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EDITORIAL

My Editorial comments in the last, (Winter 1971/72), issue of this 'Journal' have, not altogether to my surprise, provoked a storm of criticism in certain quarters. The idea seems to have arisen that I am seeking to ascribe *all* UFO manifestations to psychological phenomena. This, of course, is just one additional example of the superficiality of the UFO 'buff' approach to any written material on the subject. Whether in listening to a lecture or in reading an article, many persons who are UFO believers absorb only such information and opinions as are congenial to their preconceived views on the nature of UFOs.

Perhaps, in the circumstances, I cannot do better than reproduce the bulk of an article which I wrote for the Winter 1965 'Journal.' The passage of six years has not substantially modified my attitude towards what I then entitled, "The Psychological Saucer." The text of the article was as follows:

"I once received for purposes of evaluation, a rather curious UFO report emanating from a middle-aged lady. So far as I recall the circumstances, she had encountered a flying object which made a noise like a Beethoven Symphony, smelled like a burnt kipper and looked like nothing on Earth or in the waters under the same!

This weird narrative posed a problem for me. The lady was not lying—even the most inexpert of liars would have come up with a story more plausible than this one. She was not, to judge from the ancillary details of the account, mentally unbalanced, in fact she impressed me as probably a very average, matter-of-fact individual. Yet how accurate as fact, or even as approximating to fact, a tale of an object so grotesque?

The end of the business was that I arrived at the conclusion that I was dealing with what has been called, "the psychological saucer." The lady almost certainly had seen a real airborne object of some kind, perhaps a meteorological balloon. She had been puzzled by what she saw and some obscure psychological mechanism had then operated in her mind and generated a most curious illusion. The balloon, or whatever it may have been, had triggered off the whole affair.

One of the World's greatest psychologists, the late C. G. Jung, in his book, "Flying Saucers—A Modern Myth of Things Seen in the Skies," dealt exhaustively with the UFO from a psychological stand-point. He related it to the Realm of the Collective Unconscious and revealed its archetypal significance for Mankind. Jung's findings have been supplemented to some extent by the writings of a student of UFO phenomena in the United States, Tom Comella, who uses the pseudonym, "Peter Kor."

Jung and Comella see the UFO, psychologically considered, as a "Sign of the Times," in particular as symptomatic of the ever-widening spiritual vacuum in which Modern Man dwells. Medieval Christianity looked for the End of the World in the Year 1,000. Before the dawn of that Year, visions of angels, demons and all kinds of supernatural prodigies bewildered and terrified believers. Today we have ceased to believe in the Supernatural for all practical purposes. Yet the H-Bomb and its relations threaten us with a "Dies Irae" as drastic and unpleasant as anything ever imagined by theologians.

The deepening crisis in World affairs—say Comella and Jung—has provoked an epidemic of visions like that experienced prior to the Year 1,000. Only—since this is an Age of Technology rather than of Theology—contemporary visionary manifestations assume the aspect of flying machines—the UFOs!

For my part, I think there is a great deal of truth in this view, Casual appearances of strange phenomena in the skies would not, in a less troubled age, become, as the Flying Saucers have become, the stuff of religious cults and pseudo-philosophical teachings. To put it in another way, the UFO "rings a bell" deep down within the human psyche. I think all students of UFOs know and feel this, even those who insist upon a scientific approach to UFO problems and are apt to say and write hard things concerning cults and cultists!

Comella will have it that all UFOs are psychological in nature, projections into the material world of some non-material Reality. His view cannot lightly be overlooked. A hypnotized man can "see" and "touch" and "smell" a rose which has no objective existence. Twenty men, or two hundred men, if hypnotized and given the appropriate suggestion, would similarly "see" and "touch" and "smell" the bloom, although a non-hypnotized man standing by would be incapable of apprehending its existence. Assuming that some powerful impulsion in the Collective Unconscious can generate in human minds illusions comparable with those experienced in hypnosis, it is possible to explain UFO sightings without recourse to any hypothesis of material flying-machines.

Jung did not carry the argument for the "psychological saucer" as far as this. He did not believe that psychological projections could impact upon radar screens, cause instrument failures and otherwise have the effects upon machines and material objects which UFOs have been known on occasion to exert. He supposed that UFOs are real phenomena, objective in nature, which have only a casual, synchronistic connection with their psychological counter-parts.

Insofar as I am competent to frame a judgement in this field, I am with Jung here as against Comella. I would say that a small proportion of UFO reports, between 5% and 10% relate to real, material objects, which exhibit all the characteristics of flying machines, the products of an advanced and presumably alien technology.

However that may be—and it must be admitted in honesty that conclusive scientific proof of the objectivity of UFOs is still to seek—the "psychological saucer" is deserving of study on various grounds, one of which is the light which may thereby be shed upon an hitherto little understood aspect of the human psyche. It may be that many a cultist and "contactee" is struggling to put down a root through the barren topsoil of the contemporary materialistic scene, to reach the rich spiritual deposits from which humanity has drawn its inspiration and inner strength and from which it now finds itself all but cut off."

So much for my views, in 1965 and 1972!

Intriguing as the 'psychological saucer' is for many of us, it is with the 5% to 10% of unidentified physical flying objects that the crux of the matter lies.

I am not quite so sure now as I was in 1965 that, so far as this elusive percentage is concerned, its technology is necessarily advanced or alien. Evidence is accumulating that there may exist machines of terrestrial design and construction which account for some at least of the sightings of physical UFOs. I think it is fair to state that the extra-terrestrial hypothesis of UFO origin, although by no means to be ruled out at this stage of the game, has less evidence to support it than many of us would have imagined not so many years ago.

The fact is that the UFO 'expert' is a figment of journalistic imagination. We are all of us mere students of a very mysterious phenomenon. It does not behove any of us to pretend to omniscience in the field.

THE SUBSTANCE AND THE SHADOW

Extracted from a lecture to B.U.F.O.R.A. on December 4th, 1972.

The complete failure of recognised scientific methods in UFO Research to provide any sort of concrete answer to the strange variety of manifestations associated with UFO sightings has led . . . rather naturally to a distinct re-orientation of thought in many area of ufological research. Jacques Vallee, who until recently was entirely guided by the scientific approach to the UFO problem, has now written a book entitled, 'A Passport to Magonia,' in which he attempts to link together a vast variety of folk beliefs, myths alleged encounters with aliens, fairies, monsters, UFO sightings and psychic phenomena. He suggests that there is a common origin in a "Natural Phenomenon whose manifestations border on both physical and mental. There is a medium in which human dreams can be implemented, and that is the mechanism by which UFO events are generated, needing no superior intelligence to trigger them." In other words a psycho-physical phenomenon. This neatly puts the skates under any attempt to investigate such a phenomenon by accepted scientific means.

And now . . . John A. Keel the well known American ufologist who has published many forceful and well informed articles on the scientific study of the UFO problem has published a book with the rather sinister title of 'Operation Trojan Horse.' This theme he develops in a plausible and logical way, throwing together a vast hotch potch of UFO sightings, hauntings, legends, Biblical allusions and all the trappings of Jacques Valles's Magonia. However John Keel's message is clear. It is this.

We are the perpetual recipients of a sort of eternal Cosmic Joke perpetrated on us by some alien intelligence who or which can and does perform any kind of mental or physical deception on us poor humans. The reason for this elaborate Pantomime is not clear from his text but apparently their pet whim of the moment is the UFO with all its attendant lore its humanoids, monsters, evangelical pronouncements and visitors from a range of mythical sources such as Clarion, Blauu, Alpha Orionis, Epsilon Orionis, Lemuria Magonia and Aenstria.

If there is anything in the theories of these authors it would seem that we can't win. We are out-maneuvred out-thought and out-classed in technology and scientific matters generally. So is there any point in us ufologists continuing with our researches? Would it not be safer and better for us to retire gracefully from the fray before we are all 'got at' in one way or another?

Having studied the UFO problem in depth for many years I have come to the conclusion that Valle and Keel may be very near to the underlying truth and that something is afoot which accords very closely to their theories. I suggest we take a long cool look at the subject with a view to sorting out rationally what it is with which we are being confronted. Surely we owe it to our human self respect if not to our future mental integrity to face up to this colossal cosmic conundrum and find ways and means of calling this gigantic 'bluff.' We must recognise that the purpose of all these multifarious manifestations may be to cloud up the focussing of our intellect, to scare and bewilder us to the point of abandoning our researches into the true origins and aims of the UFO operators whom I regard as aliens

subject to the physical laws of this Universe but able to manipulate them by a technology perhaps millenia in advance of our own.

Such a capitulation might well spell disaster to our advancement both intellectual and scientific and the battle against us in this direction would be won. It may be that there are persons who are naturally endowed with a large measure of immunity to the inroads on their deeper layers of consciousness who may become bulwarks of strength in the future investigation and revelations associated with the UFO phenomenon but perhaps a word of warning is not out of place. . . . we do not know and perhaps cannot know how vulnerable we may be to these incursions and until any one of us is put to the test. I would stress again and again that ufological investigations should not be undertaken alone, particularly in lonely out of the way places. Be accompanied if possible by someone who is knowledgeable and experienced in such matters and who is known to have maintained a reliable and reasonable level of outlook throughout his researches.

Avoid at all costs those persons who are already 'halfway to Magonia' not only may they be victims of self-delusion and self-hypnosis but they could well be under the influence of what I have termed 'effect X.' This term I have used for a long time to account for the very strange behaviour of certain persons who claim to have had close contact with UFOs or their operators. Before such encounters these individuals are often well known to be truthful pillars of society and so regarded by their friends and family, but after their 'contact' they seem to suffer a mental change usually not at once.

The report of the sighting or contact is at first straightforward and reasonable but this gradually becomes embroidered and twisted so that eventually a farrago of untenable claims emerges which effectually discredits the contactee and his stories. We can all think of such cases. It behoves us therefore to be extremely wary in our approach to grounded UFOs and or their occupants.

Let us, if we can devise some system out of all this chaos.

Our conscious self may be regarded as being suspended between two main onslaughts of stimuli, those arriving via our six senses, (some would say seven) and those welling up from our sub-liminal and sub-conscious selves. These six senses are all we have to interpret the physical environment in which we find ourselves and through a system we call scientific we have worked out a method of expanding our understanding of this Universe around us. Unfortunately it is now clear this system while acting as a useful method of coping with our immediate physical surroundings it is quite inadequate to many of the incoming stimuli which appear to be physical and yet do not behave consistently within our rules of physics. These stimuli we may divide into those we have accepted as known reality and those which obey physical laws partly or temporarily. The UFO operators then, appear to have their feet in both camps and on one side we have solid physical three dimensiona, UFOs and operators but on the other are the UFOs of transitory and fluid presencel weird human-like forms, bird-men, pumas, monsters, fairies, trolls and all the paraphernalia of Magonia.

