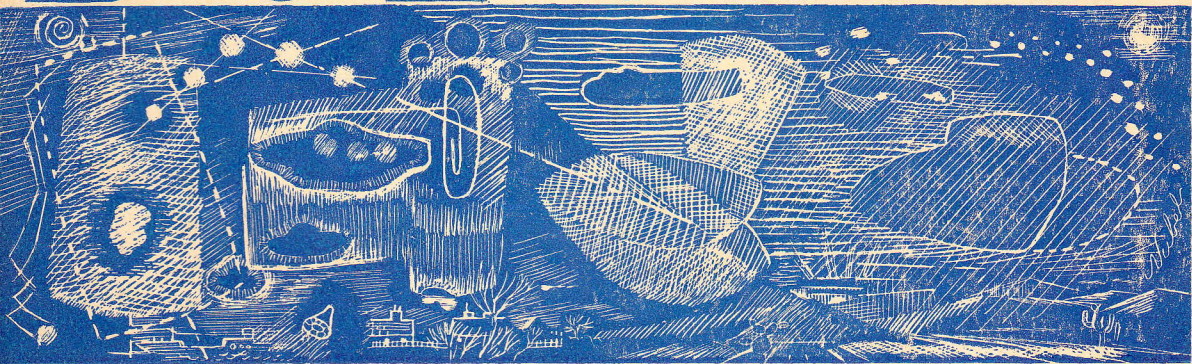


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AND BULLETIN

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BRITISH U.F.O. RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

The BRITISH UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

Founded 1962

AIMS:

1. To encourage and promote unbiased scientific investigation and research into Unidentified Flying Object phenomena.
2. To collect and disseminate evidence and data relating to Unidentified Flying Objects.
3. To co-ordinate UFO Research on a nation-wide scale and co-operate with persons and organisations engaged upon similar research in all parts of the world.

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ON TAKING OVER — AN EDITORIAL NOTE

On assuming the Editorship of this "Journal" I feel it is no more than just to express my warm appreciation of the work of my predecessor, Charles A. Stickland, B.Sc. Mr. Stickland nursed "LUFORO Bulletin" through a difficult phase in its existence. When LUFORA and BUFOA amalgamated in 1964, to form the British U.F.O. Research Association, he became the Editor of this "Journal" and I am sure all of us are grateful to him for the service he has rendered in this connection. It is to be hoped that the personal problems which have led to his resignation will quickly resolve themselves.

For my part, I shall do my best to carry on the work of producing the "Journal" in a satisfactory manner. I shall be glad to receive contributions in the shape of articles, paragraphs, etc. Criticisms will be welcomed.

The present issue of the "Journal" may, perhaps, "gape a little at the seams." If so, I am sorry. I was pitchforked into the job at a moment's notice and was obliged to try to make up for lost time by compiling an issue at very short order. I trust the next issue will present a somewhat more polished appearance.

J. Cleary-Baker.

THE BUFORA JOURNAL AND BULLETIN

Volume 1 Number 4

Spring 1965

Editor : J. Cleary-Baker, Ph.D.

Editorial Address : 3 Devenish Road, Weeke,
Winchester, Hants.

EDITORIAL

It is 22 years since the advent of the "Foo-Fighters" signalled the beginning of what has come to be known as the Flying Saucer Era. UFOS were not, of course, a completely new and novel phenomenon in 1943 - there are sporadic reports of such appearances all the way back to the times of Ancient Egypt - but the coming of the Foo-Fighters marked an intensification and a continuity of UFO activity unlike anything previously recorded.

Unofficial UFO-research has flourished throughout this period of more than two decades but to date the results have been somewhat disappointing. All that has been established beyond a reasonable doubt is that flying machines of unusual design, capable of speeds and manoeuvres which mark them down as the products of an alien and advanced technology, are appearing frequently in our skies.

We do not know with certainty what official UFO-research may have uncovered during this same period. Peering through the thick smokescreen which bureaucratic "security" regulations have created, we discern dimly a profusion of circumstantial evidence similar to that in our own files. No doubt the data available to the Powers-That-Be is more plentiful and of better quality than anything we possess. There seems to be no strong reason to assume that it is basically more revealing.

Science and Authority have combined to investigate UFOS in secret while denying in innumerable public utterances that any such thing as a UFO exists. Private persons who wish to know what the UFO Mystery is all about, have, in these circumstances, been obliged to combine together to investigate the matter for themselves. Results have not always been happy. Ignorance of the rules of evidence and of the techniques and methods of scientific research, have led to a flourishing crop of half-baked hypotheses, none of which can stand against competent and impartial examination. This, however, is not too serious. So long as a man is inspired by the wish to KNOW, he remains teachable and may be transformed into a useful UFO-researcher.

Unfortunately, not all persons active in this field are capable of such transformation. A large section of them are inspired, not by the wish-to-know but by the will-to-believe, which, as Bertrand Russell has somewhere pointed out, is the exact opposite of the former. It is from this group that the "lunatic fringe" of Flying Saucer Cultists is drawn.

The average Flying Saucer Cultist is a man or woman in need of a new religion. Unable to find anchorage in any of the orthodox creeds and vaguely aware of the threat to human welfare embodied in the growth of scientific materialism, such a person sets out to solve the Problem of the Universe for himself or herself, not having the knowledge or the mental discipline needed to embark on so difficult a quest.

So we have the Flying Saucer Cult. A pseudo-religion full of pious platitudes and soothing-syrup affirmations concerning the "Space Brothers" and the cloud-cuckooland in which they are assumed to dwell. Along with all this drivel comes an emotive terminology and an impulsion to convert the man-in-the-street to a belief in the reality of UFOS. UFO-research, it should be stressed, is not a "Movement" but a branch of scientific enquiry. Energy is being expended on quasi-evangelical labours among the unresponsive masses which might better be employed upon sifting and analysing the UFO data on our files.

There are, of course, sundry widespread illusions and false beliefs which impede our researches. There is the extraordinary notion, for instance, that hordes of UFOs are milling about in the skies above us. I have even heard a young enthusiast telling a friend: "I had a good sighting last Tuesday evening!" The fact is that persons who cannot step outside of their front doors, by day or night, without seeing UFOs, are totally ignorant of the sky and its phenomena. At least 90% of all UFOs reported are actually misidentified known objects or natural phenomena and a really experienced skywatcher knows this only too well. The UFO is a *rara avis*, not a familiar sight of everyday. It is a fact, indeed, that a "flap" in one area of the globe is almost invariably coincident with a paucity of reports from elsewhere, so that we are justified in assuming that the sum total of UFOs within our terrestrial environs at any given date is not large.

