

The Centre Democrat, Bellefonte, Pa., Wednesday, Jan. 14, 1987-

There may be UFOs

YES VIRGINIA, THERE MAY BE UFOs: After a long period of relative freedom from sightings, UFO's broke into the headlines again as 1987 made its debut. A veteran pilot whose sighting was confirmed on radar screens said his Japanese Airlines cargo plane was tiny compared to a mysterious object which he said was very big—two times bigger than an aircraft carrier.

Capt. Kenju Terauchi, 47, a pilot for 29 years, was flying a jumbo jet from Iceland to Anchorage, Alaska, on a Europe to Japan flight, when the object was seen in clear weather over Alaska, Nov. 19. He said the huge object which was accompanied by two small "lights" which did not show up on radar, followed the jet for 400 miles and was in view for at least 32 minutes.

During that time he requested and received permission from the Federal Aviation Administration to take whatever action necessary to avoid the UFO, which also appeared on FAA and Air Force radar and on the radar screen in the cockpit of the Boeing 747. FAA Flight Control reports indicated the object stayed with the jet for more than a half hour. The co-pilot and flight engineer confirmed the pilot's report.

Terauchi made a drawing of the UFO, looking something like a giant walnut-shaped object, with big bulges above and below a wide flattened brim.

FAA Investigators who questioned the crew in Anchorage concluded they were "normal, professional, rational (and had) no drug or alcohol involvement."

The pilot said the crew members were not frightened but wanted to avoid the object. That is why they went along with FAA directives to drop to 4,000 feet and make turns, including a 360-degree turn—but the object still followed. The UFO is reported to have come within five miles of the aircraft. An FAA inquiry is continuing.

Views on the news

by Paul Dubbs