

SKYLOOK

VOL. I - No. 5

LET'S SEPARATE FACT FROM FANTASY

JANUARY, 1968

RUSSIA TO INVESTIGATE UFO'S

Soviet authorities who dismissed UFO'S as nonsense when they first began to receive reports in 1950 have now done an about face. According to a story out of Moscow, carried by the ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH Nov. 12, the Soviet government has set up a special commission to investigate reports of unidentified flying objects.

According to another report out of Moscow in the KANSAS CITY STAR Nov. 14, the commission is headed by General Porfiry A. Stolyarov, a retired officer of the Soviet air force technical services and he will be assisted by a staff of 18 scientists, astronomers and air force officers, plus 200 observers.

One member of the staff is Dr. Fyodor Y. Zigel, a Soviet astrophysicist, who reported in a magazine last April that Soviet radar screens had been detecting UFO'S for 20 years. He said the theory UFO'S come from outer space is "extremely speculative" but added that the sightings have not been satisfactorily explained.

A Soviet study panel told reporters Nov. 13 that there had been five authenticated sightings of UFO'S in the Soviet Union in recent months. One was described as being sickle-shaped object flashing across the sky of the Caucasus area of the Black Sea. No details were given on the others.

On Nov. 23 Moscow reported, according to the ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH that "a huge luminous unidentified flying object was

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PRIEST OBSERVES UFO

The following excellent report is from a taped recording of Ted Phillips' interview with a Catholic priest:

"I think it is necessary that I tell you my opinion. I was the last person in the world, I would say, to imagine I had seen one, because I have been very skeptical. In the first place, I think a person can see anything they want to see in the sky if they look long enough, for a flashing moment anyway. Number two, I think it is highly illogical that a rational creature other than man, if was interested in our planet, would certainly make an effort to contact man, whereas all we see are the objects. If we were visitors from another planet, one of the first things we would do when we got here is to make contact with another rational creature. We have no record of this, which as I say, my judgement of the matter was that they did not exist. I was rather cynical, I would say, and suspected anyone that said they saw them. I go to great bother to show you that my mind was not predisposed to imagining that I saw them. As a matter of fact, I was one who had to be totally convinced."

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DR. HYNEK SUGGEST INVESTIGATING PANEL AND ANSWERS QUESTIONS

Reporting further on Dr. J. Allen Hyneks' lecture on "The UFO as a Scientific Problem" given in St. Louis Nov. 24 (see story in preceding SKYLOOK), he suggested setting up two panels to review UFO reports. One panel would be purely scientific; the other not. The scientific panel could assign a "Strangeness

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*****With The Editor*****

The editor of the TULSA DAILY WORLD says it better than we can, and we quote his editorial of Dec. 14 in full.

The Mystery of UFO's

The proposal of a Soviet astronomer that world scientists pool their expertise to unravel the answers to unidentified flying objects suggests far deeper official concern over the mysterious phenomena than heretofore indicated.

Prof. Feliks Y. Zigel, of the Moscow Aviation Institute, describes the current situation of official half interest or no interest at all as both irresponsible and dangerous.

It is the Professor's thought that the widespread incidence of UFO reports calls for global attention to the matter if only to remove doubt.

More significance is placed in the Professor's request for the study by the fact that it was only a few weeks ago the Soviet Union admitted it had received increased inquiries about UFO's and had created an official commission to look into them. Now with the Soviet Government showing such intense interest that it invites the cooperation of other nations, the indication is that formal recognition of the phenomena at the highest level of government may force action.

Prof. Zigel admits he has met the same resistance in the Soviet Union in getting action on UFO's as have those in the U.S. who have long called for a formal investigation. The fact so many scientists have persistently "denied" their existence, says Zigel, has delayed official inquiry.

Nobody, even Zigel, is prepared to say that UFO's are "real" or that visits from outer space are taking place. What is being said with ever more emphasis is that a mystery exists and the least world leadership can do is look into it and determine its cause.