Another false belief is that UFOs are as harmless at close quarters as butterflies. Many UFO students seem to be inhibited by some psychological block from facing up to the fact that there are a large number of recorded instances in which a UFO has demonstrated that it is anything but harmless. It is typical of such persons that they are prepared to dismiss any number of instances of UFO aggression with the glib explanation that these were no more than unfortunate accidents.

The serious UFO-researcher today is in the position of an artist who has been commissioned to paint a portrait. The artist has assembled all his impedimenta - canvas, easel, water, paints, brushes - but can proceed no further because he has not the key to the situation in the person of his sitter. We are marking time because we lack a key which will enable us to make proper use of the data lying in our files, in the shape of thousands of well-documented UFO sighting-reports.

We are, to put the matter bluntly, in a rut. We potter along from year to year, adding to our collection of data. UFO spotting, like train spotting, is an activity which, of itself, can lead to nothing in particular. We must give ourselves a mental shake and make the fullest use of the faculty of constructive imagination, in the hope that we may thus be enabled to look through the fog of obscurity which at present shrouds our subject and discern the facts which lie beyond.

Mr. GORDON CREIGHTON ON B.B.C.

On Friday May 28th, Gordon Creighton, who is a BUFORA member and also a director of FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, appeared on BBC's "Light Night Extra" programme to answer questions about flying saucers. He was given about six questions to answer and did so very efficiently. Questions included what happened about the potato field in Wiltshire (The Charlton Crater) to which Mr. Creighton answered that the boy who was cited by the national presses as having dug it, later recanted his story, but the press would not print a retraction. Asked whether saucers had landed and taken off again, he said that there had been about two thousand landings in recent years all over the world. A question about the Americans and Russians having bases in South America brought the retort that it was most unlikely that either side had huge craft sometimes as much as 2,000 feet long, but it is possible that extra-terrestrial craft have bases there. At the beginning of this item, Peter Haigh announced briefly the death of George Adamski.

(Members can help publicise the Association by writing to the B.B.C., saying that they belong to B.U.F.O.R.A. and requesting that the B.B.C. should hold further discussion programmes on the flying saucer enigma.)

Lionel Beer

"THE NECESSITY OF A GLOBAL INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF UFO GROUPS"

LECTURE BY MR. ANTONI W. SZACHNOWSKI (Chairman of the Anglo-Polish U.F.O.
Research Club) at the SOUTHERN REGION U.F.O. RESEARCH GROUPS CONFERENCE
IN OXFORD - SATURDAY, - 8th May - 1965.

Mr. President, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen :

"I am completely in agreement with you, that an International Federation of interested people would be a big step forward" so wrote to me the head of one of the larger "Ufological" Societies on the Continent of Europe. "But" he says further "If I should be quite honest, I must say, that there is not much more to research into, - other than for beginners. Do we not know as much as it is possible to know, - until such time as the matter is made public?". And then he adds : "An International Federation would be of interest only on the basis that the knowledge we are already in possession of, should be made known. That should be our task !"

Now, I do not accept everything he said. For there is still a great deal of research that could be accomplished within such a worldwide framework as an International Federation would provide. Global Orthoteny, for example.

Nevertheless, there is a considerable amount of truth in what he said. And he is not the only one. Similar opinions were expressed independently, by many group-leaders and single outstanding UFO-Researchers, in their letters to me from all over the world. And even without them - I myself often wonder - Here we are ! For some 17 or 18 years we plod on, with the same old things. We collect these pieces of information about sightings and incidents. We try to verify them (either prove or disprove) and then classify, and then offer as evidence to whoever wants to know. We ponder over this gathered material and try to fit it together like shattered pieces of a puzzle.

Our files are bursting with newspaper cuttings, letters and reports. The shelves are overflowing with bundles of Ufological bulletins, broadsheets, magazines and what have you.

Now, after all this time and all this effort, we have reached a point where we have got to ask ourselves - What have we achieved and where do we go from here ?

In all honesty, we must admit that our achievements are not very spectacular.

With a very few exceptions - the question of U.F.O's is still officially either treated as a joke, or glossed over with a few 'explain it away' phrases - or just simply covered with a tight lid of silence.

The newspapers and magazines - that once were full of 'flying saucers' (whether pro or contra) now are also mostly silent. Now and then only - a small item appears in the national press - when a particularly striking incident with a UFO takes place (like the one involving Japanese planes, some two months ago).

Does this mean that UFO's themselves have almost ceased to appear ? We know from the local papers and private reports from all over the world, that this is not so. It is just that the editors of the national press seldom consider UFO's as newsworthy. Why ?

Well, one of the reasons is simply the abundance of sensational political news from all corners of the world, due to the turbulent times we live in. Another reason is even more pertinent, because it is connected with outer-space. - There are Fleet Street Journalists who are personally interested in the UFO-question, and we hope that they may some times succeed in putting it into features.

However, I recently asked one of them - who wanted from me UFO-material from Eastern Europe - "When will I see your articles about UFO's?"

"Don't think that I haven't tried it already", he answerer "But who wants to know about chaps coming from space to see us, when our own are on their way up there!"

He certainly put his finger on one of the causes of the present eclipse of the UFO question.

In connection with this, there is also another danger - voiced by some UFO researchers. The possibility that when the human race advances into space, so correspondingly the UFO's will retreat. This kind of reasoning presupposes that these Unidentified Flying Objects are definitely space-crafts of non-earthly origin, which are either manned by intelligent beings, or are robots, remotely controlled by such beings.

So far, most serious researchers (as distinguished from various cultists, etc., etc.) - when speaking publicly, have tended to refer to UFO's as 'phenomenon'. They also prefer to avoid references to any occupants of these spacecraft.

But now, that scientists themselves **not only** assert a certainty of the existence of intelligent life somewhere in cosmos, but actually get into a flap over the possible attempt at communication by a highly developed galactic culture, with Earth - I don't see any reason why we should not validly assume that UFO's are, in fact, controlled by some such intelligent beings.

With this in mind (as a working hypothesis) - when we look at the history of UFO's - we find one thing particularly striking. Which is - that UFO's do their utmost to avoid contact with humans.

