

A SPEECH BY WILBERT B. SMITH

With the death of Wilbert B. Smith on December 27, 1962, Ufology lost one of its most honoured investigators. Even those who disagreed with his views paid tribute to his integrity and the open-minded approach he brought to the bewildering array of evidence. The article which follows is a transcript of a tape-recorded speech which Mr. Smith delivered at Ottawa, Canada, on March 31, 1958. It is hoped that **FLYING SAUCER REVIEW** may be able to print another of his recorded speeches not only for its intrinsic interest but also as a tribute to a highly respected man. We are grateful to the Vancouver Flying Saucer Club for their assistance in the reproduction of this speech.

I HAVE been actively engaged in the investigation of the group of phenomena known as flying saucers for over two years. During this period I have read most of the available literature on the subject, interviewed a great many people who have seen unusual things in the sky, examined many pictures and physical objects, made observations with scientific instruments, and carried on a series of communications with intelligences claiming to be extra-terrestrial.

I started the investigation out of curiosity, and as an extreme sceptic, fully expecting to find the phenomena to be due to man-made or natural causes. I am 48 years old, hold a Master's degree in electrical engineering, occupy a responsible position in the Canadian Government, hold half a dozen patents, am author of several technical papers, and in general enjoy a background in technical work and science indicating at least an average competence to study and report on phenomena of a scientific nature.

I have tried as far as possible to use conventional and standard methods and equipment, and to investigate all possible angles before drawing any conclusions. In other words, I have followed the same general procedures which I would have followed if I had undertaken to study some more prosaic subject, such as radio wave propagation.

The first phase of the work consisted of reading all available literature, collecting as much observational data as possible, and in general getting a fair per-

spective of the problem. The second phase involved theoretical and laboratory work, finding openings in our technology and in establishing relevant reference points. And the third phase involved following up the many and varied leads which developed from the first two phases.

I do not intend to dwell on the first phase of the work as my experience was exactly parallel with that of other investigators who have provided extensive published reports on their findings. Nor will I dwell on the many dead ends which were explored, which looked promising at first, but faded out under careful investigation. Nor will I be able to be as specific as I would like to be with respect to material given to me in confidence, or which came to me through classified channels. Furthermore, it is not my intention to try to convert anyone to my way of thinking, but merely to state what I believe and why I believe it.

Let us look at a few facts. First, hundreds of normal, honest people have seen lights in the sky which behaved like no light normally seen in the sky ought to behave. Secondly, hundreds of normal, honest people have seen what appeared to be solid, real objects in the sky, which behaved like no object normally seen in the sky ought to behave. Thirdly, hundreds of people have seen objects in the earth's atmosphere at sufficiently close range to see enough detail to enable them to say definitely what the object was *not*, even though they could not identify what it was. Fourthly,

descriptions of these objects from observers where circumstances virtually preclude collusion, check quite well among themselves, and against data received from other sources.

It is not reasonable to suppose that hundreds of ordinary, normal people, whose word we would readily accept under more mundane circumstances—for instance, as witness to an automobile accident—should suddenly become liars, fools, neurotics and otherwise quite incompetent observers.

I have interviewed many of these people myself, and I am convinced they are sane, sober, honest folk who are reporting as best they can something which they really did witness. I will concede that maybe some of these people did not do as good a job of observing as someone who is better trained might have done, but within their limits, I believe they did honestly report what they saw.

Let us look at a few more facts. First, there have been several close brushes with these objects, and in one case at least the aircraft pilot lost his life as a consequence. Captain Mantell was reported killed as a result of chasing a flying saucer on January 7, 1947. The incident is described in detail in the *Report on Unidentified Flying Objects* by Edward J. Ruppelt, pp. 51-60 (American edition).

Secondly, people who have been near these objects have described physical sensations which are unusual to say the least, but which are quite con-

sistent with what is known of the technology under which they operate. As nearly as we are able to re-create the accident, Mantell was pursuing a UFO and was able to get quite near—in fact, well into its operating field. His aircraft just fell apart and was scattered over quite an area. Mantell's body, when recovered, was not displayed even to his next of kin. Several people who have found themselves close to these objects have remarked on the insufferable heat which seemed to pervade the general region. Also there seemed to be a gravitational necessity to lean away from the object to maintain balance. While these facts seem rather incredible, nevertheless there exists quite a good record in support of each occurrence. Furthermore, the technology of which we have been able to get a glimpse — namely, that of manipulation of the three basic fields, electric, magnetic and tempic — indicates quite a straightforward answer and explanation of the phenomena.