We'll go along on that.

EDITOR SPEAKS OUT

THE SALEM POST, Nov. 23, 1967. We quote from the editor's column.

The Unidentified Flying Objects seem to be really on the move in our area recently. Last week several friends called us to tell us that strange objects were in the sky. But by the time they could telephone us and we could dash outdoors, the UFO was gone. We never have seen one but too many people have seen them for the whole thing to be just a mistake. We appreciate our friends trying to alert us and we hope yet to see one. If the government knows what these things are, we think they should tell the public.

BALL FLASHES LIGHTS

PRESS-GAZETTE, Green Bay, Mich., Nov. 4, 1967. Three sources reported seeing an unidentified flying object over Green Bay early this morning.

It was described as a ball of flashing lights flying about 300 feet over the water and having the ability to stop and start and back up.

Oconto County police relayed reports of it being seen at 2:58 am, Door County police at 3:10 am and the Coast Guard at Sturgeon Bay Messaged the Marinette County Sheriff's Department at 4:43 am and 5:15 am that the ball of light had been seen a few miles off Sturgeon Bay.

UMKC's APRO charter was accepted !!!!!

quoted as saying that it resembled a balloon or parachute. Its upper part seemed to be a dark disk encircled by a wide, bright strip.

The Dec. 10th issue of the ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH gives further information on Dr. Zigel. He lectures on astronomy at the Moscow planetarium and teaches higher mathematics at the Aviation Institute. He is quoted as expressing "profound respect" for the work of some American scientists who, he said, are "with good reason trying to attract the attention of America's scientific public to the UFO problem."

"Unfortunately," he continued, "certain scientists both in the Soviet Union and in the United States deny the very existence of the problem instead of helping to solve it."

The most characteristic type of UFO sighted by Russians was described by the astronomer as follows: "A luminous orange-colored crescent with a diameter of 15 to 20 degrees of the arc, flying with its outward bend forward. Its surface is only a little duller than

that of the moon. The horns of the crescent throw out jets, sometimes with sparks. The outer contour of the crescent is sharp and the inner contour blurred and wavy.

"A bright flaming disk preceded by a crescent is sometimes observed. Sometimes the crescent is preceded by what looks like first-magnitude stars that keep at a constant distance from the crescent."

In some cases, Zigel reported, the crescent dwindled into a disk or dot. Such an object, sighted over the Ukraine last September, was reported to have executed a maneuver when approached by a plane. The scientist cautioned however, that this report "certainly needs verification." Astronomers in Kazan, so Zigel said, set the diameter of the crescents they observed at 1640 to 1804 feet and their speed at about 3.1 miles a second. Zigel described daytime sightings also. Three astronomers in Latvia saw a formation of a disk and four balls which faded out of sight in 25 minutes.

PRIEST OBSERVES UFO--continued

Thus setting the stage for his sighting of a UFO, the priest (whose name our assistant editor has in his files) continued: "I was coming down the road on a Friday night, I would say I may be wrong, the fourth Friday of September and the time was about 8:30. I saw this light on my window. I was coming south from Versailles, about three miles outside of Gravois, when I noticed this light about the size of, I would say, bigger than a big grapefruit. I immediately suspected, because this light was so clear and bright and low lying--I suspected that this was a reflection from some light from the ground reflected in the window and I said to myself, 'I'll prove it is a reflection,' so I turned the window down. The light didn't go away; it was still there so I pulled the car to the side of the road. I watched it and I was amazed, there was no doubt about it IT WAS THERE!"

He went on, "It appeared not to be too far away, although, I presume it was quite a distance away and this looked so real to me, I even waved to it! I watched it for 15 minutes."

"There was a constant stream of traffic going toward the lake. It amazed me that no one else got out of their cars, they kept on going. I was standing there on the side of the road looking up at it. It was dusky. After awhile it seemed to move off, but it didn't move in a uniform direction. It made a kind of round swing and eventually it seemed to head off toward the northwest and then it swung a little to the north and then it seemed to go towards the northeast."