Oh yes! We all know that some people claim meetings with Venusians or Martians - both male and female - that they state they have travelled inside a Flying Saucer - or that they have had a Venusian lover. These claims are - to my mind - suspect. But even if they were not.... what is the proportion of such contacts to all the other UFO incidents? Negligible! And may I remind you, that in these stories - the meetings take place either without witnesses, or (rarely) with a very limited number of them, and almost invariably in some remote, uninhabitable or deserted place. Which, in itself, underlines the governing principle of detachment from humans - the exceptionality of the situation.

There is no doubt that numerically, statistically speaking, the contactees are an insignificant exception. The overwhelming bulk of UFO material (the incident cases) establish a rule that UFO's do not want to be involved in any contacts - and that they retreat when pressed. In a very few cases they seemed to strike back. The cases of injury, death, and disappearances of planes and people in connection with UFO's - are also statistically very small. Yet, we should not disregard them, completely. For they stress even more the principle of non-involvement and rule of withdrawal.

During all these 18 years, quite a few changes regarding UFO's have become noticeable. Their shapes change and vary. Periods of UFO-activity fluctuate and vary. The concentration of UFO-activity over certain regions of the Earth (as if they have been giving them special attention) is periodical and variable. The mode (or technique) of flight also seemed to have changed gradually over the years.

There is now considerably less evidence of strange undulating movements - sharp reversals - and sudden jerks sideways. Now the flights most proceed steadily along straight lines.

But the rule that UFO's avoid contact - and withdraw when pressed - has never changed! Therefore, there are no grounds for thinking that it may change when humanity moves in force to explore near-space, and then other planets. The avoidance of humans, inside and near the Earth's atmosphere, will become more and more difficult, then impossible, and so UFO's will withdraw further and further into deep space. The Earth's population will not sight them anymore. Only the crews of various human space-projects may sometimes catch a glimpse of them. With time, even this may cease.

In the pre-occupation with problems and excitement of the space era - the UFO question will become buried, and forgotten. But long before that comes to pass, the UFO-research Societies will dwindle in numbers and decay into a few strange cult groups of only curiosity value.

The advocates of this theory see the beginning of all this process already in evidence.

Before it is too late, they argue, we should do our utmost to make the UFO question officially and openly accepted as valid and important for concerted investigations by scientific bodies.

While UFO's are still here - they say - all serious UFO-research Societies - the world-over should make a united and supreme effort to put the UFO question among the top priorities of human projects.

Oh! But wait a minute! You may say - "It may be that UFO's will withdraw. But it is not absolutely certain". Quite so!

There are still two other possibilities - In a completely new situation, UFO's might react either in a friendly manner (by establishing communication with humans) or an unfriendly one (by some hostile action). Well, some may argue, - in that case, they will immediately become the subject of a great concern by the appropriate official bodies, and the role of the UFO Societies will be finished.

My answer is that it need not be finished and that it **should not** be finished.

First of all - it would become evident then - that we - the UFO Researchers - have been right all the time, while the Scientists, state authorities, and general establishments of every kind - were wrong. Which would mean that for several years UFO - Researchers all over the world, were giving their spare time, their efforts and a considerable amount of their earnings, towards a right cause. And during all this time they have been the subject of jokes and jeers - regarded as 'crackpots' and so on - which is, in fact, a form of persecution. Therefore, we should have the moral right to have a say in the matter.

But that's not all! We may actually be asked to have a say - because we may have something important to offer. We may be of considerable use. After all, as we would have been proved to have been the only people - the only international organisation - that was right on this most important matter - we may be also right subsequently on many matters issuing directly from this one. Also, we would be then the only international institution familiar with the subject - already organised, ready for some use.

And let us not think that in the event of even the most benevolent attitude by a highly developed cosmic race - everything would be fine and dandy.

Basing on the assumption that UFO's are space vehicles, way ahead of earthly contraptions, we may also assume that the civilisation which produced it, is also greatly in advance of ours (at least scientifically and technologically).

What usually happens when a civilisation less advanced is confronted by a superior one? The history of the world - of the human race - gives a sorry answer to this question. At worst, the inferior one disintegrates. At best, it takes a long period of adjustment and blending - after which it may blossom with something new. But in the meantime, it passes through the dark period of chaos and strife.

Now, I am not trying to be a prophet of doom. But there are philosophers, theologians, historians, and scientists, - who are concerned about the possible outcome of such a cosmic encounter (though not necessarily in connection with UFO's).

So we are not wallowing in Science Fiction here if we consider such a possibility. And - of course - in the times of great global confusion, any global organisation would be of some use. Particularly one which would be, to some extent, familiar with the U.F.O's, and prepared for the situation psychologically, if in nothing else.

In case of a hostile action by UFO's, the Global International Federation could become even more important. It is almost impossible to visualise now in detail what the situation would be if such an event took place, and in what way this Federation could help. But there is nothing ridiculous in this idea. During the 2nd World War - in this and other countries - some Clubs and private organisations for studies or hobbies - found themselves able to contribute very specialised and valued services to their Countries. Why, even single individuals who had happened to acquire some seemingly obscure knowledge through a peaceful hobby - were astonished to learn that they were important for the war effort.

I don't need to pursue this matter any longer. From whatever angle we look at it, the need for such an International organisation is becoming more and more obvious.

And, of course, the necessity for establishing such a Federation stems also directly from the reason for the existence of all UFO-Research Societies, because - apart from extending the framework and facilities of co-ordinated research globally - it could lift the status of our endeavours. And we deserve it! This could give us our chance - perhaps the last chance - of getting official recognition for the UFO-question as one that should be treated very seriously indeed.

For all this, a Global Federation is needed. Not just 'co-operation between Societies' or 'friendly relations' or 'exchange of information'. All such slogans have been bandied about for years by many Ufologists - ineffectively - and have become meaningless. They are 'Old hat' and only cloud the issue.

The real issue is 'International Federation' ! Why Federation ? !

Because 'Federation' is a composite organisation. An organisation of Societies which are fully autonomous but visibly and strongly united for matters of common and international importance. Such an institution would have to be strong enough for the task, and yet could not possibly be rigid and monolithic in structure. For example, there could never be any disguised take-over by one Society (or national Association) becoming the Federation - with other Societies playing the role of 'Branches'. This idea may seem efficient but would never work Internationally. It might solve a few problems but would create many more new ones. And the Federation would have to be internally at peace to be able to grapple successfully with the immediate tasks.

What are these tasks? Well - to place the UFO question again on the front pages of the newspapers and on the desks of Television and Radio Commentators. To make public opinion aware of what is involved. To convince Scientists, Governments and international bodies (such as UNESCO) that public recognition should be given to the UFO question - and no effort be spared at achieving some kind of communication with the masters of these space-vehicles. That's a tall order - you may say - and so it is! But one that we cannot afford to disregard.