The manifestations often appear real and *are* temporarily real leaving marks on the ground, physical effects on persons and property which are lasting. With teleportations as a side line.

From the subconscious front our poor minds are constantly assailed by impressions, imaginings, urges dreams and perhaps visions and hallucinations, some of which may be drug engendered. It must take little effort by those entities who know how to approach our deeper levels to produce any required pseudo-visual projection they want to fill the need of the moment be it ghosts, demons imagined teleportations, saucer rides and evangelical inspirations. These experiences are of course subjective without other witnesses, although I wouldn't put it beyond our alien friends to practice occasional mass deception via our collective subconsciousness. Professor Jung firmly believed in such a common stratum of subconsciousness and Dunne has indicated a similar pervading substratum. Through this channel via our senses we may achieve telepathy and influence the thoughts of others although this faculty appears to be a rare and unusual gift.

We know that we can consciously resist open attempts to hypnotise us but we in some measure build up a sub-conscious resistance to counteract similar influences when applied by subterranean methods? As our conscious self formulates desires and decisions they are fed into the computer of our sub-conscious and play a part in the operation of the whole mechanism. Therefore conscious and stringent mental discipline should be helpful in providing a measure of protection and control at subconscious levels.

This sort of discipline is I believe insisted upon by devotees of the occult who take their investigations into uncharted realms. They are certainly employed by eastern Yogis.

One cannot pursue any theory dealing with origin of stimuli without raising the question of religious experience. If it is possible for alien technicians to influence the deeper levels of our conscious selves how much easier it should be for communication to occur between the deepest and most secret recesses of our being and some all pervading basic thought process which has always even there and to which we owe our very existence. This universal 'mind' could if necessary correct and protect the computer of our sub-conscious and in many religions would be termed 'God.'

How then may we continue towards the ultimate understanding and analysis of all these factors arising from the presence of UFOs and their operators in our environment? Perhaps we might form a 'think tank' composed of persons versed in the many facets of scientific and philosophical thought or any angle of research which might have a bearing on our problems. We must certainly try as far as possible to keep our feet on the ground and use recognised scientific methods as far as possible but we must also have open minds so that other theories and suggestions may be worked into the jigsaw. After all it is often not necessary to complete a whole jigsaw puzzle in order suddenly to become aware of the whole picture. Perhaps our 'picture' will fall in place more easily than at the present moment seems possible. I earnestly pray that this will be so.

Dr. G. G. DOEL

B.U.F.O.R.A. — CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT

Administration

I am pleased to report that the Association has had a first class administrative team during the past year, in the personages of Miss Betty Wood, Mrs. Anne Harcourt, Miss Pam Kennedy and Arnold West. Miss Christine Henning has also performed a valuable service by answering enquiries from potential members.

There have been several changes in the Executive since the 1970 A.G.M. Stephen Smith resigned his post as Director of Research, as he felt he couldn't give time to the work with his nuptials imminent. Stephen gave conscientious service as Honorary Treasurer prior to Arnold West and produced a number of Research Newsletters. I recall that he was one of the organisers of the successful symposium for investigators held at Cambridge University.

Miss Janet Gregory resigned as a result of taking up freelance editorial work. Captain Ivar Mackay resigned from office in June, partly for policy reasons and partly to pressure of his business commitments. Ivar had been Chairman for nearly four years, and took on a number of duties. This included the job of librarian, which he has agreed to retain, he made his home available for numerous committee meeting and working parties. He also did a great deal to make the BUFORA stand at the New Year Show in January 1969 the success it was. I recall originally suggesting his nomination to the Executive. Following his resignation I found myself rather unexpectedly in the chair, and have endeavoured to keep the administrative machinery running smoothly until the A.G.M. On a personal note, within a few days of this, I was asked to take over the chairmanship of my union branch at work when our efficient lady chairman resigned due to poor health. It was coincidental in that the numbers of both organisations were very similar.

Norman Oliver agreed to take over as Acting Vice-Chairman, and other vacancies have been filled by Lincoln Richford and Peter Wain, the latter's return being welcomed and he has proved most helpful

Finance

Thanks to the goodwill of members in generously donating to the Association, the careful budgeting and accounting by our Hon. Treasurer, Arnold West, and I believe some members paying claimable expenses out of their own pockets. I am pleased to report that the Association is in a healthy financial position. Therefore you will be pleased to hear that we have no immediate plans to raise subscriptions. Mr. West will be giving his official report after my own.

Membership and Meetings

Membership numbers have shown a noticeable drop during the earlier part of the membership year, and although there have been substantial gains as a result of our publicity during the August UFO flap, we are still below last year's figure for the same period. Our London meetings programme arranged by Captain Mackay has been interesting and varied, and this has reflected in the membership figures for London and the Home Counties, which have shown less falling off than other parts of the country. Meetings have totalled eight, and lectures given by Alan Watts, Charles Gibbs-Smith and recently David Viewing, who explained the Bedford Society's instrumented search for recording the advent of a UFO, are worthy of special mention.

Perhaps we should be thankful that "Women's Lib" has not reached BUFORA, as we owe a big thank you to our lady members, who have regularly and without complaint set out the refreshments during our meetings.

Publications

Since the last A.G.M. the Association has produced three Journals, edited by John Cleary-Baker, and the current issue incorporates Mrs. Kathleen Smith's UFOLOG. In the past I have advocated greater co-operation in supplying Mrs. Smith with reports for inclusion in UFOLOG, as his publication has been the only one endeavouring to record nearly all reports for posterity.

Before resigning, Stephen Smith (no relation to Mrs. Smith of the Isle of Wight) produced two Research Bulletins, and it is hoped that Anthony Pace, who has recently acceded to the post of Director of Research, will be able to continue them, or supply material for an expanded Journal.

During August, I produced a newsy SUMMER NEWSLETTER just before the August flap started. I had hoped that we could have issued an early report on the flap, but Omar Fowler, then Investigation Co-ordinator, felt that priority should be given to the actual investigation of reports which were coming in fairly fast at the time. It has been suggested that for future projects, the Association might produce a leaflet giving practical recommendations for intending sky-watchers, and also that it is time we produced a history of BUFORA.

Publicity

The Association has spent very little on publicity, and the recent flap, which continued apparently into September, provided an excellent opportunity to publicise ourselves. From letters received as a result of press articles and broadcast interviews, it became clear that BUFORA has a major need to make itself better known, both to the general public and technically qualified people. It is clear that a number of potentially interesting reports are never given to the media or UFO organisations, since the witnesses simply don't know of such organisations (or perhaps only know of the more cranky ones) and are reluctant to have fun poked at them by newspaper editors.

An advertisement to FLYING SAUCER REVIEW in early May has not appeared, for reasons which are not at present clear, and this seems to point a need to improving general co-operation between Britain's leading UFO Association and the world's leading UFO magazine. In addition to publicity gained through the Sky-watch exercise and the August flap, which resulted in Dennis Llewellyn, Anthony Pace, Omar Fowler and myself appearing on radio or television, I also chalked up what is probably a "first." I was invited to talk about the Association and UFOs for a tape which was distributed (on 4.10.71) to British Forces Radio Network stations in Germany, Gibraltar, Malta, Cyprus and Singapore.

I have continued to submit entries to the major directories (excluding telephone directories) for BUFORA AND BUFORA JOURNAL respectively.

We have a number of technically qualified members, and it is to be hoped that during the coming year they can be persuaded to write to the editors of their respective specialist journals drawing attention to the existence of BUFORA.

National Sky Watch, 26/27th June 1971

This year's exercise was successfully organised by Lincoln Richford, and was extensively written up in the SUMMER NEWSLETTER. We were favoured by a useful write-up in THE GUARDIAN, and I would like to thank all those who co-operated to put over a serious image to the reporter, Christopher Ford. It should be stressed that the sky-watch was a joint effort between a number of groups, and demonstrated that co-operation between societies can be made to work on occasions. Apart from the post near Salthouse on the Norfolk coast, where I luckily chose to be, the weather in other parts of the country was generally unfavourable for continuous watching throughout the night. Lincoln has agreed to organise the 1972 watch, which will take place on the night of 24/25th June.

Donation of Film

A length of 8mm colour film was donated by Mr. Huntington of Doncaster and screened at Kensington Central Library. Mr. Huntington was returning from his holidays with his family on 11 August 1970, when he photographed what appears to be a high-altitude vapour trail reflecting brightly in the setting sun. Since the precise time is uncertain, it would be difficult to check aeroplane flight paths for that day, so there will remain a doubt in some minds. The film was loaned to FLYING SAUCER REVIEW for examination, and they had a *copy* made for BUFORA. It is believed that FSR still has the original.

Research

Punched Card Index: This project initiated by Stephen Smith is currently in a pending status, and would make use of hand-punched cards. The formula for coding UFO reports has been worked out and it is hoped that Anthony Pace will ensure the continuance of the work.

Project Warminster: The project, initiated by John Cleary-Baker, was officially launched last May, with Arnold West acting as Project Co-ordinator. The main object of the project was to investigate current UFO reports at Warminster as they arose and to review the best of the reports which came to light in the past. The Association undertook to underwrite the project with up to £100, half of which was allocated to a caravan sited at Warminster. The caravan was loaned to the Association through the courtesy of Arnold West. More recently an inexpensive camera with tripod was purchased for use by regular sky-watchers, to record possible transient phenomena. A full report is not currently available as the project was only recently discontinued for the Winter.

August Flap: On 16th August, P.C. Leslie Leek, accompanied by three police colleagues in a patrol car answered a call from someone claiming to have seen a UFO. P.C. Leek took 12 photos of a "UFO" at Aldridge in Staffordshire, and the resulting story made national press headlines. At the time BUFORA was receiving an above average number of reports, and news of a flap in Southern Australia, together with a flap in April in New Zealand, were also coming in. William Moser, Secretary of the UFO Investigation Centre in Sydney was moved to say "It's just like old times again!" and he is currently president of the BAA New South Wales Astronomical Society. Scandinavia and particularly Finland appear to have experienced a flap during the earlier part of the year which included

landing reports. As a result of all this activity I took the unusual step of calling a "seven-day UFO alert," and said at the time, that the value of the exercise could only be judged in hind-sight. As BUFORA is not yet geared up for instant mail shots, I phoned a number of prominent ufologists and investigators around the country and hoped that they would pass the message along the line locally. We were fortunate in acquiring a fair amount of press co-operation and interest. As mentioned under "Publicity," several members did radio and television interviews in connection with the flap. Partly as an experiment, and with the full co-operation of Lincoln Richford and Omar Fowler, we called an instant sky-watch on Saturday, 21st August, and it was gratifying to report that a number of groups responded, but unfortunately the weather was again disappointing.

