

A 'curious' chase in the skies over Brazil

BRASILIA, Brazil (UPI) — Ozires Silva, head of the state oil company, was preparing to land his plane when he saw three colored lights darting like pingpong balls through the night sky and detected three objects on radar.

He canceled his landing, informed the Brazilian Defense Center and chased the fast-moving lights. The Defense Center went on alert and sent jet fighters in pursuit of the lights.

Air Force Minister Octavio Moreira Lima said Thursday six air force jet fighters chased more than a dozen UFOs and that, at one point, one plane was surrounded by the objects.

He said pilots of the planes dispatched to pursue the mysterious objects Monday night saw intense green, red and white lights that moved between 160 mph and 990 mph and picked up solid objects on the radar.

"It is not a question of believing or not," Lima said. "This requires technical information and we have neither replies nor technical explanations for what happened," Lima said.

Silva first saw three colored lights in his path as he prepared to land his Brazilian-made Xingu aircraft Monday night at an air force base 66 miles from the industrial heartland of Sao Paulo.

He gave chase and notified the military, which dispatched three F-5E jet fighters after the lights. The fighters pursued the objects for 30 minutes toward the Sao Paulo coast before they ran out of fuel and had to give up the chase, the *O Globo* newspaper reported.

"At one point the chase was inverted and a F-5E fighter was surrounded by 13 colored lights, and chased with seven on one side and six on the other," Lima said.

President Jose Sarney was told late Monday night about the chase. Lima said Sarney was "interested and curious" about the event.