike me, and many other researchers, as fundamentally unethical. You're already very familiar with them, but they belong outside the frame of this letter, which is to reply to your query regarding “friendly” Encounters.

While at the Rocky Mountains UFO Investigators' Conference in July 1987 I met and spoke with many “Encountered” people, and all of them claimed that, after the initial trauma of Encounter and suddenly shifting Perspective had become more acceptable and “liveable”, they found their lives *tremendously enriched*. One such woman, whom I met on the Registration Day, but seldom saw there for more than a friendly wave of hand, in the end offered me a ride with her back to Denver, to save me having to board a bus in the wee small hours.

It was an unforgettable ride. Our lovely sunny weather had disap-

peared, and it poured rain all the miles to Denver. But we listened to beautiful music from her tape-deck and talked about the Conference, and the kindly and uncritical persons met there. (Neither of us had ever met any of them before.) Dr Leo Sprinkle had invited me by letter, after having read my letter which you had published in FSR. (About the long-term effects of encounter, see FSR 31/6.) She, on the other hand, had been carrying her memories, and her misgivings, alone for several years, and had heard about the Conference through her boss at work, and she had telephoned to Leo Sprinkle about her plight.

Well now — she was like a different person now from the young woman I'd met and lunched with on the first day of the Conference. And, she said, “*No Wonder!*” Three days of communicating with “open” and “sharing” people, plus insights gained from some of the speakers, had turned

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