"I wasn't too far, as a matter of fact only about a mile, from another gentleman, who was equally as skeptical as I am and about as hard headed. I went up and very gingerly told him what I had seen and he and his son had seen

the same thing. Definitely we saw something, no doubt about that!"

In reply to a question, "How far distant was it? I thought myself it looked like at one stage that it was round with a dome shape on the side further away, but it was such a short span of time that maybe I could have imagined it. I saw it definitely stationary for about 15 minutes. I timed it. And I saw it take off in that direction. What it was I will not even try and judge, but," firmly said, "it was not an hallucination. I couldn't judge how fast it was going--it seemed to me to be going far faster than a airplane, it couldn't have been an airplane."

"What color was the object?"

"It was bright yellow."

"Could you see any other lights on the object?"

"No."

"Could you see any definite shape to it?"

"No definite shape except for what I said--for awhile I thought it was kind of flat with a dome shape on top, and it was real cool and calm and not a bit excited. As a matter of fact, I was amazed."

"Could you hear any sound?"

The priest replied there was sound (he had mentioned the moving traffic) and "a rather strange sound" but gave his opinion it would be very hard to be sure it was connected with the moving object. "I was wondering if it was some kind of animal, but I never heard anything that could make that kind of sound."

This is another good example of a sighting made by a level-headed adult with good standing in his community--a man, who wasn't looking for UFO's, did not expect to see any--nevertheless, did, remained calm, observed it at length, checked with another witness, and remains firm in his knowledge his sighting as an actuality, not a hallucination.

TULSA GROUP ORGANIZES

From the TULSA DAILY WORLD, Dec. 8, is a report of a group organizing to investigate UFO sightings. Bill Courter, 4629 E. 14th place, chief of campus police at the University of Tulsa, has been elected director of the Oklahoma chapter of APRO and says their aim is to "try to carry out the parent organization's aim toward an eventual solution of the mystery of UFO's."

An open meeting will be held Jan. 17 and interested persons will be briefed on the organization's plans. Mr. Courter wrote the editor of SKYLOOK, inviting anyone interested to attend the meeting. He was cordially responsive to our suggestion that we share information and we welcome reports from his group.

FIRST SIGHTING IN NORTH AMERICA?

From Willowdale, Ontario, comes this interesting account of what may have been the first reported sighting of UFO's over North America--at least, that is the opinion of the Rev. James S. McGivern, S.J., historian at Regis.

The incident is recorded under the date October 12, 1796, in the diary of one Simon Perkins, published by the Champlain Society.

"A strange story comes from the Bay of Fundy that ships have been seen in the air. Mr. Darrow is lately come from there by land. I enquired of him. He stated that they were said to be seen at New Mines near Mr. Ratchford's by a girl about sunrise.

"The girl cried out and two men who were in the house came out and saw them. There were 15 ships and a man forward with his hand stretched out. They made to the eastward. They were so near people saw their sides and ports. The story did not obtain universal credit, but some people believed it."

(from the SED. LIT. C. PIT. L.)

Index" of one through five to each case. Then complete dossiers on the people making the reports would be given to the psychological panel who would be asked to determine a "credibility index" to each person. The two indexes would then be plotted on the x and y coordinates of a graph. Cases showing both a high strangeness and a high credibility index would be the ones worth studying.

This plan is described in detail in the December issue of PLAYBOY in an article by Dr. Hynek.