A newcomer to the research side was "Tim" O'Brien, who took over Omar Fowler's position as National Investigations Co-ordinator on 1st September. Tim has made an enthusiastic start which was very necessary during the flap. The Association recently started re-subscribing to a press cutting agency (Durrants) and about 10 days ago, Tim reported that he had received over 200 press cuttings since 1st September, making about 100 UFO reports received including those from members in about three weeks. As BUFORA receives an average of about 4/5 reports a week or perhaps one a day, then this was a phenomenal number.

It was reported in the SUMMER NEWSLETTER that we would again revert to the system of having Regional Co-ordinators, whose local knowledge would facilitate speedy investigation of sightings. The officers are being chosen with care and a list of names and areas will appear in the Journal in due course.

Notes: (The Aldridge photos were investigated by Dr. Allen Hynek, Roger Stanway and Julian Hennessey, who came to the unanimous conclusion, that P.C. Leek had acquired images of street lights while endeavouring to photograph Mars, which was unusually bright at the time. But not all the reports have had ready explanations.

UFO alerts are not unique, and Nigel Stephenson, voted an honorary life member at the A.G.M., has called them in earlier years).

Future Prospects

I understand that there is a strong prospect that we shall have a Northern Regional Conference during 1972. This is particularly important as there were no regional conferences in 1971.

I feel that BUFORA's full potential has yet to be realised. We have a strong administrative team and are in a healthy financial position. Therefore we have the essentials to more fully satisfy our aims. For too long, BUFORA's research has been done on a "muddle-along" basis. To start things moving, I proposed to the Executive this afternoon, that we call a meeting within the next two months, to formulate a definite programme of research and establish a research policy above and beyond that which is already in being. Before the meeting, it is suggested that we call upon technical talent amongst the membership to contribute to a "Think Tank" of research ideas, and perhaps a letter could be sent to technically qualified

members in a number of fields. There is no reason why any member shouldn't contribute if they have a good idea, but I must emphasise the need to keep proposals practical and scientific. Finance is not considered a major obstacle, although the need to formulate ideas in a practical manner, before financial matters can be considered, cannot be emphasised too strongly.

(Note: The policy research meeting was held in November and produced positive proposals).

I have also proposed to the Executive that we have a "paper sift" of the membership records. Although we have not ignored the backs of membership forms, we have not done a collective analysis of membership potential. A working party of about six people should not have too much difficulty in listing people who have volunteered their services for research, administration or editorially. Completed lists would then be distributed to the appropriate officers or sections. (Note: This proposal is being proceeded with).

I also feel that if BUFORA's activities had their hub in a centrally situated office, it would enormously facilitate progress.

If these ideas are accepted, I believe they will automatically ensure greater membership participation and perhaps overcome one of the main criticisms made by provincial members. I do not feel that the solution to the UFO enigma will come quickly, and I think that we will probably need to establish international scientific co-operation if we are to make any real progress. I do feel, that if properly handled, BUFORA has the potential to make a major contribution to UFO research, and could well have a part in solving the UFO enigma.

LIONEL BEER.

"SHOULD WE ADVERTISE?"

Should we or should we not attempt to make contact with extraterrestrial civilisations, supposing these exist? Ought we to advertise the fact of our existence in the Universe? There are conflicting view points on this fundamental question and certain experience here on our own planet argues strongly against the idea.

Professor Zdenek Kopal of the University of Manchester is an astronomer and one of a number of scientists interested in the possibility of alien life. His well publicised quotation sets a very cautionary note to our question. "A thousand, or ten thousand, years of evolutionary difference is just nothing on cosmic scales; and the chances that we could come across another civilisation in the Universe at approximately the same level of development—and with which we could effect some kind of intellectual understanding—are, therefore, vanishingly small. And such being the case, what gain—I repeat—could we hope to derive from contacts with hypothetical civilisations which are likely to be removed, not thousands, but millions or hundred millions of years from our level? Certainly the risks entailed in such an encounter would vastly exceed any possible interest—let alone benefit; and could easily prove fatal. Therefore, should we ever hear that "space-phone" ringing in the form of observational evidence which may admit of no other explanation, for God's sake let us not answer; but rather make ourselves as inconspicuous as we can to avoid attracting attention . . ."

There could be a great deal of truth in what he says especially if we consider our own history of less civilised communities confronted with technologically superior groups, not so very far removed from themselves. The plight of the North American Indians and more currently that of the rapidly disappearing "stone-age" tribes of the Brazilian jungles exemplify the disastrous effects the "benefits" of our civilisation have had on these more primitive cultures. Their once clear-cut identities have become confused and in many instances their peoples, like the dinosaur have followed the road to extinction.

Dr. Kraft A. Ehrlicke of the Space Division of North American Rockwell Corporation has a more optimistic view. "I believe encounter with an alien civilisation will be an elevating or dangerous experience, stimulating and interesting in any case, but not degrading on the grounds that it refutes the cherished but not very plausible postulate that we are of a unique quality. There are those, of course, who say we as mere mortals have no business questioning the secrets of the Universe. I cannot imagine a more foreboding, apocalyptic vision than the fate of a mankind possessed with cosmic powers and condemned to solitary confinement on one small planet."

Some scientists like Dr. F. D. Drake believe that attempts should be made to detect extraterrestrial technologies. In 1960 near Green Bank Virginia Dr. Drake and his co-researchers began the search using the 85ft. diameter radio telescope working at 21 centimetres, the radio emission line of hydrogen atoms in Space. Their "targets" were the stars Tau Ceti and Epsilon Eridani, both less than 12 light years distance from the Sun. This project was very limited and terminated after only 200 hours of observing time. Needless to say results were negative.

At the World's first Conference on Communication with Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence (CETI) held at the Byurakan Astrophysical Observatory in Soviet Armenia it was revealed by the director that a more elaborate "sky watch" had been carried out for the last three years by Dr. Troitsky of the Radiophysical Institute in Gorky, "using specially designed equipment operating in the centimetre and decimetre bands. The search is being concentrated on 50 selected stars in our own neighbourhood. The Soviet team is looking out for powerful impulsive signals which could pinpoint astro-engineering activities by an advanced extra-terrestrial civilisation."

You are undoubtedly familiar with the proposed methods of transmitting basic data about ourselves in a manner universally understandable by any would-be alien communicator. The transmission of digital pictures as well as messages for computer print out by the receiver is one of the ideas commonly envisaged.

The American space programme is geared to the search for extraterrestrial life and with the current exploration by the Mariner 9 probe the planet Mars seems to be again the most likely candidate in our Solar System. Previous Mariners 6 and 7 had indicated that the planet was virtually 'dead.' Excellent photographs received from Mariner however, show that the planet differs considerably from previous concepts of its appearance. In fact the planet is now thought to be geologically young having developed dynamically and chemically 'similar' to the Earth. Some of the volcanoes appear to be venting water vapour, and instruments show that water at the rate of about 100,000 gal. per day is being lost to space. This discovery of what may amount to a significant quantity of water, improves dramatically the chances that Mars may support some form of rugged and primitive life.

But perhaps we digress for although the discovery of even the most simple life forms indigenous to another planet would be of fundamental importance, our question concerns life which has evolved to a high level of technological and scientific advancement (and hopefully an equally moral and social attainment), and the interaction with our own relatively new civilisation.

On the 3rd March, 1972 the Americans successfully launched their Pioneer 10 space probe on its historic journey to investigate the giant planet Jupiter and to sample the environment of distant interplanetary space. If all goes well the space craft will reach the vicinity of the planet, after traversing the major part of the asteroid belt, by about December, 1973, when it should be within a distance of 100,000 miles. Experiments carried aboard the 550lb. spacecraft include instruments to measure interplanetary magnetic fields and plasma, and the composition of charged particles. Small reflecting telescopes will attempt to detect and measure asteroids and meteoroids by their reflected or scattered light. Jupiter itself at encounter will come under careful scrutiny including the investigation of Jovian charged particles, trapped radiation, and infrared thermal structure. Perhaps of more interest to the layman will be the first close up pictures of Jupiter radioed back to Earth across hundreds of millions of miles of space and taking 45 minutes to reach N.A.S.A.'s Deep Space Network.

After encounter, with the planet's powerful gravity acting as a slingshot, Pioneer 10 will be hurled beyond Jupiter to begin the first voyage of a man-made spacecraft out of the solar system.

More appropriate to the question in hand is the unique plaque which astronomers Dr. Carl Sagan and Dr. Frank D. Drake persuaded N.A.S.A. to attach to Pioneer's antenna supports. (see diagram). Its purpose: to indicate where the far-ranging robot came from and who its builders were should Pioneer ever be intercepted by extraterrestrial beings. The chances of interception are admittedly small and to ensure its preservation the aluminium plaque has been anodised with erosion resistant gold. But more important the symbols etched into it have been designed to be meaningful even to beings totally unfamiliar with human logical processes. "We do not know if the message will ever be found or decoded," writes Sagan and Drake in *Science*, "but its inclusion on the Pioneer spacecraft seems to us a hopeful symbol of a vigorous civilization on Earth."

Whether we like it or not a 6 by 9 inch advertisement telling of our appearances of our location within the galaxy and something of our technological achievement, is speeding on its journey of discovery which will take it eventually through the solar system and beyond the influence of our Sun into the unknown realms of intergalactic space.

But wait a moment, if we accept that the subject of our studies, the UFO Phenomenon, constitutes evidence for a direct confrontation with the representatives of extraterrestrial civilisations who by their very presence in our world must be superior to us, then whatever our viewpoint for or against the issue, the question does not arise!

A. R. PACE.

ASSOCIATION VIEWPOINT

It has been decided to reinstate the Secretarial page after a long absence. Readers may have their own opinions as to the wisdom or otherwise of this but any constructive ideas as to the future content will be very welcome.

* * *

The new Committee has been very busy to date this year implementing plans for future research activities and general expansion of the aims of the Association. The news cuttings service, expensive but very worthwhile, is being fully exploited by our very energetic Investigations Co-ordinator, Mr. C. A. E. O'Brien, who has been rushing around the country interviewing witnesses of the more interesting sightings. The last Committee Meeting (in February) covered a great deal of ground and everyone left, figuratively speaking, with a large file marked "ACTION." We hope that the eventual outcome will enable members to feel that their continued and loyal support to the Association is fully justified.

* * *

Recent T.V. programmes, although arousing the present rather feeble public interest, have not exactly improved the image of UFO research. In the "Man Alive" report in February, the B.B.C. gave its usual travesty of impartiality and most critics appeared to have switched off in the first 15 minutes, when all the usual "fringe elements" were being paraded for our amusement. When is the opposition going to produce some new faces? Those three stock characters of The Man from the Ministry, the Earnest Psychologist and the Orthodox Scientist are becoming rather a bore. Surely our lively panel at the end of the programme deserved something a little better to sharpen their teeth on.

