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UFO UPDATE

By Charles Berlitz

Maurice Chatelain is a French astroscientist, now an American citizen, who was chief scientist for Apollo Communications Data Processing during NASA's Apollo program. Previously Chatelain worked as a research scientist for Convair Aeronautics, which played a pivotal role in the Mercury and Gemini space programs. Berlitz's most recent book is *The Philadelphia Experiment*. His other works include *The Bermuda Triangle* (Fawcett).

Berlitz: Mr. Chatelain, when you were at NASA, did you believe in UFOs?

Chatelain: No. Fifteen years ago I did not believe in flying saucers, and if I did, I certainly would not have advertised the fact. Now things have changed. First, I am not working for NASA anymore. Second, NASA itself has been forced to recognize the existence of the UFO phenomenon and to admit that it does not know what it is or where it is coming from. Civilizations might exist in outer space that could be far more advanced than ours. It would be logical to try to establish contact with

these worlds, first by listening to the messages that they might try to transmit to us, then by sending them simple messages with the primitive means at our disposal, such as radio and laser.

Berlitz: What do you think would be the best way to establish contact?

Chatelain: We must first try to determine the kind of message that would have the best chance to be received and understood by us. Most information scientists now agree that the best message would be one made of simple numbers representing mathematical ratios. It seems that we have already received such messages, which have gone completely unnoticed by those who could have deciphered them.

Berlitz: How were the messages sent?

Chatelain: They may have been contained within the landing patterns of the UFOs themselves. As you are probably aware, many of the UFO landings reported in recent years have occurred in France. The gendarmes are instructed to investigate all landing sites. In 1954 France was seemingly inundated with flying saucers.

There were 76 UFO landings in 25 days, from September 24 through October 18 of that year. As usual, the gendarmes recorded the time, longitude, and latitude of each landing site and its dimensions.

It was also noticed that some of these sites were separated by an average distance of 63 kilometers. These were the first numerical data ever obtained from UFO observations, and the only logical conclusion that could be derived from them was that the distances were always exact multiples of 21 centimeters, the wavelength of hydrogen, which could represent an ideal measuring unit for astronauts from another world.

Berlitz: Why not face-to-face contact?

Chatelain: Perhaps they want to avoid panic on our part or simply to avoid potential danger to themselves. The most fascinating part of the UFO mystery is not so much what UFOs are or where they come from, but how they can manage to travel at fantastic velocities of 32,000 kilometers an hour in our atmosphere and suddenly turn at 90 degrees or fly in the opposite direction. There is no terrestrial spacecraft that could even try to reach that velocity or perform such incredible maneuvers without disintegrating on the spot. There are only two possible explanations. Either flying saucers do not really exist and are just an optical illusion, or they are extraterrestrial and come from another world somewhere in outer space.

Berlitz: What propulsion system do you think they could use?

Chatelain: Along with several French scientists, Claude Poher, for example, I think that UFO propulsion might be based on a combination of electric, magnetic, and gravitational forces or, in other words, on Einstein's unified field theory, which could provide fantastic power from a small mass of matter, such as hydrogen.

Berlitz: As an astroscientist, do you really believe in the physical existence of UFOs?

Chatelain: What is important is not whether flying saucers exist physically or are just an illusion of our minds. I believe that they exist, and I therefore keep trying to find out what they are, where they come from, and why they come and visit us now. **DA**



Analysis of UFO at North Head Light, Washington, shows it is not a lab-processed imperfection.