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Flying  
ping-pong  
balls scramble the air force

# NEWSBRIEF



Middlesbrough Evening Gazette

**FIGHTER** planes were scrambled to chase multi-coloured UFOs the size of ping-pong balls that sped over three Brazilian cities, the head of Brazil's air force said last night.

Air Force Minister Otavio Moreira Lima said: "I can't give an explanation for this, because we don't have any.

"Since they had saturated our radar system in Sao Paulo and were interfering with air traffic, we decided to send up planes to pursue them," he said.

The Air Force dispatched four fighter jets — two French-made Mirages and two US-made F-5s to pursue the unidentified flying objects.

One of the F-5 pilots reported that 13 of the objects accompanied his aircraft, seven on one side of his jet and six on the other side," said Lima.

The jets chased the UFOs for almost three hours, but had to turn back because they were running out of fuel.