A rather more Fortean effort a few days later, entitled "The Day it Rained Periwinkles" was a little more interesting but lacked any coherent pattern and the title never justified itself. However, Dr. Hynek did put in some very good words for the defence.

* * *

After the Oxfordshire flap of late 1971, the New Year began on a very quiet note, with few sightings—despite the fact that Venus has been very bright in the evening sky, an event which some quarters would have us believe has policemen chasing all over the country after "flying crosses."

* * *

A new book, "Man and the Universe" by Zdenek Kopal, Professor of Astronomy at Manchester University sounds, without having been read by me, fairly open-minded. Professor Kopal theorises that, among the uncountable number of planets in the universe, there are billions that could possibly support intelligent life—and that among that immense number many of them must support a type of intelligent life far in advance of ours. However, here he inserts a word of warning and says: "We might find ourselves in their test tubes or other contraptions set up to investigate us as we do insects or guinea-pigs shoul we ever heard that "space-phone" ringing, for God's sake let us not answer; but rather make ourselves as inconspicuous as we can to avoid attracting attention." It sounds rather sombre, but in view of the Barney Hill case and others similar, it would seem that some selectivity is required when approaching your U.F.O.

Now that the dust storms on the planet Mars have begun to clear, many interesting photographs are being taken. Mars could be a dynamic world containing water and even rudimentary life, according to evidence sent back to Earth by the Mariner 9 spacecraft. Its surfaces appears to be covered with a complex pattern of deep canyons, river beds and what appear to be gigantic volcanoes. A picture taken by one of the Soviet space-probes reveals a strange circular feature some 10 miles across—like an enormous fairy ring! Some of the Martian volcanoes have what seems to be cloud condensation at their peaks which could be part of an extraordinary process by which rain clouds emerge from the body of the planet, pass through the atmosphere and then dissipate into space. Even if the Martians themselves are conspicuous by their absence, it would seem that the planet is quite capable of being used as a base—either by ourselves in the future or by any other interested parties.

BETTY WOOD.

FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN

May I thank you for your continued support of BUFORA and hope that you will find this issue of the Journal both interesting and informative. I also pass on the thanks of your Research Director to all those members who have so far responded to his request in the recent Newsletter. If you have not already sent in your replies to the questions on the reverse of the membership application form, please may I urge you to do so as soon as you possibly can.

The Association has been fairly active in recent months and I should like to draw your attention to the more important of these developments.

1. Discussions are taking place with the Charity Commissioners regarding the registration of BUFORA as a Charity. Registration would bring important financial advantages.
2. Your Vice-Chairman, Lionel Beer, is on the process of reviewing the whole question of the Association's press and public relations.
3. The Association has decided to publish a small booklet summarising and highlighting the major aspects of the UFO phenomenon and providing information about BUFORA—this should satisfy a recognised need and in doing so serve as a very useful public relations exercise.
4. An inventory has been taken of all the Association's assets and possessions.
5. The Banbury ATV film case is still under active investigation and copies of the 16mm colour film are being analysed by Dr. Baker in the U.S.A., Percy Hannel of Flying Saucer Review and experts at Kodak with whom your Investigation Co-ordinator, Tim O'Brien, has formed a useful working relationship. A report will be published on this important case as soon as possible.
6. As some of you will have seen, I participated in the recent BBC "Man Alive" programme on UFOs. I gave careful thought to the prospect before I finally consented to appear and I believe that, in spite of the criticism of the documentary, I made the right decision. The wisdom of agreeing to participate in a pre-recorded programme is being increasingly questioned by many people who have suffered at the hand of the film editor who makes cuts in contributions without consulting contributors.

In conclusion, may I invite comments and suggestions from any member who feels that he or she has a point of view to express which will further the development of the Association.

ROGER H. STANWAY.

NOVOSTI INFORMATION SERVICE

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'Cosmos 475' Launched

Another artificial earth satellite, **Cosmos 475**, was launched in the Soviet Union on February 25, carrying scientific instruments for further space research under the programme announced earlier.

The satellite was put into an orbit with an initial period of revolution of 105 minutes, perigee 977 kilometres, apogee 1,013 kilometres, orbital inclination 74.0 degrees.

Apart from scientific instruments, the satellite has a radio system for accurate measurement of orbital elements and a radio telemetric system to transmit instrument readings back to earth.

The on-board instruments are functioning normally and the incoming information is being processed.

* * *

Standardised Automatic Platform for Space Deliveries

A standardised automatic platform capable of delivering equipment of different types to the moon has been developed in the U.S.S.R., Academician Georgi Petrov writes in *Pravda*.

He points out that the data obtained by means of automatic vehicles which operated on the moon are rather extensive. There is no doubt, he says, that the opportunities opened up by automatic vehicles hold extremely great promise in different fields of space exploration, particularly in tracing back the history of the development of our planetary system. The flight of *Luna 20* is a weighty corroboration of this fact.

The standardised platform was used for the first time in 1970 for the delivery to the moon of an automatic vehicle with manipulators for collecting lunar rock samples. In the same year, a platform, differing from the first one in a number of parts, delivered to the moon the self-propelled automatic laboratory *Lunokhod 1* with a terrestrial weight of 700 kilograms.

The success of the experiments carried out, the Academician notes, makes it possible to outline interesting programmes for space exploration—the delivery to the earth of rock samples from different parts of the moon, for example, lengthy observations of its natural seismicity by means of instruments installed in different areas of the planet. Petrov also points out that it would be possible to install a telescope with a special electronic unit near the moon's equator.

The self-propelled vehicle is capable of giving full data on the distribution and forms of craters with a size of from 10 centimetres to tens of metres over a large area in the course of six or seven months.

The preliminary processing of the data obtained from *Lunokhod 1* has shown that in some cases it is possible to establish from what specific craters stones had been ejected.

Academician Petrov stresses that the programme of moon exploration by means of automatic satellites is an important supplement to such experiments.

Origin of Lunar Soil

A situation produced by the impact of meteorites falling on the moon's surface has been simulated by Soviet geochemists under laboratory conditions. The scientists used a laser beam to strike basalt and other rocks placed in a vacuum. The experiment produced micro-craters resembling those discovered on the surface of the moon.

A large number of spherical pellets, varying in form and in size from one to several score microns, were obtained. They appeared to be identical with particles contained in quantity in the lunar soil delivered to earth by *Luna 16*, *Apollo 11* and *Apollo 12*.

The experiment was based on the hypothesis that a meteorite striking the moon's surface produces a cloud of molten particles. Scientists attribute the appearance of "cosmic" glass-like pellets on the earth to a similar phenomenon.

* * *

EDITORIAL NOTE: I have included the above in the belief that a view of current events in Space Research, seen through Soviet eyes, might be of interest to 'Journal' readers.

—o—

NOTES & QUOTES

Project Warminster.

A certain newspaper, which failed to render my name correctly, reported me as stating that twenty UFO photographs were taken at Warminster during the active term of the project. This is as much moonshine as the rumour that £150 was spent on the enterprise. No photographs of UFOs were taken and under £70 was spent on the project, much of it on site rent for the caravan.

The Charlton Crater.

It is being asserted in some quarters that Mr. Charles Stickland, I and other investigators of this phenomenon back in 1963, were unaware of the possibility that lightning strike caused the crater. This is completely untrue and contemporary published reports prove as much. We rejected the lightning explanation because it did not tally with the appearances. I will deal with the matter in a later issue of the 'Journal.'

Research & Good Manners.

It is a pity that some self-proclaimed "scientific" UFO investigators seem to regard provocative tactics and general rudeness and bad manners as an essential part of their technique of investigation. It would be an error on anyone's part to reply to these immature and callow demonstrations on the level of their instigators. One can only hope that eventually the culprits will grow up, shed their juvenile resentments and realise that there are other points of view than their own and that differences of opinion can be aired in an adult fashion.

Dan Butcher.

I am sure that all 'Journal' readers will be sorry to learn of the untimely death of Dan Butcher on January 10th last. I did not know Dan personally, except via the telephone, but, on the basis of his writings, entertained a high regard for his wide knowledge and scholarship, especially in the field of folklore. He will be sadly missed by his many friends and colleagues in UFO-research. We extend our sympathy to his family.

A Timely Thought.

"To make the existence and coherent structure of this universe depend upon automatic activity and upon chance is against all good sense."

—PLOTINUS: ENNEAD III, ii.

Parlez-Vous Plutonian?

Many viewers were annoyed, in the T.V. programme on the Banbury 'flap,' by an eccentric gentleman who babbled away in what was alleged to be 'Plutonian.' In fact, this was an interesting example of the psychological phenomenon known as Glossolalia. For an extensive treatment, see, "From India to the Planet Mars," published in the last years of the 19th Century by Professor Flournoy of the University of Geneva.

International Conference.

Your Editor, who was recently appointed a member of the International Advisory Council of CONTACT, will be the guest speaker for an International Conference at Caxton Hall, at 7 p.m. on Saturday, May 27th, next. Members of BUFORA will be welcome.

Definitions.

"A neurotic is a man who builds a castle in the air. A psychotic is a man who lives in it. A psychiatrist is the man who collects the rent."

—'LOOK,' 4/10/55.

The Annual Skywatch.

BUFORA Committee Member Lincoln Richford has been appointed National Skywatch Organiser for the Association and all communications on the subject should be addressed to him. Question—in view of our ever-dubious weather, is my idea of a Skywatch WEEK—adopted by CONTACT—a viable one for BUFORA also?

J. C-B.

UFO OBSERVED OVER TYNEMOUTH—15th/16th AUGUST, 1971

Initial appraisal of UFOLOG Sighting Ref : 3/5/10

A detailed copy of this report was sent to BUFORA Chairman Roger Stanway by the principle witness Wolfgang von Metz. The same report together with graphs and diagrams has also been published in F.S.R. Case Histories, December, 1971.

I feel that those who have read this report would agree that Mr. von Metz and his co-observer Mr. O'Brady-Jones should be congratulated on the way in which they attempted to observe the UFO in a "more scientific and analytical" manner. It would make the sighting evaluator's job a great deal easier if every witness of a UFO event were to go to so much trouble in systematically recording their observations.

However, it was because of the wealth of data available, (and in spite of von Metz's remark in the full account, that Mars followed its normal course), that after careful scrutiny of the evidence I became increasingly suspicious that the culprit might be in fact that self same planet!

In the first instance the sighting took place on the same night as the Aldridge, Staffs. UFO report, i.e. 15th/16th August, 1971, and as we know from Dr. Hynek's investigations of this case, Mars *was* responsible. Secondly von Metz's observation lasted for more than two hours which tends to make one think of a phenomenon of a more permanent nature.