In Mantell's case, the altered field configuration in the vicinity of the craft reduced the binding forces* within the structure of the aircraft to a value below that of the load which the parts were supposed to carry. So it just came apart. Also, there was probably a substantial reduction in tempic field intensity which would give in effect a rising temperature to the aircraft and contents. I understand that Mantell's body gave every indication of having been subjected to considerable heat. This rise in temperature has been reported as being quite noticeable at distances of several hundred feet of these craft when they are making use of certain combinations of field. Also, since gravity involves a tempic field function, it follows that an alteration in this field could well be reflected in the direction and magnitude of the nearby gravity field.

There have been quite a number of alleged communica-

* See article "Binding Forces," by Wilbert B. Smith, *FLYING SAUCER REVIEW*, March-April, 1961, issue.

tions with intelligences claiming to be extra-terrestrial. I have followed up each instance to the best of my ability in an effort (a) to establish or disprove the validity of the alleged communication and (b) to obtain any information which might be available if the contact should be authentic.

As might be expected, many of these alleged contacts provided little or nothing of value, but a few did pay off. Some of the contacts have been the subject of published material, but by far the majority are confidential, and there are a surprising number of these contacts. The procedure in checking contacts was to ask a number of innocuous but significant questions and compare the answers with the answer to the same questions obtained through other contacts. The questions were of the type—do people live on the planet Mars?—if so, what is the shape of their houses?—do people on Mars use money?—if so, what does it look like? Altogether, some hundred or more questions were involved.

The results were spectacular, to say the least. Among the contacts that might be classed as authentic, there was almost complete agreement. Among the other alleged contacts there was extremely poor agreement, or none at all. Of course, where agreement was general, but where one or two points didn't fit, an effort was made to find out the reason for the discrepancy. In each case it was found that someone had injected a terrestrial idea or comment instead of transmitting faithfully that which was received.

Now, having located what seemed to be channels of communication between ourselves and those extra-terrestrial intelligences, the next and obvious step was to try and get as much information as possible. As may be expected, this effort was at first directed towards science and technology. But it soon became apparent that there was a very real and quite large gap between this alien science and the science in which I had been trained.

Certain crucial experiments were suggested and carried out, and in each case the results confirmed the validity of the alien science. Beyond this, the alien science was just incomprehensible.

There followed a period of soul-searching in which many doubts were raised. While we were able to establish that these people from outside all told the same story, was that story true? It may be agreed that there existed some pretty good evidence to support their statements, but maybe there was some other conventional explanation. If the whole thing was a delusion, then quite a large number of people were suffering from precisely the same delusion. And furthermore—delusions are not externalised—at least, I never heard of such a case. If, on the other hand, it was a hoax, it was by far the most gigantic hoax the world had ever known, and to what end and by whom was it perpetrated?

The inevitable conclusion was that it was all real enough, but that the alien science was definitely alien — and possibly even for ever beyond our comprehension. So another approach was tried—the philosophical—and here the answer was found in all its grandeur.

I will not go into details on the many revisions in ideas and basic thinking beyond stating that the people from outside displayed great patience and understanding in overcoming the prejudices and misinformation I had spent many years in accumulating. I began for the first time in my life to realise the basic one-ness of the Universe and all that is in it—science, philosophy, religion, substance and energy are all facets of the same jewel, and before any one facet can be appreciated, the form of the jewel itself must be perceived.

One of the most important things I had to realise was that we are not alone. The human race in the form of man extends throughout the Universe, and is incredibly ancient. Also, its appearance in physical form is but one of the many manifestations along the path of progress.

Our civilisation here on earth now is only one of many that have come and gone. This planet has been colonised many times by people from elsewhere, and our present human race are blood-brothers of these people. Is it any wonder that they are interested in us? To orthodox thinkers this may seem strange, but not nearly so strange as our orthodox ideas on evolution. The question might be asked — if these people are our brothers, and are interested in our welfare, why do they remain so aloof? The answer is available. There is a basic law of the Universe which grants each and every individual independence and freedom of choice, so that he may experience and learn from his experiences. No one has the right to interfere in the affairs of others — in fact, our ten commandments are directives against interference. If we disregard this law, we must suffer the consequences, and a little thought will show that our present world state is directly attributable to violation of this principle. When we enter this life, we do so to participate in certain events, the sequence of which was established before our birth, and which if altered substantially would deprive us of experiences necessary to our development. We have built-in protection against altering substantially the sequences in that we do not consciously know of them. But these people from outside have a much greater knowledge than we have, and have means of perceiving sequences which must not be changed. Therefore, while they have every desire in the world to help, and stand by ready, able and willing to do so, they are not permitted by cosmic law to interfere. The dividing line between help and interference is very delicate indeed, and sometimes hard to perceive, but it is a demonstration of individual and collective progress as to how well we can be guided by it. I am told that one of the difficulties is that we do not recognise a sufficient number of dimensions and make use of them in our science. Furthermore, we do not recognise the

true nature of dimensions, or of their place in our Universe. I am told that, so far as we are concerned, there are twelve dimensions of deity, and these provide the entire structure of our Universe. Our conventional concepts of dimensions are most inadequate and restrictive, and so long as we persist in them, we can never transcend the world of mechanical processes which we have built.