The situation as it is has lasted several years already - it cannot go on like this for ever. There is no serious Ufological Society in the world - and no prominent Researcher - which does not see some crisis in the UFO Research field already existing, or at least feel it coming in the near future.

We have certainly got to do something towards that outlined objective. For what have we got to lose? If we fail - we could not be much worse off than we are already. But we have some chance of success - if we make a world-wide effort, well planned and centrally directed.

With your permission, Mr. Chairman, I move that there is a **necessity** for a Global International Federation of UFO-Research Societies.

A dire necessity!

A. Szachnowski

THE MORTON-SOOLEY CASE, Emneth, Norfolk, 19-10-64

The Winter 1964 Edition of the Journal carried brief details of Mr. Morton-Sooley's sighting of red, yellow and green lights racing across the sky, and the subsequent burning of his clothing. Further details are now available.

Mr. Morton-Sooley felt nothing hit him and, as he is a small-holder, it was thought that the burning might possibly be due to some chemical such as sodium chlorate already on his clothing. A chemist in CUGIUFO carried out analyses of solutions obtained from various sites on the victim's clothes, but no trace of any oxidising agents was found; quantitative tests were made for chloride, which might be expected from the burning of a chlorate, but these indicated a smaller concentration rather than a larger one at the site of the burn. Further questioning of Mr. Sooley also indicated that it was unlikely that any chemicals had come in contact with his clothes, and so this approach was abandoned.

Assuming that Mr. Sooley was indeed hit by something, it is extremely difficult to discover exactly what, though the circumstantial evidence all points to the RAF's being responsible. Monday night is known locally as 'Bombing Night', when - to quote the witness - 'there are a lot of planes out, lights flashing and bombing on the marshes'. According to Mr. Langton of the Air Ministry, flashbombs are in use, and we feel that, in all probability, the witness was hit by the hot remains of some pyrotechnic device, very likely connected with the coloured lights seen.

Another point mentioned by Mr. Langton may be significant. Jet exhausts, which in normal circumstances appear orange, can look blue when afterburning is in use. Mr. M-S mentions that on two previous nights he had observed two very big blue lights crossing the sky at terrific speed.

(CUGIUFO)

NOTES AND QUOTES

Peripatetic Puma.

For more than a year now there have been persistent reports and rumours of a large cat-like animal - dubbed by the Press a "puma" - at large in areas as widely separated as the Home Counties and the West Country. Now, to judge from recent accounts in the Irish papers, a visitation of similar kind has been experienced in the vicinity of Dublin. It is, no doubt, a mistake to invoke UFO agency to account for every strange happening. Nevertheless, one recalls that prints resembling those of a mountain lion are said to have been noted in the immediate vicinity of a recent alleged UFO landing-site in New Mexico.

Jet-propelled Chinaman.

"About the time Leonado da Vinci was studying the flight of birds, an obscure Chinese official named Wan-Hoo is said to have designed what must rank - even if apocryphal - as the first rocket aircraft. Having joined two large kites together, and fixed a saddle between them, he had forty-seven rockets tied on to the contraption, with forty-seven coolies on hand to light them simultaneously. Wan-Hoo then took his seat on board - the date was about 1500 - and gave the signal. Needless to say, this intrepid Chinese departed to his ancestors to the accompaniment of much noise and smoke."

Quoted from : "A History of Flying" by C. H. Gibbs-Smith :
published by B. T. Batsford Ltd., 1953

Mars Probes.

A report from Moscow suggests that the Soviet Mars Probe must be assumed to have failed in its mission, in that signals from it are no longer being received. The American Mars Probe, Mariner 4, continues merrily on its way and we may hope for some interesting close-ups of the Red Planet when the climax of its journey is reached. Mariner 4 has recorded 77 hits by micro-meteorites during the first 3,100 hours of its voyage, as against 2 hits only recorded by Mariner 2 over a corresponding period of time during its trip to Venus in 1962.

Moon Probes.

Over-enthusiastic UFO-students who blamed the UFO-denizens for the failure of the T.V. cameras aboard the first U.S. photographic lunar probe, have had nothing at all to say about the brilliant successes of two later probes which have relayed back to earth hundreds of excellent shots of the Moon's surface. Clearly, there are and must be some initial failures in the field of rocketry and rocket-instrumentation. Why bring discredit on our researches by dragging in UFOs to explain such failures, when in fact there is no evidence at all of any kind of outside interference?

UFOs from Inside the Earth?

Certain American UFO-believers, for no good reason that I have ever been able to discover, persist in tracing UFOs to an imaginary "inner world" beneath the earth's surface, reached by openings at the poles. An American-Italian writer, one Giannini, has provided grist for their mill, in recent years, by publishing a book in which much play was made of statements by the late Rear-Admiral Byrd concerning aeroplane flights, "beyond the Pole." If Giannini and his ilk would take the trouble to read Byrd's own explanation of this phrase, in the American "National Geographic Magazine," Vol. XC11, No.4, October, 1947, they would find that his views on the globe were perfectly orthodox and that his much-publicized remark implied only that the South Geographical Pole does not occupy a central position in respect of the Antarctic land-mass.

U-2 Incident.

When on May 1st 1960, an American U-2 plane piloted by Gary Powers was brought down near Sverdlovsk by Soviet defences, a story was started in Austria - and seized upon by the UFO "lunatic fringe" everywhere - that the ever-present UFOs were responsible for the affair. As I recall it, the U-2 incident wrecked a Summit Conference, but this did not stop the cranks proclaiming, in habitually cloudy fashion, that the incident had been engineered by the "Space Brothers" in the interests of international peace. The truth is, as has recently emerged, that the altimeter in the U-2 was mal-functioning and that Powers was much nearer the ground than he supposed when the plane was hit. The Russians played this fact down because they wished to boost the power and accuracy of their interceptor-rockets.

UFOs & E.S.P.

Both U.S. and Soviet Armed Forces are "sold" on the potentialities of Extra-Sensory Perception as a war-weapon. Both have conducted tests designed to explore and chart the range and limitations of such faculties as Telepathy in the human subject. Some may wonder why the UFO-denizens should not be credited with at least as great a potential along these lines as any terrestrial race. Of course there is no reason to deny such a possibility. The trouble is that any hasty or ill-planned activity along such lines would throw the door wide open to fraud, crankery and self-delusion on a mammoth scale, further to complicate the field of UFO-research which already is hag-ridden by a host of enthusiasts and cranks. I do not deny the **possibility** of communication between terrestrials and UFO-denizens via a telepathic link. I insist only that any experiments to forge such a link should be as near foolproof as to afford no appreciable scope for error. Which is by way of being a tall order!