In F.S.R. von Metz presents two graphs, one showing the lateral movement against time and the other, elevation against time. Considering the lateral movement of the UFO the graph indicates erratic movement to the right of a little more than 30° in just over two hours (11.30 p.m. B.S.T. to 1.45 a.m. B.S.T.). Knowing that the Earth turns towards the East 15° in an hour (giving the appearance that the stars are turning at the same speed in the opposite direction) one might suppose that von Metz could have observed a celestial object.

Turning to the second graph the UFO is shown to have moved (again erratically) from an altitude of just over 6° to almost 17° in under two and a half hours (11.30 p.m. B.S.T. to 1.52 a.m. B.S.T.). Suppose the UFO was a celestial object and suppose it was Mars then would its movement on the night in question, fit the graph? Within reason it would! By 1.30 a.m. B.S.T. the UFO had already levelled out at just under 17° altitude according to von Metz. Mars would have been at maximum elevation of a little more than 14° at that time and due south. Considering the methods used by the observers to record the lateral and elevation movements the discrepancies between the graphs and the smooth motion of Mars could well be explained within the limits of experimental error.

As regards the drawings made with the aid of binoculars and a small telescope, they are rather reminiscent of a bright light source affected by colour aberrations through the lenses—possibly astigmatism. In addition at the low altitude recorded a bright celestial object such as Mars could be subject to a large degree of atmospheric turbulence, and as any amateur astronomer will tell you this planet is a difficult object to observe under the best conditions.

Mr. O'Brady-Jones described the UFO as a "rather prominent object with a definite orange glow." This could fit the "red planet" theory especially when one considers the reddening effects of the atmosphere at low altitude.

A few obvious questions will give us the answer, one way or the other. For example, where was Mars in relation to the UFO? You could not miss noticing the bright fiery planet!

A. R. PACE.

REPORT BY THE NATIONAL INVESTIGATION CO-ORDINATOR

For the period 1st September to 31st December, 1971

This report covers the first four months of my work as Investigations Co-ordinator. It is of a trial nature and I should be grateful for comments on how it could be improved in the future to meet the needs of the Association and its Executive Officers.

A. General Observations

For the present, I am working within the framework of the following set of consecutive events:

- (i) receipt and recording of Sighting.
- (ii) despatch of Sighting to selected investigator.
- (iii) receipt of completed Sighting Report Form from investigator.
- (iv) classification of Sighting into one of these Categories—N, S, SS or SSS.
- (v) planning of detailed investigation for Categories SS and SSS.
- (vi) personal supervision of all SSS cases (and some borderline SS cases) to ensure continuity and consistency.
- (vii) preparation of full reports on all SS and SSS cases for submission to the Evaluation Panel.
- (viii) possible preparation of selected SSS cases for scientific publication.

The tentatively adopted classifications, above, indicate the quality of the Sighting, in the following terms:

- | | | |
|--------------|---|--|
| Unclassified | — | insubstantial reports of Sightings—worth recording, but not investigating. |
| N | — | significant reports with possibilities of adding to our knowledge. |
| S | — | especially significant report, possibly requiring special instructions to the investigator. |
| SS | — | important Sighting, with possibilities of developing into a high quality report which could add substantially to our knowledge. |
| SSS | — | a top grade Sighting, with detailed visual impact, fully substantiated and corroborated by independent witnesses, potentially capable of development into a case worthy of scientific publication. |

All incoming Sightings are separated into two trays marked "FILE" and "INVESTIGATE." Those marked for investigation are given a preliminary classification of quality, which can be altered upwards or downwards as the investigation proceeds. When Sightings occur at normal intervals, all significant cases can be processed immediately, but during "flaps" when 30 or more arrive in one post, "INVESTIGATE" has of necessity to be subdivided into "IMMEDIATE" and "DELAYED."

B. Source of Material

Sighting material is currently reaching me from three sources:

- (a) members of BUFORA
- (b) the public, and
- (c) Durrant's Press Cutting Service (started early in September, 1971).

By far the greatest proportion of material is received from Durrant, which, apart from some apparently unavoidable delay, is proving extremely valuable.

The following is a statistical breakdown of material received during the period.

<i>Newspaper cuttings from Durrant</i>	—	510
reports worth recording	74	
reports of 7th September "barium cloud"	93	
duplicates and irrelevant material	341	
significant articles	2	
	<hr/>	
<i>Cuttings and letters from BUFORA members and the public</i>	—	51
reports worth recording	33	
reports not worth recording	18	
	<hr/>	
<i>Total</i>	—	<hr/> 561 <hr/>

On the 107 reports listed as "worth recording," action was taken as follows:

<i>Recorded but not investigated</i>	—	51
insignificant reports	36	
no investigator available	7	
investigation by other Societies	7	
	<hr/>	
<i>Reports sent to local investigators and/or Sighting reports for action</i>	—	57
Sighting Report Form returned after interview of witnesses	29	
Sighting Report Form not returned	28	
	<hr/>	
<i>Total</i>	—	<hr/> 107 <hr/>
 Sightings classified as S	12	
Sightings classified as SS	7	
Sightings classified as SSS	2	
Identified or insignificant	8	
	<hr/>	
<i>Total</i>	29	<hr/>

C. Significant Investigations

From the foregoing it will be noted that of 107 Sighting reports considered worth recording, 9 have proved to be of outstanding interest. These 9 are commented on, briefly, below.

Report No. 1100 — Droitwich — 24 August 71 — SS.

This is the case of the three girl-guide leaders who were frightened by the alleged landing of a large craft in the field next to their camp. This occurred before I took office, but I have tried, nevertheless, to contact the witnesses without success. *If genuine*, this case is a prime example of the Press destroying an investigation by ridicule and blatant publicity. None of the three ladies, apparently, will discuss the matter, further, but it may be necessary to try again later, after the shock of publicity has subsided.

Report No. 1118 — Newcastle-under-Lyme — 18 August 71 — SSS.

This case was investigated by R. Stanway and A. R. Pace, again before I took office. Their report, which is documented and illustrated with diagrams, records the passage of a brilliantly illuminated craft (estimated at 200 metres in length), with 12 to 14 windows on its underside, over a house. Unfortunately, there is only one witness, a housewife, which must throw doubt on the high grading I have given the case.

Most probably, it will be necessary to return to this case after a series of other detailed sightings have been investigated.

Report No. 1181 — Oxford Area — 26 October 71 — SS.

This case, in which an A.T.V. camera crew made a film of a daylight sighting of a high-flying UFO, is under investigation by R. Stanway who has obtained a copy of the film. This Sighting could be upgraded to SSS, if the study of the film reveals clear details with alien characteristics.

Report No. 1182 — Northwood — 27 October 71 — SSS.

Possibly significantly, on the afternoon following Report No. 1181, a woman graduate teacher of Pure Mathematics reported seeing a magnificent craft hovering in daylight over Northwood Golf Course. This craft is estimated at 1000 feet in length; was constructed of glass-like material gleaming like aluminium foil, with 10 observed windows, or facets, each 100 feet in width. The windows were inset at an angle to the vertical, and the whole lower "window section" was slowly rotating, giving flashes of intense illumination as each came into view. The witness observed the object, intermittently, for a period of from 2 to 3 minutes, and then saw it recede obliquely upwards to vanishing point in the space of under 1 second of time, a movement which would require almost instant acceleration to a speed of at least 200,000 miles an hour. The witness arrived at the house where she was to give a private lesson, about 2 minutes later in a state of shock and excitement, and was immediately persuaded to sketch what she had seen.

If this Sighting is eventually accepted as substantiated, many fascinating factors will need to be considered, such as near-instantaneous acceleration, absence of "sonic boom," and the apparant weightlessness of so large and sophisticated a craft.

The report is under investigation by my wife and myself and the witness has been interviewed in depth. So far, we have established that noone on the golf course saw the object, and we are now attempting through the local press to trace other witnesses. In particular, we are anxious to interview a passing motorist who appeared to be craning out of his side window, possibly having seen the object. Contact is also being made with Northolt Airport and Ruislip Reservoir authorities.

Although this is a remarkable Sighting, certain reservations will have to be made unless corroborative evidence can be obtained.

Report No. 1194 — Stourbridge — 16 November 71 — SS.

This is a nighttime report by two schoolboys of a spinning, dome-shaped object seen hovering over Corbett Hospital. It is claimed that it came down low enough for its illuminated shape to be seen. Two sketches, by one boy at the time of sighting, and the other some weeks later, are compatible with each other. It is unfortunate, that in the absence of other corroboration, the evidence of the two young boys (both 10 years old) must, for the time-being, be treated with reserve.

Report No. 1196 — Barrow-in-Furness — 21 November 71 — SS.

A man and his wife, in bed at 12.25 a.m., claim to have seen an enormous illuminated craft (possibly in excess of 1000 feet in length) "glide" past their open window, soundlessly, over the space of 6 seconds. They were able to judge its apparent size against the length of the terraced houses opposite, and to record its shape and colour in some detail.

As no investigator was available in the area, the interview was carried out in Barrow by my wife and myself. During the interview, it came out that the man was an epileptic, and, therefore, possibly subject to premonitory optical and aural illusions. However, no fit appears to have followed the Sighting, and the wife, a "down to earth," practical, intelligent woman, stoutly corroborates her husband's description. Of course, in the excitement of such a short sighting "folie à deux" has to be considered, and this downgrades an otherwise excellent report. In an attempt to find other witnesses I am in touch with the local paper, and with the Management of the nearby Vickerstown shipyards.

Report No. 1199 — Dawley — 24 November 71 — SS.

This is a well-corroborated nighttime Sighting of an illuminated, dome-shaped object hovering for several minutes about 200 yards from the witnesses. It was seen by a man, his wife and son, and by their neighbours, man, wife and two grown-up sons, seven people in all. The investigation was carried out by N. M. H. Turner, who was unable to obtain further witnesses, but has produced an excellently reasoned comment on the case.

Report No. 1201 — London E.17 — 19 November 71 — SS.

This daylight Sighting was sketched on site, and reported by two designers from their second floor office window. The sketch shows a smaller dome on top of a larger, inverted dome—an unfamiliar shape in UFO records. The investigation was done by K. Phillips, but will need to be carried further.

Report No. 1026 — Truro — 14 November 71 — SS.

A headmaster and his wife awoke in the early dark hours of the morning to see a large bright, red to orange, circular object, which became elliptical at times, through their bedroom window. Several smaller illuminated objects parted from the larger object, and carried out manoeuvres on their own before rejoining it. One smaller object appeared to land near a farm where a few days earlier 46 pigs were killed in a surprisingly fierce and incontrollable fire. A possibly relevant fact was that none of the pigs (over 200 were rescued) made any sound—all seemed stunned. The Sighting was watched by the two witnesses for 55 minutes.