In science we have an established procedure always to tie a new discovery or observation to that which we already know, even though to do so requires extensive patchwork and perturbation factors to be applied to our existing knowledge to make the new knowledge fit. We invariably assume that the new knowledge must somehow be closely related to the old, and we are most zealous in tying the two together. As a consequence we bend and warp our units of knowledge so that we can fasten them together, whether or not they belong together, until we have fabricated quite a structure which is almost completely closed on itself. Consequently, when we do find knowledge that should, but just won't, fit our structure, we have no alternative but to reject it.

I am informed that the science is really much more simple than we imagine, and all the component parts fit together perfectly without any corrections. Possibly we should start over again and reassemble our knowledge in a different pattern, and this time fit the jigsaw puzzle together properly without trimming the pieces. I feel sure that if we were to do this and accept the philosophy on which this new approach must of necessity be based, we can enjoy the technology and the way of life which is demonstrated to us by the presence of spacecraft and of our brothers from elsewhere.

I would like to say a few words on the philosophy of the saucers. Possibly one of the most interesting aspects of the study of flying saucers, beyond the realisation that they are real and extra-

terrestrial, is their philosophy. What manner of creatures build and fly them? What do they look like? How do they think? Are their ideas and ideals similar to ours? Could we understand them?

All these and other questions plague the serious investigator. If we are to rely on sighting data alone, we are bound to get a rather one-sided idea of these creatures. For example, we see saucers travel at terrific speeds, and then suddenly stop or change direction. Under our concepts of physics, no creature of flesh and blood and bone could withstand the terrific forces which would be associated with such actions. Therefore we are likely to assume that the saucerians must be either some manner of robot, or a creature the like of which we have never encountered.

Again, it is hard to understand why any race of creatures having the tremendous power at their disposal which we demonstrated by the saucers should be content to fly rather aimlessly over our globe without doing something more definite. If the tables were reversed, we certainly would! After a very brief reconnaissance we would land and announce to the natives that we were taking over. The fact that the saucerians have made no such move appears to indicate that they must regard us in the same general category as the other flora and fauna native to this planet, and to them our civilisation is so primitive as to be indistinguishable from that of the lower animals and insects. We could go on speculating in this manner for quite a while without coming anywhere near the truth. Fortunately, the people who come to us from elsewhere in flying saucers have seen fit to make contact with people of earth, and to impart as much information and understanding as the contacts were capable of assimilating or passing along to others.

There have been many published instances of contacts between these people from outside and the people of earth, and a

very great many more which have not been published. As is always the case in any new and romantic field, there are those who prevaricate and exaggerate, but it is not too difficult to establish that the vast majority are honest and authentic. For instance, when a dozen or so independent contacts, having no common connection and each alone believing that he or she has been favoured above all others to receive this message, and tell the same message even to names and descriptions which tally perfectly, one has little choice but to believe that they are telling the truth. Furthermore, when the material given to us through the many channels is all assembled and analysed, it adds up to a complete and elegant philosophy which makes our efforts sound like the beating of jungle drums.

These people tell us of a magnificent cosmic plan, of which we are a part, which transcends the lifetime of a single person or nation or civilisation, or even a planet or solar system. We are not merely told that there is

something beyond our immediate experience—we are told what it is and our relation therewith. Many of our most vexing problems are solved with a few words—at least, we are told of the solutions if we have the understanding and fortitude to apply them. We are told of the inadequacies of our science, and we have been given the basic grounding for a new science which is at once simpler and yet more embracing than the mathematical monstrosity which we have conjured up. We have been told of a way of life which is Utopian beyond our dreams, and the means of attaining it.

Can it be that such a self-consistent and magnificent philosophy is the figment of imagination of a number of misguided morons? I do not think so. If the only evidence we had was philosophical, we might justifiably suspect it. But when coupled with the reality of observations—thousands of them—we cannot dismiss it so easily. This is especially true when we consider that the science which has been passed to us by these

people from elsewhere explains in a manner in which we have been quite unable to do, why the saucers behave as they do, and how it is that they can do things which to us are virtually impossible. The science and the performance check perfectly. Again, we have been told where our scientific ideas are wrong or inadequate, and experiments have been suggested and carried out, and in every case the alien science has been vindicated.