The Trinidad UFO Sightings.

In a subsequent issue I hope to write at some length on the mysteries which are associated with this rocky desert-island in the South Atlantic. What killed off its forests, apparently in one fell swoop? What happened to the settlement which once the Portuguese established on the island? Why was Trinidad the scene of a whole series of UFO sightings in 1957-58, of which that made by the personnel of the I.G.Y. ship, "Almirante Saldanha," was only one which received more publicity than the rest?

J.C-B.

UFO SIGHTING-REPORTS — AN EXPLANATION & APOLOGY

Readers will note that the usual catalogue of recent UFO sighting-reports is missing from this issue of the "Journal." There is a twofold reason for the omission.

Firstly, as a result of past delays, I have found myself, on assuming the editorship of the "Journal", obliged to work to a tight deadline. So tight, indeed, that I have had to write a disproportionately large part of the present issue myself. This has left me no time to extract the sighting-reports from the many sources from which they have to be culled.

Secondly, I hope that in future readers will receive a list of sighting-reports in the form of a duplicated supplement, to be issued with the "Journal" or as found appropriate. The high cost of producing a printed "Journal" renders it desirable, in my view, that the space available should be given over to articles, reviews and the like.

For the present, anyone wishing to keep in touch with the sightings could hardly do better than subscribe to the Isle-of-Wight U.F.O. Investigation Society's, "UFOLOG," which appears monthly at an annual subscription of only 10/6 for 12 issues. Subscriptions to Mr. S. Richards, 'Draycot Villa,' Gravel Pit Road, Wootton, Isle-of-Wight.

J. C - B.

SIGHTING REPORT BY MEMBER OF FLEET STREET

UFO STUDY GROUP

The incident occurred while flying from Boyington to Spain. So far as I can recall it was during the winter months of 1947. Lack of an exact date will be explained later.

The flight had been normal until approaching the Pyrenees (the mountain range which separates France and Spain). The aircraft was a converted (for freight) Halifax bomber. The crew quarters consisted of two decks, upper and lower. I was in the lower deck operating the radio, when I heard a tremendous furore. Above, the other two crew members were shouting for me to look out of the window. (Had they used the intercomm I should have understood quicker). On looking out of the port window from the radio position, I saw, much to my amazement, three circular air-craft, maintaining station, off our port wing. The accuracy of maintaining station was uncanny. We were all flying through light fleecy cloud and were, therefore, experiencing buffeting. The pilot, Mr. Jones, London, asked me to go to the mid-upper turret and observe. When I tried to do this I found I could not do so. I put this down, later, to a green light that was shining at me. Therefore, I remained looking out of the window listening to the shouting above me, and not believing my own eyes. Two craft disappeared, and then in a second they were on the other side of the aircraft. Suddenly all three vanished. After a pause, to recover, we radioed area control, and were ordered to land at Bordeaux. The pilot was detained at the airport, whilst myself and the Flight Engineer, Mr. Jack Lawrence, (I think that was his surname) were questioned separately. I was told that the pilot had been arrested, "for actions likely to cause a riot", that was as near as I could ascertain. I realized that our report was causing concern and hostility, therefore, I "soft-pedalled" my story in order to calm the general atmosphere prevailing at the time.

This was not really fair on the other two crew members as they told the whole story, which differed from mine, as mine was much less spectacular, however, I hid it with good intentions. After two hours, and several telephone calls to Paris, the pilot was released and told he had not been arrested, but detained, to wait for a new met. report, and some other triviality or two, which I can longer recall. The engineer was released as we departed, subdued and wiser. The other two were angry with me for not backing them up. Eventually, we returned to U.K., crew members going our various ways. Some days later, I was asked by the manager (Mr. Ronald Price) and later by Capt. Hood (Chief Pilot) if the other two crew members had been drinking. This made me annoyed, and I repeated the accurate story to him, but my support to the other two was too late to do any good, at least in Capt. Hood's eyes.

Mr. Price, so far as I can recall, requested, or insisted on debiting the sighting in my log book. This was a while later, and I put it down to official measures. My license number was 987, the numbers of the other crew members I do not know. The name of the firm was British American Air Services Ltd. My log book is not available after this long time, but even if it was, and had the entry, it would not prove the existence of "Flying Saucers" especially to those determined to be sceptical.

C. D.

BOOK REVIEW

"The UFO Evidence"

Published by the National Investigations Committee on
Aerial Phenomena (NICAP). Washington, D.C. 1964.
Five dollars.

This is the long-awaited Report from the leading Organisation of UFO-researchers of which Major Keyhoe is a prominent member, which has been circulated to all members of the U.S. Congress in an attempt to bring pressure upon the Pentagon to throw open its "Bluebook" files to competent investigators and to cease its opposition to Congressional hearings in public on UFOs.

It is, in many respects, an imposing document. One cannot but admire the energy, persistence and determination which must have gone into its compilation. Would that British researchers were in a position to produce something comparable for the attention of members of the House of Commons!

No less than 746 UFO reports are listed in the document, all categorised according to the class of witnesses involved and/or the nature of the sightings. This has resulted in a certain amount of overlapping and duplication, which might, one feels, have been avoided if more attention had been given to the classification of reports on some system likely to be of maximum practical utility to an investigator.

I could have wished, also, that some information had been provided concerning the techniques of evaluating reports used by NICAP. It is a little disconcerting, for instance, to find the Mantell affair listed as if there was not, nor had ever been, any doubt whatsoever concerning the "unknown" status of the object Mantell was pursuing when he met his death. The object MAY have been a UFO - I think quite probably it was - but enough negative evidence was provided by the late Captain Ruppelt in his book to cast doubt upon the point. Ruppelt thought the object might have been a Cosmic Ray balloon. He did not prove that it was but his observations constitute a case which requires an answer - which NICAP has not provided or attempted to provide.

A weakness which is very apparent in the Report is the lack of a solid corpus of pre-1947 sightings. There are plenty of these available, even when one has weeded out and rejected the many "duds" which clutter the pages of popular writers on this branch of UFO-research. NICAP has listed four sightings only for the 19th. Century and eleven up to the outbreak of World War Two. I would have thought that greater attention paid to "historical" reports would have tended to strengthen considerably the case for UFOS considered as alien machines.