This is a peculiar report and I have arranged to go down to the site, myself, on 19th January, and to see the witnesses and T. W. Cox the local investigator who carried out the original interview.

D. Banbury Events

I am greatly concerned over the events connected with what has been described as the "Banbury Flap." I have studied the reports compiled by Messrs. Colborne, Llewellyn and Palmer; I have visited the area and had discussions with the Rev. Thomas and Palmer; and I have accepted an invitation by the B.B.C. to be present at the Banbury Town Hall on 25th January, when the B.B.C. are to hold a "Man Alive" programme, there, on the subject of UFOs.

I do not deny that genuine UFO Sightings appear to have occurred in the area, but I do not consider them to have been any more numerous than those in other parts of Britain, in the past six months. The events have been over-emphasised by the "Oxford Mail," and "bally-hooed" and over-publicised by Keith Palmer, until it is quite impossible to sort out the genuine from the hysterical and the blatantly false.

Banbury is an unfortunate place for such exaggerations for the following reasons:

(i) there are at least seven airfields around the area, with the R.A.F. thickly represented.

(ii) there are several areas of military importance with restrictions on civilian movement,

(iii) there is evidence of the testing of a new type of helicopter with a powerful, cone-shaped, belly light—and this may account for many of the night sightings.

Any interest shown by the Ministry of Defence, as claimed by Palmer, is likely to be through concern for security arrangements in the area, and their dislike of public attention being drawn to the area.

Richard Colborne has done excellent work in the area, and has shown great enthusiasm and persistence. He has achieved much by unmasking some of the false and exaggerated reporting carried out by others there.

Reports of "eight feet tall, hairy monsters," which fanned the local hysteria, are completely unsubstantiated, and, in part, almost certainly hoaxes, the principal witness having disappeared leaving a false trail.

I have quite deliberately refrained from pressing BUFORA investigators to intervene in the area (and left it purely on a voluntary and unofficial basis), as I have felt that involvement could only bring BUFORA into disrepute. Of course, outstanding Sightings, such as that by the A.T.V. camera crew, are outside this criticism and should be pursued as part of our country-wide investigations.

If called on to speak at Banbury Town Hall, I shall state my views, and, hopefully accentuate the more rational and scientific approach taken by BUFORA, compared with the so-called I-UFORA.

E. Organisation of Investigations Section

At present, I am working with a list of 112 official BUFORA investigators, with a further 6 waiting acceptance. The great majority of these people are concentrated in urban and metropolitan areas. Judging from the 50% success which I have had in persuading investigators to undertake interviews in their areas, I

must assume that not more than 60 can be considered actively interested. Provided the present lull in sightings continues, there should be an opportunity for weeding out the ineffective, and for strengthening ties with those keen enough to accept personal inconvenience when it occurs.

With reference to Regional Co-ordinators, I still hold the view that a widespread of such posts is essential if Investigation is to be efficiently carried out. Regional Co-ordinators, however, should have certain qualities, such as

- (i) personality and leadership
- (ii) wide experience in "Ufology"
- (iii) broad, elementary knowledge of Astronomy and Meteorology, and a sound General Knowledge
- (iv) integrity
- (v) mobility and keenness.

Such people are difficult to find, and particularly with sufficient spare time to devote to organising a region.

However, in my view, no regional post should be created until a suitable applicant is available, and no lowering of standards should be accepted in order to create posts in vacant regions.

So far, the following Regions are in process of being established:

Yorkshire	—	Mr. T. Whitaker
Surrey and Borders (possibly Home Counties)	—	Mr. O. Fowler
Cornwall	—	Mr. T. Cox
Scotland	—	Mr. D. Hogg

There is a possibility that Northern Ireland may be allotted to Mr. J. J. McGuigan.

Other regions that require early action when suitable co-ordinators are found, are:

Devon, Dorset and Somerset
London and Middlesex
South Midlands (centred on Birmingham)
North Midlands (centred on Stoke or Manchester)
Oxford, Gloucester, Wiltshire and Berkshire.

I should always be pleased to receive suggestions from members of the Executive Committee concerning possibly suitable candidates for these posts.

F. Concluding Remarks

The frequency of Sightings, which was at such a high level in September, October and November, moderated in December, and has now died down completely. Not a single report has been received during the first 14 days of the New Year.

CLAYPITTS
THAXTED
ESSEX.

14th January, 1972.

Signed C. A. E. O'BRIEN, C.B.E.

ENTHUSIASM

One of our younger members Paul Wagg of Walsall wrote to the Secretary in September enquiring whether BUFORA would be interested in receiving a copy of his catalogue which was based on a file of nearly 1,500 reported UFO sightings between the years 1946 and 1965. In addition Paul was prepared to supply a copy of the file in tabulated form in either:—

1. The number of sightings per day for every month between 1960 and 1970, or
2. The number of sightings per month between 1950 and 1970, or both.

Paul is a sixth former studying for his A-levels at the local grammar school and has been interested in UFOs for over four years. Naturally we asked to see Paul's work and were extremely impressed by the amount of time and effort he must have put into the catalogue and tabulations. It was indeed encouraging to find someone with so much enthusiasm for the subject. The catalogue which contains sightings extending from 1946 to 1965 has taken three years to compile. The latter part from 1966 to 1971 has yet to be completed, when the whole work will be based on a file containing over 2,000 sightings.

Details are given under the headings of date, time and location of reports and Paul has used an alphabetical coding system "which incorporates any peculiarities of the sighting and any exterior effects produced by the objects." For instance A indicates "Taken aboard object," and B—"Beings seen or communicated with." The whole alphabet is utilised ending with Z—"Radiation detected with object as source." The author states that he tends to shun reports of contact, but to prevent biasing the catalogue he has included all reports of this nature.

The first tabulation giving the number of sightings per day for every month between 1960 and 1970 contains eleven tables, one for each year, headed across the top with the months and down the left hand side with the days of the month. Sightings are then plotted in the body of the table and totals for days of the month are thrown out on the right hand side and totals for each month along the bottom.

698 reports were used with the following results:—

Totals for each month for eleven years

January	48	July	84
February	37	August	99 **
March	65	September	53
April	52	October	81
May	38	November	42
June	57	December	42

The author concludes therefore that the highest percentage of reports were registered during August. In addition "from initial observations the greatest percentage of reports per day of the month seems to be on the 6th. The obvious step from this tends to suggest that the highest number of reports should occur on the 6th August."

The author admits however that this result may be influenced by the fact that at this time of the year many people are on holiday and have a better chance of seeing unusual phenomena while they are out of doors and not cooped up in an office or factory. Putting his conclusion into practical terms Paul also suggested that the National Sky-Watch, held once a year should take place on August 6th when ever possible.

A. R. PACE.

U F O L O G

(Sightings Supplement)

UFO sighting-reports intended for inclusion in UFOLOG should be sent direct to the compiler, as follows:—

MRS. K. SMITH,
“ Ringlemere,” Colwell Road,
Colwell Bay, Isle of Wight.

A large percentage of all UFO reports relate to misidentified man-made artifacts or natural phenomena. ‘Journal’ readers must decide for themselves whether or not a given sighting ought to be assigned a conventional explanation or retained in the ‘Unknown’ category.

To assist them in reaching a decision, each report bears a number, i.e. 3/5/4, which implies Volume 3, Number 5, Report 4. Reports appearing in a given issue of the ‘Journal’ will be thus identified in future issues, when a verdict on each report will be delivered in the light of subsequent enquiries by BUFORA investigators.

Only major sightings can be evaluated fully. Minor sightings will, when possible, be subjected to appraisal.

It has been decided to confine the contents of UFOLOG to sightings reported within the compass of the British Isles, since investigation of foreign reports ought to devolve upon UFO societies operating in the countries concerned.

J.C-B.

Ref. : 3/6/1.

Time : Morning.

Date : December 7th, 1970.

Location : Newbury.

The report appears in the August 19th edition of the “Newbury Weekly News.” A man, who wishes to remain anonymous, saw the object in the field as he was driving past on the morning of December 7th, 1970. He described it as being about 20 feet in diameter, circular in shape, and coloured dullish-grey. As he walked across the muddy field to investigate, it suddenly took off and disappeared into the clouds in the space of four seconds.

The man was so shaken by the experience that he fetched a friend who lived nearby and together they returned to the spot where, in the middle of a field of mud, they found a patch of completely dry ground. They also discovered indentations suggesting something had been dragged along the ground.

Later the man recalled a fuzzy halo above the object when it took off, which could have been moisture condensing. There was also a faint hum like a generator.

The object had at least four windows, and also what looked like a hatch low down near the ground. Two “arms” on the sides of the craft retracted as it took off.

Mr. Lloyds (president of the Newbury South-West Aerial Phenomena Society) told the “News,” “This man is an experienced observer of all types of aircraft, yet he cannot account for this object. It disturbed him profoundly and this was the reason he contacted us.”

“SKYLOOK,” Box 129, STOVER, MO., U.S.A.

Ref. : 3/6/2.

Location : Banbury.

Date : Last week of August, 1971.

Mrs. Bones, her daughter Margaret (25) and son Robert (19) of Claydon, near Banbury saw, during the last week of August, various lights on the ground 800 to 1,000 yards to the east of the bungalow which is situated on the east side of the village and overlooks the fields leading on to the Banbury-Oxford canal.

It struck Mrs. Bones as strange that the lights were extinguished when cars passed on the road, but reappeared later. The lights seemed to move, not always being in the same place.

One night the cattle in the field were decidedly uneasy and moved about as though disturbed. There was also a lot of snuffling. Mrs. Bones's cat which is old and silent, let out a most unusual yowl. On another occasion Robert and Margaret were conscious of being unusually hot at night and could not understand this. Then one night they both had identical dreams of two tall figures standing side by side inside the house. The ceiling is 8ft. above the floor, and the two beings stood about 9 inches to a foot less than the height of their bungalow ceiling. No features were distinguishable.

Ref. : 3/6/3.
Time : 0845 hrs. BST.

Date : 27th August, 1971.
Location : West Malling, Kent.

Garry Harrison, of Broadway, Gillingham, a free lance draughtsman, believes he saw a large unidentified flying object coming down to land in fields near West Malling.

"I know it sounds stupid," he told the "Kent Evening Post," (Aug. 31st), "but I am not taken to flights of fancy." The sky was perfectly clear and I definitely saw something, but I am at a loss to explain what it was.