We may ask, if all this is known, why has it not been publicised? Why are not these matters being studied instead of atom bombs? The answer—it has been publicised. Books have been written and hundreds and thousands of copies sold. There are available many periodicals containing this material which may be had for quite a nominal sum. Reports have been prepared by serious investigators and presented through the proper channels, but it is truly said that one can lead a horse to water, but one cannot make him drink!

World round-up

*of news
and comment
about recent
sightings*

ENGLAND

Surrey woman sees saucer

The *Coulsdon and Purley Times* on June 14 printed the following report: "A Whyteleafe woman reported seeing something like a flying saucer in the night sky near her home on Thursday last week.

"Mrs. Phyllis Watters, of John's Walk, says she watched the object—it looked like a huge lantern hanging in the sky—for half-an-hour from 11.40 onwards. Then it gradually moved away into the distance, Mrs. Watters told the *Times*. She said she thought there was a similar object, a little smaller or further away, but it was half hidden by trees. 'They looked something like flying saucers to me. I was hoping someone else had seen the objects, because my husband and people I have told all think I am mad; but I am certain they were not aeroplanes or anything of that nature,' she said.

"There was a plane about, because I could hear it, and I thought it might be keeping observation on the objects.

"A spokesman at R.A.F. Kenley said: 'We were not carrying out any aerial operations that night and as far as we know no one else has reported seeing anything strange.' Kenley police also said they had received no reports of strange objects in the sky."

Oldham six see saucer

"A group of young Royton people walking home along Rochdale Road, Oldham, recently saw a 'flying saucer.'

"The party saw the oval shape hover silently 150 feet above their heads for 15 minutes then

glide over the Oldham and District General Hospital towards nearby playing fields.

"I know it sounds crazy,' says 21-year-old typist Pat Townsend, of Oldham Road, Royton, 'but six people can't all be wrong.

"It was a very bright object,' she said. 'Something seemed to be spinning above it. I would have taken it for a plane or helicopter if it had not been for the fact that there was no noise.

"It went over the hospital near some playing fields, as if it was going to land there.'"

From the *Oldham Chronicle* of June 29.

(Credit to Mr. L. D. White.)

Essex UFO

Mr. H. Cafferata, of Chelmsford, Essex, writes as follows: "On Sunday, June 9, 1963, at 11.10 p.m., two friends of the writer saw from a window of their house in Patching Hall Lane, Chelmsford, Essex, a luminous object high in the sky, approaching from south-west. The angle of elevation when first observed was about 60°. The object continued in an apparently straight line until its angle of elevation was about 65°, then it gradually changed course to the right (observer's left) by possibly as much as 45° with respect to its previous course. It took then a wide curving path towards the east. It was lost to view, behind trees, at an elevation angle of about 30°. While travelling along this described course it seemed to vary in speed considerably, sometimes appearing to move very slowly and at other times very quickly. When it was somewhere in the middle of this observed course, relatively small lights or luminous objects were seen emerging from it, one after another, about five or six in

number. These moved away from their object of origin and were lost to sight and seemed to vanish. The colour of the main and satellite objects was white. No red or green lights were observed, such as might be seen on conventional aircraft, i.e. navigation lights. The sky was cloudless everywhere along the route, but the intensity of the light fluctuated irregularly during the object's movement across the sky. The apparent size was about 2nd astronomical magnitude, whilst that of the emerging satellite luminous objects was about 6th magnitude. There was no sound coming from the object that could be heard by the observers. It was impossible to estimate the height of the object, but it certainly seemed to be very high above the earth, at least several miles up. The time taken to traverse from 60° elevation south-west to 30° elevation east was about 10 to 15 minutes.

"The two witnesses are Mr. and Mrs. Alan Woods, of 'Long Orchards,' Patching Hall Lane, Chelmsford, Essex.

"On the next evening I went to discuss what they had seen and at 10.10 p.m. I myself saw a similar phenomenon. This time a luminous object about 2nd magnitude was suddenly noticed high in the sky, approaching from a south-west direction, at an elevation angle of about 70°. There were no navigation lights, it was quite inaudible, and took a somewhat curved course, somewhat like a long letter 'S,' only reversed as '2.' Its speed was fairly regular and there were no emerging lights seen as on the night before. It was lost to view behind trees at about 30° elevation angle to the east. The light intensity varied somewhat during the flight but the sky was cloudless. This was witnessed by Mr. and Mrs. A. Woods, Mrs. B.