The section on UFO photographs and films, genuine and otherwise, is excellent. Here too, however, there are inexplicable omissions. In the "genuine" category, for instance, I am surprised to note the absence of any mention of the Warren Siegmund photograph, taken over New York on May 23rd. 1955, as reproduced in the late M.K. Jessup's, "UFO Annual. 1956." In the "otherwise" category, the Cedric Allingham dish-covers are notable absentees.

The authors of the Report, in commenting on Major Keyhoe's allusions to the "Silence Group" in the Pentagon, very wisely disclaim what they describe as, "a conspiratorial view of history." However, I find the section of the Report devoted to attacking official statements on UFOS somewhat redundant. There is really no point in this sort of thing unless those making the attacks are prepared to tell us exactly what **they** would do if they were responsible for guiding public opinion and formulating policies which could affect the lives of millions.

Let us assume, as we have reason to do, that the Air Forces of the various major nations are in possession of more and better data than are any private organisations. There is still no

valid reason to assume that such data will differ in kind from that which those organisations have. Circumstantial evidence is still circumstantial evidence and nothing more, no matter how much of it there may be and how good it may be. Be it never so plentiful and never so good, it will, because it is circumstantial, fall short of providing the conclusive proof which ought to be obtained before the matter is placed before the public at large.

Probably, persons "in the know" in Government circles, in the U.S., in Britain and elsewhere throughout the World, are as morally certain as most of us are that UFOs are alien spacecraft. We can say what we think - so long, at anyrate, as we are not living behind the Iron Curtain - because we speak only for ourselves and such as may choose to believe us. Officialdom, on the other hand, is responsible for the welfare of the population.

Can we expect any responsible persons to announce that UFOs are spacecraft in some such terms as the following :

"We have a vast amount of circumstantial evidence suggesting that UFOs - flying saucers - are alien spacecraft. We don't know where they are coming from. We don't know what the occupants look like. We don't know whether those occupants are friendly or hostile in their attitude towards us."

Shades of Orson Welles and, "War of the Worlds!" I can think of no more certain method of reducing the ill-informed and jittery stratum of the public to an acute state of howling panic! Also, I can think of no more infallible way to play into the hands of every professional alarmist, fellow-traveller, notoriety-seeker and plain, honest-to-goodness "nut" than to make such a statement.

For all its defects, this Report is a good buy and a "must" for scientific UFO-researchers. Perhaps its outstanding merit is that it reproduces, in compact and handy form, the best American UFO sightings of the last 18 years. In an overall view, the evidence is impressive.

J. C - B.

CTA 102

All of us were, no doubt, thrilled by the news of "Life in Space." Especially those who saw the news on ITV on Monday night - their presentation was "Out of this World." Of the National dailies the 'Sun' outshone most of the others.

But the inevitable denials of the orthodox school were soon to follow, (especially as the reports came from Moscow) and thus cast serious doubts in the minds of many. However, don't be disheartened : I remember way back in 1947, when I stumbled upon evidence that the Russians possessed jet fighters, none of my aviation friends would believe me, "those peasants could not possibly....." A similar, but brief disbelief followed the announcement that they had the Atom Bomb, and not so very long ago, when our own Astronomer Royal insisted that space travel was utter bilge, they launched their first Sputnik, only to be told by the USA generals - what's the use of a piece of ironmongery up there !

And even today, if somebody courageous enough said :- A superman race on CTA 102 - so that's where all those UFOs have been coming from, the scientists would recoil in horror and exclaim - impossible. It would take the space travellers 5000 million years (or even if only 500 million years) to reach us - obviously impossible.

Yes, the scientists are in good company - the 'great Lord Kelvin' decreed in the 18th. century that 'heavier than air' flight is a physical impossibility! The 19th. century scientists decreed that the atom was the smallest attainable particle, nothing smaller existed, for it was impossible to split the atom. Even we, mere laymen, know how catastrophically wrong they were.

The 20th. century scientists decreed that the speed of light is the ultimate speed and nothing could ever hope to exceed it. And therefore if the UFOs came from CTA 102, it would take them etc. etc.....

Now, let us look at the facts : the Soviet radiotelescopes received signals that have a plainly discernible, exact 100 day pattern. They were sent millions of years ago, by a fairly advanced civilisation. But how much that civilisation must have progressed in millions of years!

Surely, if we can bridge the impossible gap in two centuries and fly, and less than half a century later split the unsplitable atom and all that goes with it, surely in millions of years those on STATION 102 could have progressed enough to exceed the unexceedable (as decreed by 20th. century scientists) and travel much faster than the speed of light and therefore be able to come and appear in our skies 200,000 times in the last 20 years.

Contributed by : Mr. E. A. Hatvany, 19, Richmond Avenue, East Bedfont, Middlesex.

EDITORIAL COMMENT :

The "Journal" is a forum for all points of view within BUFORA and Mr. Hatvany's contribution is particularly topical in that public interest in the recent Russian announcement concerning CTA 102 has been widespread.

However, there is another side to the question than that which our contributor stresses. So far as I can judge, what Mr. Hatvany calls, "the inevitable denials of the orthodox school," have a great deal of weight behind them.

Radio signals from space may exhibit regular patterns of cyclic repetition without necessarily, or even probably, being planned transmissions by intelligent beings. Let us, for the sake of demonstration, assume that this planet earth is a natural radio source, (which, so far as I am aware, it is not), emitting signals which could be picked up by the hypothetical inhabitants of an equally hypothetical planet circling the star Sirius. It is quite "on the cards" that radio enthusiasts on this Sirian planet might detect a couple of periodic variations in the signals received from the vicinity of the star Sol; variations corresponding, in respect of the time-intervals involved, to the earth's rotation period and its period of revolution around the Sun, or 24 hours and 365 days respectively.

The Sirian radio enthusiasts might then assume that these variations were the work of intelligent entities. In fact, of course, they would be no more than the radio complement of two entirely natural phenomena, terrestrial rotation and revolution.

"Radio stars" - stars which are transmitters of radio impulses - might, if variable as a result of periodic internal stresses, or if binary as a result of the revolution of the component bodies around each other, exhibit a regular pattern of signals which could present a spurious suggestion of intelligent agency behind the phenomenon.

Mr. Hatvany appears to overlook the fact that the very same lines of research which led to atom-splitting demonstrated that the speed of light is the ultimate speed beyond which nothing in the physical universe can go. It is, of course, absurd to say that 20th. century scientists "decreed" this limitation, as it would be to say that Copernicus, in the 16th. century, "decreed" the earth's revolution around the sun. Scientists discover Nature's modes of working but do not initiate them.