During a question and answer period at the close of his lecture, Dr. Hynek answered the following questions from his audience:

1. Q. What can we, as individuals, do about the situation?
 - A. If opportunity offers, talk to your congressman about it. If you have a UFO experience, get witnesses, photos; note exact time; compare brightness and speed. Then write a narrative report to Dr. Hynek himself. The ideal report would have several witnesses, plus photos including negatives and camera used, plus hardware from the object.
2. Q. Do UFO's produce radiation burns?
 - A. Perhaps. One possible case (a Canadian prospector) has not been definitely verified.
3. Q. What do you think of the contact stories?
 - A. Interesting but not proven. After lengthy interviews and observation of Barney and Betty Hill, Dr. Hynek is convinced that the Hills themselves believe their experience was real, but Dr. Hynek simply does not know.
4. Q. Do sightings tend to occur in patterns of three (objects)?
 - A. Yes, although Multiple sightings are much rarer than single ones.

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AT THE NEWS STAND

By Ted Phillips, Jr.

NATIONAL ENQUIRER, Dec. 3rd. Airliner Crew Sights UFO Flying at 3,500 mph.

SAGA MAGAZINE, December issue. Flying Saucers Spy on the U.N. An article by Carl Sherman, based on Dr. James McDonald and his talk on UFO's to the United Nations. Quite good.

PLAYBOY MAGAZINE, January issue. The UFO Gap, by Dr. J. Allen Hynek. A very good article, as are all of Dr. Hynek's. He discusses the Soviet investigation of UFO's.

UNINVITED VISITORS--by Ivan T. Sanderson. A biologist looks at UFO's. Price of book \$6.95.

WHAT WE REALLY KNOW ABOUT FLYING SAUCERS, a paperback by Otto Binder. Price 75¢. Good.

ARGOSY MAGAZINE, December issue. World's First UFO Murder Case.

UFO NEWS FROM CANADA

We have just finished reading the fall issue of "Saucers, Space & Science" a quarterly magazine edited by Gene Duplantier, 17 Shetland St., Willowdale, Ontario, Canada, and find it most interesting. It carries photos, UFO sightings in Canada, interviews and other news of interest to ufologists, and is \$2 per year.

On writing Mr. Duplantier and sending a copy of SKYLOOK, we received a very nice letter in reply, agreeing to an exchange of information with each giving the other credit when material from our respective magazines is used.

Ever seeking new sources of material for SKYLOOK, we welcome our Canadian contact.

COMING NEXT ISSUE

"The Great UFO Probe"-Reprint, courtesy POPULAR SCIENCE MONTHLY.....

5. Q. The stories about metal fragments from UFO's, are they real?

A. They are undocumented. Dr. Hynek has at times felt confused about the whole subject--is it all a cover-up for something, or all a joke?

6. Q. What is your opinion of the Mantell case?

A. Careful investigation indicates that Mantell was probably following a skyhook balloon.

7. Q. Do you think there has been suppression of information by the authorities?

A. The apparent confusion has probably been a foul-up, not a cover-up. The military mind finds it extremely hard to accept the idea of new and unfamiliar hardware.

8. Q. What might be the purpose of visits from outer space?

A. The present state of our knowledge does not necessarily indicate visitors, but perhaps natural phenomena beyond our present understanding.

9. Q. Are radar sightings of UFO's made available for study?

A. "Uncorrelated targets" and blips that are unrelated to the job in hand are usually ignored by radar operators. These should be studied separately.

Again we thank John F. Schuessler and Willard P. Armstrong for their reports.

SHALL WE MEET?

John F. Schuessler continues to work on plans for a get together dinner and meeting, with a guest speaker on UFO's to be held sometime in the Spring of '68. He suggests Columbia as a good meeting place and has a formal invitation from the Chamber of Commerce to hold our meeting in that city.

Transportation, other than by auto,

is provided by Greyhound Bus Lines, Missouri Transit Lines, Ozark Air Lines and the Norfolk & Western Railroad.

Several good eating places such as Daniel Boone Hotel, Holiday Inn and others are being contacted for price of meals, rooms etc. and a progress report will be made in a later issue.

The meeting would be under AFRO sponsorship, but open to all interested in ufology, of course. Are you interested and would you plan to attend? John must have some idea of probable attendance before making definite plans. write him directly at P. O. Box 223, St. Charles, Mo., 63301.