Mr. Harrison was driving to his office at 8.45 a.m. on Friday when, "something shone in my eyes as I approached the turning to West Malling." He looked to his right and could see that whatever it was appeared to be hovering above trees in a nearby field. Thinking it might be a helicopter, he got out of his car for a better view. "When he looked again, the sun had come off it and I could make out an oblong-shaped object with rounded ends. It had a silver metallic finish with a black rim around the bottom. I would think it was about 50 feet long, but it is hard to say how far away it was. When I first saw it, it was completely stationary. Then it started to come down very slowly behind trees and I lost sight of it. I would like to have searched further but I did not have the time. It was definitely not a balloon or any type of conventional aircraft."

Neither Malling police or County Police H.Q. had any reports of sightings, but a County Police spokesman said: "Whatever these things are, they are no laughing matter. I saw one myself once in Malaya."

"SKYLOOK."

Ref. : 3/6/4.
Time : 0500 hrs.

Date : 25th September, 1971.
Location : Langdon Hills, Essex.

Mrs. Mary Haley watched an object, nearly as large as the full moon, cross the sky behind her house, travelling north. It was slightly oval, and around the almost transparent looking centre, lights flashed and flickered. It appeared to have a lighted projection at the front, and on three occasions the whole object lit up completely.

Ref. : 3/6/5.
Time : 1650 hrs. BST.

Date : Tuesday, 28th September, 1971.
Location : Banbury.

While on their way home from school which is situated on the opposite side of the Ruscote housing estate, Banbury, three boys—Tony Pettinger aged 11 years, Ian Sales aged 11 years and Colin Wood aged 10 years witnessed a cigar-shaped object to the North at an elevation of approximately 15 degrees. Although the boys were all able to describe their experience a lot of detail has been lost due to their excitement but all three basically agreed that there was a large silver cigar-shaped object moving slowly in an easterly direction accompanied by four or five small silver objects of indeterminate shape.

Their statement contains the type of contradictions commonly encountered in different witnesses' reports. For instance, Tony and Colin stated that the "cigar" was formed by the small objects merging, while Ian said he saw the small objects leaving and flying around the larger "cigar."

No other reports of this object have been made.

Ref. : 3/6/6.
Time : 1815 hrs.

Date : 30th September, 1971.
Location : Westerhope, Northumberland.

Mr. J. Hall saw a massive silver-coloured object, like two saucers joined together, hovering over Westerhope Golf Course. It was as big as 5 or 6 Jumbo Jets put together, and rose, vertically and quickly, into cloud.

Ref. : 3/6/7.
Time : 0200 hrs.

Date : 30th September, 1971.
Location : West Malling, Kent.

Sitting in his cottage, Mr. Ron Foreman heard a loud noise outside followed by a "Whoosh." The television cut out and the room lights went dim. On hearing a further noise he opened the back door and was startled to find a "creature" standing there, 7 feet tall, in a silvery suit with a glass-type helmet. The "creature" glided away, straight over a fence, but later returned with a second entity surrounded by a haze of light. Mr. Foreman went for the police.

Ref. : 3/6/8.
Time : 1400 hrs.

Date : 17th October, 1971.
Location : Carmarthen.

Mr. Jack Rowe was startled to see a white, spherical object, many times larger than a beach ball, bouncing along the top of the embankment, on the sea front, against a fairly strong westerly wind. It glowed strongly.

Ref. : 3/6/9.
Time : 2345 hrs. BST.

Date : 17th October, 1971.
Location : Farnborough.

A former R.A.F. pilot, of over thirty years' experience, Mr. Ruck-Keene described the following observation in an interview:

"At about 1145 p.m. I was looking out of the window of my bedroom, having just extinguished the light, when I saw a very bright light in the sky, I watched for about twenty seconds, wondering what it could be. It suddenly started to move so I realised it could not be an aircraft or a star, though it was too far away to make out any shape. It was emitting a very bright yellowish/white light which was pulsating. It moved across the sky maintaining a steady height but not making steady progress because it would stop or slow down, and now and then there were very abrupt changes of direction—small ones, but made very sharply. The light continued at the same intensity and "sparkling" is as good a word as I can think of to describe it. It moved through an arc of about thirty degrees from left to right,—or in a westerly direction, and then it stopped again and remained stationary for perhaps twenty to thirty seconds, then returned along the same path, carrying out the same manoeuvres, until it had got back approximately to the starting point, where it again stopped for about twenty to thirty seconds and exactly repeated the same manoeuvre, and it went on doing this for the nineteen or so minutes that I watched it. At one point the light that it was emitting suddenly turned red for a short period, and then it went back again to its previous yellowish/white. The light was extremely strong, much stronger than could possibly be emitted by a star or heavenly body of any kind.

I managed to get a pair of binoculars on it—7 by 50 binoculars, which are the best for use at night—but it showed nothing else. The intensity of the light was such that it just increased the dazzle. One could still not make out any shape or form behind the light. After about nineteen minutes it suddenly disappeared altogether, when at one end of its orbit. From the general movements of . . . whatever it was . . . it looked to me as if it were orbiting some object on the ground but that is purely supposition and based on flying experience."

When questioned, Mr. Ruck-Keene said he was unable to judge the distance of the object without knowing its size, but would guess it at about five miles and at an altitude of about three thousand feet. The altitude remained constant. He did not associate any change in speed with change of colour. Mr. Ruck-Keene's nephew Jonathan also saw the object and he states,— "What I saw was exactly the same. I trained a pair of binoculars on it and I watched its irregular elliptical orbit. I could not pick out any shape at all because it was far too bright. I also noticed that it changed colour into a reddish-orange for some seconds, and then changed back again, I cannot speculate upon it as I know nothing about this sort of thing at all."

Mr. Ruck-Keene said the object could not possibly have been a pyrotechnic because it remained in sight for 19 minutes and at a steady height, and neither could it have been an aircraft, as we know them, because its changes of direction were far too sharp. There was no turning as one can see with a fixed wing aircraft or a helicopter.

From H. D. L. THOMAS.

Ref. : 3/6/10.
Time : 0230 hrs. BST.

Date : Tuesday, 19th October, 1971.
Location : Banbury, Oxon

Mr. Brian Burchel became aware that an intense red light was filtering into his room casting long shadows. He looked out to see a large intensely illuminated red disc flipping over and over coming towards the housing estate. Mr. Burchel describes a complicated series of events during which he rushed into another room for his camera, went outside and took two colour photographs, ran to the telephone box and called the police, while still watching the object's manoeuvres.

Ref. : 3/6/11.
Time : 1900 hrs.

Date : 20th October, 1971.
Location : Weldon, Northants.

Mrs. Eileen Muir saw a bright, white, shining, object looking like an upturned mushroom land in a field behind the caravan in which she lived. It had a high pitched whistle of deafening intensity. It seemed to stand on three pointed legs, and had white mist surrounding it; the middle of the object glowed red and green. She was very frightened and went for the Police; when she returned it had disappeared.

Ref. : 3/6/12.
Time : Between 1945 and 1955 hrs. BST.

Date : Wednesday, 20th, October 1971.
Location : Banbury.

Mr. Keith Palmer of Ruscote housing estate, Banbury, saw a circular orange object, looking like an orange cricket ball, hovering over the General Food factory, about one mile north of the centre of Banbury. After three or four minutes the light suddenly disappeared. There was no noise.

Ref. : 3/6/13.
Time : 1840 hrs. BST.

Date : Thursday, 21st October, 1971
Location : Grimsbury, east Banbury.

The Rev. R. G. Hayne was standing near St. Leonard's Church, Grimsbury, on the east side of Banbury, when he saw a white light poised above the cattle market. No shape could be discerned. At about 1910 hrs. the light moved slowly and silently away to the north, gaining height. As it moved away the white light turned into a red light.

Ref. : 3/6/14.
Time : 1920 hrs. BST.

Date : Friday, 22nd October, 1971.
Location : Banbury.

Mr. Pithers of Banbury, was standing at a bus stop looking up at the stars when he saw "a star" moving. It continued on a straight course for a time and then suddenly made a sharp turn to the left. It had a bluish hue.

Ref. : 3/6/15.
Time : Not given.

Date : Tuesday, 26th October, 1971.
Location : Enstone, Banbury.

An A.T.V. television team on location at Enstone turned their camera on to a yellowish/white, glowing object that appeared in the sky. The film was shown at 6 p.m. in "Today" on both 26th and 27th October.

Mr. Keith Duffy of Curbridge, near Witney, also saw this object as did a number of workers at the papermill at Wolvercote, just north of Oxford.

Mr. Duffy, who has had 14 years in the R.A.F. described what he saw as "a silver pin prick at the head of an unusually thick and substantial vapour trail, moving much faster than anything we know of. The leading edge of the vapour trail was abnormally square. The comparatively short trail tapered slightly at the end, but instead of fading away it ended abruptly. There was, in fact, two distinct trails. The first lasted for only a matter of seconds. Then nothing could be seen where one would have expected the trail to have continued. The second trail then began and moved at a high speed without further interruption. The speed of the object was estimated by Duffy as being in the order of 5,000 m.p.h.

Ref. : 3/6/16.
Time : 1200 hrs. BST.

Date : Tuesday, 26th October, 1971.
Location : Banbury, Oxon.

Tuesday, 26th October and Wednesday, 27th seem to have been days of unusually high UFO activity, especially in an around Banbury, Oxon. It started at about 7 minutes to noon on Tuesday when A.T.V. cameramen on location at Enstone, 10 miles south-west of Banbury saw an orange/white object to the north, they filmed it as it flew east towards Banbury, where Dave Chatt and other witnesses reported it as an orange sphere leaving a dense vapour trail. The sphere seemed to pause for a few seconds leaving breaks in its trail.

Now belching large sheets of flame, alternately to the vapour, it was seen a few moments later 5 miles to the east where it seems to have changed shape, as it was now described as a white missile. Still heading east it was reported from Silverstone and by 1205 hrs. from Deanshanger, Wolverton, where it was clearly seen as a white missile or rocket, with no fins or wings, making a roaring noise which shook the ground. It's trajectory may have altered after this as Mr. Kearsley driving south on the M1 saw it make a right-angle turn and accelerate away to the north.

By 1210 it appeared to be back again, making a low sweep over Towcester in a south-west direction. Mrs. Peachie described how the object, which she clearly saw as a small white rocket with no fins, an off-set nose cone, and a diagonal blue stripe, pass over her head making a noise like distant thunder. After making another 90 degrees turn, this time towards the south-west, it tilted downwards as though it was going to fall but executed another sharp manoeuvre and disappeared from sight upwards.

Most of the witnesses said that the object was travelling faster than a jet plane and R.A.F. pilot Keith Duffy estimated its speed at 5,000 m.p.h. However, its 30 mile trajectory seems to have taken about 17 minutes which puts its average speed at 107 m.p.h.

A report was also received for the same day of object seen hovering at 1950 hrs.