If the UFOs arrive here from deep space beyond the solar system, it does not follow at all that the speed-of-light limitation is invalid. The "how" may be sought in a time-dilation effect, or in the realm of hyper-spatial geometry. The fact that a principle may be circumvented does not, of itself, invalidate the principle.

There is no evidence that civilizations progress steadily over thousands of years, much less over millions. Oswald Spengler's, "Decline of the West," may be open to criticism on some points. He has demonstrated, at anyrate, the cyclic nature of technical, social and cultural developments. The Victorian idea of a one-way upward climb from ape to angel can no longer be entertained, even by the most optimistic.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED

"Informaciones Autenticas Sobre - Platos Voladores en el Cielo Argentino - 1964."

This mimeographed Bulletin, in the Spanish language, is issued by the Comision Observadora de Objetos Voladores No Identificados, Casilla de Correo 2560, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

It seems that 1964 was not exactly a bumper period for UFOs in the Argentine. The Bulletin lists only 16 sighting-reports from January 7th. to November 15th. A number of these are of doubtful lineage.

Some of the objects sighted may very well have been artificial satellites. The compilers admit this. In the circumstances, would it not have been a good idea to check-out the reports in question and settle the question one way or the other?

A few of the reports are brief to the extent of being practically useless as data. For example, we are informed that, at Mendoza, on April 4th: "Policias de Mendoza fueron los testigos del paso de un objeto volador no identificado." No details concerning the object are supplied. In justice to the compilers of the Bulletin, the report apparently was culled from the newspaper, "El Mundo," which may not itself have been in possession of additional facts, or may have declined to pass them on.

I note that on March 22nd., at Gualeguaychu, a "cigarro-madre" ejected and then recovered five "platos voladores." Bully for Gualeguaychu - wherever it is!

"N.I.C.A.P. Reporter" - March 1965. Published by the National Investigations Commission on Aerial Phenomena, 5108 S. Findlay St., Seattle, Washington 98118, U.S.A.

Note carefully that this publication emanates from the National Investigations **Commission** on Aerial Phenomena, not from the National Investigations **Committee** on the same, which latter is Major Keyhoe's Organisation. I don't know who commissioned this rival N.I.C.A.P. to embark on its investigations, except that I am willing to bet that it wasn't Major Keyhoe!

The "Reporter" is another mimeographed Bulletin, produced on yellow paper, which I find a little trying on the eyes. Its contents are a mixed bag. There are some first-rate sighting-reports, which will be presented to you in due course after they have been duly extracted, examined and rewritten in compact and methodical form. There are also some prize "duds" - in the shape of a number of more than ordinarily uneventful and asinine "contact" tales - which might well have been consigned to the dustbin, which is their true and proper habitat!

Also received :

"UFO-nachrichten" - 62 Wiesbaden-Schierstein, Milanstrasse 5. - May 1965.

J. C - B.

BALL OF FIRE REPORTED FLYING OVER HALIFAX

Halifax Courier and Guardian, Friday, 12th. March, 1965.

Visitors leaving the Royal Halifax Infirmary around 7.30 last night said they saw a mysterious object travelling over the town.

"It looked like a ball of fire with a tail of flame and was travelling very quickly" said one man today.

"It was certainly not an aircraft and seemed much larger than a comet" he added. "It was comparatively low and disappeared over the houses. We listened for a bang but it never came."

The object was seen by several people who wondered whether it was a satellite burning up and coming to earth.

Halifax Courier and Guardian, Monday, 15th. March, 1965.

About that ball of fire - the one which startled several Halifax people as it burst across the sky at about 7.30 on Thursday evening. What in heaven was it? The opinions of eye-witnesses differ. A farmer living on the hilltop at Greetland feels - quite seriously - that it might have been a flying saucer. A Mixenden man believes it was a satellite burning up and coming to earth.

But what do the experts think? Mr. Malcolm Bull, chairman of the Halifax Branch of the British Unidentified Flying Objects Research Association says. "It was probably a fireball, something rather like a meteorite but travelling more slowly and sometimes tending to evaporate in flight leaving a trail like a comet."

Fireballs come from a belt of small pieces of rock - called asteroids - lying between Mars and Jupiter. It is believed they are fragments of an exploded planet - ranging from lumps the size of the Isle of Wight to bits as small as a pin head. There are millions of them and some are pulled out of orbit every so often by the other planets.

On Thursday, according to the books, an observer should have been able to see about eight every hour with the naked eye.

Colour Effects.

Our eye witnesses differ. The farmer says : "I've seen lots of things flying across the sky before but I've never seen anything like this. It was round and tapered off like a meteor. It was going very fast from north west to east - an orange-red colour but lighter in the middle. I read about flying saucers, but I never thought I'd see anything like one".

Mr. C. Day, of 4 Hambleton Bank, Mixenden, Halifax, believes the ball of fire was a satellite returning to earth and heated to incandescence and final destruction in the lower layer of the atmosphere. The object was burning with a bright silver-blue light and appeared to be only about 1,000 feet up," he writes. "I had a very good reason for presuming it to be of human origin rather than meteoric. It was very exceptional for a meteor with its somewhat rough surfaces to get so near to earth before burning up."

Comments Mr. Bull : "There is no doubt at all that many meteors do fall to earth but there was nothing untoward about Thursday's fireball."

It is a matter of interest that on Thursday night, a U.F.O. was reported elsewhere. The time in Newcastle was given as 8.15 p.m. and an observer said it travelled on a south-easterly course.

"It was a very bright light with a green and yellow tail."

OBITUARY - GEORGE ADAMSKI

So George Adamski is dead. It will be hard for all of us, whether admirers or opponents of his writings, to realize that this colourful and controversial figure, whose shadow has loomed large over UFO-research since the publication of the international best-seller, "Flying Saucers Have Landed," which he wrote in collaboration with Desmond Leslie in 1953, has gone from our midst.

I think it is true to say that Adamski's two later books, "Inside the Spaceships," and, "Flying Saucers Farewell," did much to dissipate the favourable reactions, ranging all the way from outright acceptance to a friendly, "wait-and-see" attitude, which were evoked by his initial narrative of the alleged meeting with a Venusian in the Arizona desert. Allowing for possible faults of interpretation, this first story **could** have been true. The later books transported the reader into an Arabian Nights fantasy which few could take seriously. Second-rate science fiction, combined with a philosophical outlook which might be summed-up as, "Theosophy and water," are productive of literary dyspepsia rather than of belief.