SPHERE IS IDENTIFIED

Several newspapers carried a photo and story of a stainless steel spheroid found near Conway, Ark., early in November. The Air Force, weather bureau and state Civil Defense agency, contacted by the finder, Richard Cummings, failed to identify the 7-pound sphere.

KANSAS CITY TIMES, Nov. 24th, identified the sphere, which they said was aluminum, as a target sphere used in radar exercises. Cummings received a letter from the Universal Metal Spinning Co. of Albuquerque, N. Mex. saying they manufacture the spheres which are launched from balloons, airplanes and rockets. The one found by Cummings had probably been launched by balloon from the Marshall Islands in the Pacific.

It would be interesting to know how many of these spheres are floating about in space, how they are affected by air currents etc. They could be mistaken for UFO's. Any of our readers have any light to throw on this subject?

TELL

YOUR

FRIENDS

ABOUT

SKYLOOK!

Ted Phillips, our assistant editor, has a good report from a football coach in a school near Harrisonville. (Ted has the coach's name in his files and considers him reliable.)

It was Friday, Sept. 15th, and the sky was clear. The coach had remained in the locker room working on some football gear after the players and audience had gone home. Going outside to get a screwdriver from his car, he heard a high-pitched sound and looked up to see if a jet plane was passing over. What he saw was a round object with red, blue and green lights, spinning in a circle, and going straight up. It was directly overhead and was in sight about 34-40 secs. At the time when first sighted, it seemed to be "about the size of a small wash tub."

UFO OVER WHEAT FIELD

"I could tell something was wrong the minute he came in the door," she said. "'Son, what happened?' I asked him. He shook his head and said, 'Mom, you wouldn't believe me if I told you.'"

The lady speaking to us on the telephone doesn't want us to use her name, but was obviously sincere.

It was about 6:15 the morning of Oct. 14th, when her 12-year old son came into the house and the above conversation took place. After some urging, the boy finally told his mother that he saw "a big, bright light" flying low and very fast over their wheat field, near Versailles. We pressed for further details, but that is all we could find out, as the boy, his mother said, was "too shook up" to note anything further. Later, that same day, unidentified flying objects were reported by radio to have been observed the night before "down on the lake" (Lake of the Ozarks).

SEND IN YOUR REPORT BEFORE THE 10TH

UFO CAPTURED ON FILM

SAUCERS, SPACE & SCIENCE, Fall '67. On July 3rd, 1967, at 1 am, the Doug Denniss family saw a number of UFO's at Pigeon Lake near Buckhorn, Ontario. A total of 15 "lights" were seen darting about as though playing tag. Mrs. Denniss noticed a red light moving from behind the trees near the lake. Grabbing a movie camera from his car, her husband shot a few feet of film where his wife thought this object would be from its line of flight, though neither of them could see the object at this time. Then they saw a triangle formation of 3 lights. The film was shown to Brian Skinner (CHUM radio), a friend, your editor and his wife, a few weeks later. On the film there was a red, round, luminous object, flattened slightly on top. When this film was projected onto a small screen to bring out detail, one viewer noticed what appeared to be a saucer-shaped object in the corner. When the film was stopped, all eleven saw it. The Dennisses were not surprised at their sighting as many people in the district had mentioned seeing unidentified "lights" and objects earlier in the summer. On one occasion an object was seen from the lakeshore over a row boat in which two men were fishing. The object then ascended noiselessly and flew out of sight. The men seemed unaware of its presence.

DID UFO CAUSE FIRE?

According to a story in the Nov. 30th issue of the KANSAS CITY TIMES, villagers near Ivangrad, Yugoslavia, think UFO's have caused six forest fires, but officials say the cause of the fires has not been established.

Yugoslavs reporting several UFO's have provoked panic in some of the villages near Ivangrad. Miliko Scepanovic said two flying objects with lights blinded him while he was driving his truck Nov. 23rd. He said one hung close to the earth for about 15 minutes, then took off vertically and disappeared.