A number of reports were received of UFOs being seen on Wednesday, 27th October. The majority of which concern two slowly moving flaming, orange, cigar-shaped objects to the north of Banbury. All the reports received were from witnesses who were to the south of Banbury.

Ref. : 3/6/17.

Time : 1950 hrs.

Date : 26th October, 1971

Location : Shutford, (west of Banbury)

Whilst driving with his wife, Mr. Burton of Shutford saw a large elongated object with 6 to 8 window-like lights along it. They stopped to watch the object which rose and then accelerated away towards the west. It was travelling so fast that they couldn't see it go.

Ref. : 3/6/18.

Time : 1750 hrs. BST.

Date : 27th October, 1971.

Location : Hanborough, Oxon.

Two unusual lights were seen in the sky by a number of people including three ladies, Mrs. Franklin, Mrs. Sweeten-Smith and Mrs. Atyeo and two children. Mrs. Franklin watched the objects through binoculars from her bedroom window for about ten to fifteen minutes. They were positioned in the sky to the left of a church spire and above telephone wires and she was thus able to see that the lights were moving very slowly downwards in relation to the wires. The upper lights vanished two or three times and re-appeared slowly. There were no clouds visible for the object to move into.

Mrs. Franklin said the lights had a shimmering or flaming quality as of fire, the intensity of which varied. The lower object had a tail which travelled with the object but it did not look like the vapour trail of an aircraft.

Shortly after the object had gone a plane appeared from the south-west and it had a long vapour trail which was rosy pink in the setting sun.

Ref. : 3/6/19.

Time : 1750 hrs. BST.

Date : 27th October, 1971.

Location : Yarnton, near Banbury.

Witness, Mr. G. Chapman was travelling towards Woodstock from Oxford when he saw two orange/yellow objects come into view at Yarnton. Both were moving at the normal speed of a plane, from south-east to north-west, and both were tilted at an angle. One changed direction and seemed to accelerate. Having moved upward for one to two seconds it suddenly disappeared. The second object continued to the north-west.

Ref. : 3/6/20

Time : Evening.

Date : 30th October, 1971.

Location : Buttewick, Marsh, Leicestershire.

Mr. Terry Walker was wildfowling in Buttewick Marsh—a tract of salt marsh on the north shore of the Wash.

He was with four companions when they had a strange experience. Mr. Walker said that they had spent most of the day on the marsh and were walking off after darkness had fallen. The evening flight had not materialised, probably—he said—because it was a clear, still, cold, cloudless night.

When they reached the sea wall, they stopped and Mr. Walker thought he saw a red light drop on to the marsh about a mile away. He and another witness likened it to a red distress flare. Thinking this is what it was they fired four shots into the air at two second intervals and flashed a torch towards the origin of the lights. This being the normal procedure for assistance recognition.

No reply was received, but about four minutes later a light appeared which seemed to bounce across the marsh. It was pillar-box red and appeared from different places. It approached the watching group, then receded, the jumps appearing to be about 100 yards long and about 50 to 100 feet high. They watched the phenomena for about five minutes and then they caught sight of a second light. This was a bright, white light about twice the size of a star, which appeared at a 60-degree angle to the ground to the south-west. It was moving against a back-ground of stars in a rectangular pattern, with an occasional waver. It always finished at the same point and set off again at right angles to its former course.

PREVIOUS UFOLOG REPORTS

EVN — Evaluation.

APP — Appraisal.

- Report 3/5/1.* APP. From the description of the object and from the direction of travel I believe this may well have been a meteorological balloon. The shape is there, i.e. like a turnip with a protrusion from its base. The object was moving towards the sun, which would have been virtually due east on 23rd March, 1971. This could fit the balloon theory, assuming the object to be drifting with the prevailing westerly winds. —A. R. PACE.
- Report 3/5/2.* APP. Even though the witness is an experienced pilot, well versed in estimating heights, distances, speeds, etc., I cannot treat the estimates of the size, speed and altitude of the object as accurate. The direction would fit a satellite path but I know of none the colour of burning copper, unless this was a re-entry. —A. R. PACE.
- Report 3/5/3.* APP. The witness probably saw stars, partially obscured by drifting cloud. It was, on this view, the clouds and not the lights which were in motion. —EDITOR.
- Report 3/5/4.* APP. This report reminds me somewhat of the celebrated Tremonton, Utah movie. The Condon Report ascribed the Tremonton sighting to high-flying birds. I am inclined to look for a similar explanation here. —EDITOR.
- Report 3/5/5.* Most interesting report if true. To date, BUFORA investigators have been unable to contact the ladies involved, so the affair remains *sub judice*. —EDITOR.
- Report 3/5/6.* EVN. Evaluation of this sighting is the subject of a separate and detailed report. The object was Mars and the photographs were of street lights. —A. R. PACE.
- Report 3/5/7.* APP. Probably a cloud with sunset colours contributing to the effect. The sudden movement across the sky might be an auto-kinetic illusion. —EDITOR.
- Report 3/5/8.* Same as Report 3/5/6. —A. R. PACE.
- Report 3/5/9.* Similar to Report 3/5/5 above. Awaits investigation. —EDITOR.
- Report 3/5/10.* See elsewhere in the 'Journal' for an initial appraisal of this sighting. Evaluation is not yet complete. —A. R. PACE.
- Report 3/5/11.* APP. My guess would be that there was a temperature inversion at the time of the sighting. I think the object was a vehicle on the ground, with its rear and side doors open initially. These were later closed and the vehicle moved off. —EDITOR.,
- Report 3/5/12.* APP. The Moon had just set at the time of the sighting. I would regard the objects as clouds, at high altitude and illuminated by moonlight. The fact that they kept exact station with each other suggests that they were windborne. —EDITOR.

Report 3/5/13. APP. Could this have been a Sun Dog?

—A. R. PAGE.

Report 3/5/14. APP. I suggest that the witnesses saw the navigation-lights of an aircraft. 40 minutes is almost certainly a gross overestimate of the time during which the object was observed.

—EDITOR.

Report 3/5/15. APP. Mars and mirage, plus an element of hysteria, seems as adequate an explanation as any in the circumstances.

—EDITOR.

Report 3/5/16. APP. The "hazy, metallic, inverted saucer" above the airplane suggests a reflection phenomenon.

—EDITOR.

Report 3/5/17. APP. There could have been any number of causes for the light reported. It is not worth wasting time on such a wisp of a sighting.

—EDITOR.

Report 3/5/18. APP. If factual, this would seem to have been a sighting of an authentic flying object of unconventional type. I hope it will be investigated more fully in the near future.

—EDITOR.

Reports 3/5/19/ 20 & 21.

EVN. These all refer to the Barium Thermite experiment launched from South Uist, albeit Report 21 has the incorrect date!

—EDITOR.

Report 3/5/22. APP. A bright meteor, which may have left a luminous trail as such objects sometimes do.

—EDITOR.

—O—

The British U.F.O. Research Association does not hold or express corporate views on UFO phenomena. The Editor and his contributors are solely responsible for views advanced over their names in this 'Journal.'

Articles and items for inclusion in the 'Journal' must be sent direct to the Editor and not to other BUFORA officers. Requests for permission to reproduce material from the 'Journal' should also be addressed to the Editor.

SPACELINK

World UFO News and Flying Saucer Scene

Volume 6 Number 4 (1971) is still available. It contains more controversy on the 1897 phenomena, a detailed interview with Dr. Allen Hynek, the "Stendek" air crash story, "Saucers and Monsters," photos of the Cairo "Virgin Mary," list of South American magazines, cartoons, "Lionel's Litter," book and magazine details, backed up with lots of photos and many other interesting items. (Money refunded if not satisfied!)

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Sussex.

STOP PRESS

On the Oliver Lerch disappearance case. "This was dreamed up about 1943 by some writer out of air thinner than the air Oliver supposedly disappeared into. The tale's been used several times in books and articles as evidence of flying saucers, the supernatural, or whatever. Researchers have failed to find one subdivided shred of truth in it. No family named Lerch lived near South Bend around 1889. Footprints in the snow? Impossible. The highly unusual weather was the big story in local newspapers for Christmas week in both 1889 and 1890. Temperatures were in the 60's and not one flake of snow fell on the still green grass. Some writers even give the name of the non-existent Oliver's fiancée who attended the tragic Christmas Eve party in the Lerch farmhouse. According to a 1956 version in "The Case for the Unidentified Flying Objects," the Lerches were left in the lurch when Oliver was kidnapped by little green men from another planet. It's enough to make you doubt flying saucers."

—NICAP, "UFO INVESTIGATOR," November 1971.

On the alleged Hoyle Press Conference. (See BUFORA JOURNAL, Winter 1971/2, page 7).

"... Several readers wrote Professor Hoyle for confirmation. In reply they received a letter from his secretary saying: "Professor Hoyle has asked me to write and tell you that this report is absolute fabrication and that he has never given such a press conference in London! (Although Professor Hoyle did give a press conference when he was in Canada last year, so the National Bulletin may well have attended and reported the facts incorrectly)."

While satisfied that this letter spells out the true circumstances of the case, we have a hunch Professor Hoyle may not be quite so displeased as it all indicates. Besides being a scientist, the Professor is also a fiction writer of wide-ranging imagination and this is not the first time his name has been connected with far-out views.

Author John Keel, whose "Anomaly" publication distributed the reprint looks at it this way:

"It did seem unlikely that even the National Bulletin would dare to use Professor Hoyle's name without some kind of backup documentation, the libel laws being what they are. And the statements in the clipping were similar to the kind of statements Hoyle is prone to make. Hoyle's new book, The New Face of Science, is aligned with the statements in the NB article and it seems that the alleged press conference might have been connected with the release of the book, although we were unable to confirm this."

—"CANADIAN UFO REPORT" Vol. 2, No. 3.

End of a popular UFO publication.

I am sorry to report that the Canadian publication "Saucers, Space & Science," is suspending publication after 64 issues. Editor Gene Duplantier blames decreasing interest in UFOs among the general public and his own need to spend more time on other matters. The scene is changing, too, on the Home Front. As of November last, Norman Oliver's "Cosmos" has effected what I personally feel to be a somewhat uneasy alliance with Mark Stenhoff's "Sirius."

In the midst of all this "change and decay" BUFORA and its "Journal" go marching on. Nobody has a good word for us. The bright-as-a-button brigade of little "scientific" boys are always screaming that we are rent by dissension and on the point of falling apart. Somehow, this just doesn't seem to happen. It is reported of the Abbe Sieyès that, when asked what he did in the French Revolution, he replied laconically, "I survived." We too can say as much.

Far from disintegrating, BUFORA is, I believe, taking on a new lease of life under the Chairmanship of Roger Stanway, aided by Tony Pace as Research Director.

EDITOR.

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