I do not propose here to discuss at length the considerations which, in my opinion, must lead the impartial student to reject the first Adamski "contact" story, for all its superficial attraction and plausibility. Interested readers are referred to my article, "The Case against George Adamski," in the Sept./Oct. 1964 issue of, "Spacelink." I am afraid that those who seek to cling to a belief in the factual nature of this first essay and in the celebrated photographs, while rejecting the later tales, are clutching at straws. Of course, a man may tell the truth at one time and lie at another and one recalls, in this connection, the equivocal performances of some spiritualistic mediums, who appear to produce genuine psychic phenomena at some sittings but to resort to fraudulent practices at others. However, there are adequate grounds for asserting that the first Adamski "contact" was as spurious as the later ones. (This does not, by the way, involve the assumption that the witnesses to the desert encounter forswore themselves in the matter of the famous affidavits, although I believe that one of them was "in the know" with Adamski).

In passing, one should remark that no criticism of Adamski's narratives should be regarded as in any way reflecting upon the integrity of Desmond Leslie, co-author of, "Flying Saucers Have Landed." If Adamski's writings have brought a measure of discredit upon UFO-research, Leslie has done something to redress the balance in that he may claim credit for stimulating research into the historical aspect of UFO phenomena.

Why did Adamski, assuming that his stories were false, do what he did? The cynic will dismiss him and his performances together with the observation that money and notoriety were the obvious and only motives. I believe myself that this is to over-simplify the issue. I do not suppose that Adamski had a greater objection to money than the rest of us. I am inclined to believe that he had a rather more than average liking for the limelight. Even so, I suspect that we should see in his writings not so much vulgar fraud as pious fraud. I think he sought to accomplish what he regarded as desirable ends by the employment of questionable means.

He appears to have entertained an unquestioning belief in the tenets of the bowdlerised version of Oriental Metaphysics which has filtered through to the West via the Theosophical Society and its many offshoots. In addition, he seems to have been fascinated by the sort of quasi-astronomical doctrine of the plurality of inhabited worlds in the Universe which was fashionable when Sir David Brewster wrote, "More Worlds than One, the Creed of the Philosopher and the Hope of the Christian." Perhaps, faced with the spectacle of social corruption rooted in the shallow materialism of the present era, Adamski, over-rating his "philosophy" which was in fact an ill-digested mental hotch-potch of bad science and pseudo-occultism, sought to propagate what he considered to be truth, backed by the alleged authority of extra-terrestrial beings.

Wrote Frank Podmore :

"It seems difficult to place any limit on the untrustworthiness of human testimony, especially in cases where the emotions are involved, or where there is occasion for edification."

I think Adamski may well have fallen into a trap compounded in part of over-confidence in his personal opinions and beliefs and in part of subconscious vanity. It may be that the deception was meant to end with the publication of the story of the first desert "contact" in 1952, but snowballed as such things are apt to do, so that Adamski could not escape from the clutches of the monster he had created.

De mortuis nil nisi bonum ! Let us assume that George Adamski's motives were of the highest and let us hope that he will be remembered, if at all, not as the founder of a civilized version of a "cargo-cult" but as a pioneer in the field of UFO-research, whose enthusiasm outran his discretion. Let us take our leave of him in the quaint phraseology of John Donne :

"No man is an Iland, intire of itselfe : every man is a peece of the Continent, a part of the maine : if a Clod bee washed away by the sea, Europe is the lesse, as well as if a Promontorie were, as well as if a Mannor of thy friends or thine own were ; any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in Mankind : and therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls ; it tolls for thee."

J. C - B.

UFO SIGHTING REPORTS

Members and Non-members are requested to send details of all recent UFO reports they obtain by way of mouth, from newspapers and magazines, etc., immediately to the Information Officer for the area concerned in order that a local investigation can be started while the sighting is still fresh in the minds of the eye-witnesses. If there has been a UFO landing it is essential that our investigators reach the spot before it becomes too disturbed.

Cumberland, Durham, Northumberland, Westmorland, North Riding of Yorkshire :

Tyneside UFO Society : William D. Muir, 104 Rowanberry Road, Longbenton, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

Wirral Peninsula (Cheshire), Anglesey, Isle of Man, Lancashire, North Wales :

Merseyside UFO Research Society : Alan Rawlinson, 24 Saker Street, Liverpool 4. Tel. ANF 6921

Derbyshire, Cheshire, Staffordshire :

Direct Investigation Group on Aerial Phenomena : P. Harrison, A.M.I.E.I., 19 Leicester Road, Salford 7, Lancs.

Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire, East and West Ridings of Yorkshire :

Halifax Branch : John M. Stear, 2 High Park Crescent, Heaton, Bradford 9. Tel: Bradford 41842

North-east half of Gloucestershire, Herefordshire, Shropshire, Worcestershire, Wales south of and including Cardiganshire and Montgomeryshire :

Cheltenham Flying Saucer Group : A. R. Cole, Ellesmere, 7 Okua Road, Charlton Kings, Glous.

Warwickshire :

Stratford-on-Avon Branch : J. D. Llewellyn, 63 Masons Road, Stratford-on-Avon, Warwickshire.

Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Huntingdonshire, Norfolk, Northamptonshire, Rutland, Suffolk :

Cambridge University Group for the Investigation of UFOs : A. C. H. Durham, Clare College, Cambridge.

Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire :

Oxford University UFOs Study Group : T. A. Williamson, Brasenose College, Oxford.

Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, South-western half of Gloucestershire, Somerset, Wiltshire :

British Flying Saucer Bureau : G. F. N. Knewstub, F.B.I.S., A.Inst.I., 27 Avonmouth Road, Shirehampton, Bristol.

Hampshire, Isle of Wight :

Isle of Wight UFO Investigation Society : F. W. Smith, 4 Connaught Road, East Cowes, I.O.W.

Surrey :

Croydon UFO Research and Investigation Society : H. Roberts, 47 Brigstock Road, Thornton Heath, Surrey.

Scotland :

Scottish UFO Research Society : Glen Chandler, 11 Lismore Crescent, Edinburgh 8.

Tel : Abbeyhill 3025

London, Essex, Hertfordshire, Kent, Middlesex, Sussex,

Eire and Northern Ireland :

BUFORA Central Information Officer : Dr. G. G. Doel, 26 Heath Drive, Potters Bar, Middlesex.

Tel : Potters Bar 54749.

