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EDITORIAL

Jimmy Carter and UFOs

"If I become President, I'll make every piece of information this country has about UFO sightings available to the public and the scientists. I am convinced that UFOs exist because I have seen one".

These extraordinary comments made by the now United States President-Elect, Jimmy Carter - back in May, 1976 certainly invite comment. Should we interpret them in the same vein as the "Denver Post" cartoonist, Keefe, in his comment on the electoral campaigns waged by both Carter and Ford. He pictures them back to back, with waffles in hand at the ready, and the duel referee blandly ordering, "... Ten paces, turn, then waffle at will!"

Was Carter's statement on UFOs mere "election rhetoric" or could it have been of "stronger stuff" as many have seen in his frank discussions in the "Playboy" interview? One should remember that in the hectic days of the 1967 "swamp gas" flap in Michigan, Gerald Ford, then state representative for that state, tried to convince the US Congress to study the wave of UFO sightings, and we all know what came of that!

The mass circulation paper, 'The National Enquirer', recorded the Carter statement and the "Australian" of June 11, 1976 carried a brief account of it. The "Australian Post" of October 14, 1976 carried further details and the British Flying Saucer Review also noted the report.

What did Carter see? In 1973, when the United States experienced the most extraordinary UFO "revival", Carter and a group of people saw a strange aerial display after a late evening speech before the Lions Club in Thomaston, Georgia.

Carter said, "It was a very peculiar aberration, but about twenty people saw it. It was the darnest thing I've ever seen. It was big, it was very bright, it changed colours and it was about the size of the moon. We watched it for ten minutes, but none of us could figure out what it was".

Carter's 23 year old son, Jeff, intimated further details: "After his speech in Thomaston, my father was stepping out into the parking lot of the club with a group of businessmen when they spotted the UFO. "It had three lights clustered together about the size of the moon. My dad said they were changing colour from red to green. It was positioned off to one side of the moon.

"He knew it couldn't have been an aircraft of any type we have. Remember, he's a nuclear physicist who served with the Navy. He now believes that UFO sightings should be investigated".

One of the other witnesses, Mrs Stenbridge, described it as "a large reddish object that looked similar to the moon, and seemed to be changing colours. The object was three balls of light, clustered in a circle, flashing and changing from red to green. It drifted slowly across the sky then disappeared quickly".

In retrospect, Carter's 77 year old mother, Lillian, told the Enquirer at the family home in Plains, Georgia: "the UFO made a huge impression on Jimmy. He told me about the sighting several times".

Whether Carter does carry out his "election promise" remains to be seen, but nevertheless, the atmosphere of change is turning full circle. I would suggest that Dr. Hynek's Centre for UFO Studies would be in the best position to reap the benefit of any positive changes that may manifest. Indeed, all the Australian research organisations affiliated to the Centre through the Australian Co-Ordination Section (ACOS) stand to benefit accordingly.

The slow change, can at the moment, be perhaps best seen in the recent completion of the new "blockbuster" Columbia film, directed by none other than Steve Spielberg of "Jaws" fame. The name of the film is "Close Encounters of the Third Kind". The popularisation of Hynek's somewhat obscure definition of UFO encounters which feature "animate beings" must surely herald a new era for the subject of UFOs.

Bill Chalker

GENERAL

Investigators

We are pleased to announce that David Reneke and Cliff Shearer have joined our staff as investigators.

Next Meeting

The last meeting for 1976 will be held at McMahons Point Community Centre, Blues Point Road, North Sydney (opposite the Old Commodore Tavern), on Wednesday, 8th December at 7.30 p.m. Topics for this meeting include a slide/lecture on the Viking Mars probes, details of some recent sightings, a short film on the Siding Springs telescope and a discussion on the Time Travel theory.

The UFO Observer

We regret to announce that due to recent disputes in the printing industry, the publication of the UFO Observer has been delayed. It should be available sometime in December. UFOIC will still be supplying a limited number of copies to members at a discount.

ACOS Bulletin

The publication of the Australian Co-ordination Section of the Centre for UFO Studies, the "ACOS Bulletin" is now available on subscription. Designed primarily for investigators and researchers, it contains both research material and details of important UFO cases from around Australia. Published quarterly it is available for \$3 annually. Send remittance to: ACOS, P.O. Box 546, Gosford. 2250. UFOIC will also have some copies for sale at meetings.

Memberships

We are pleased to announce that memberships have now passed the 200 mark. This is one reason why this issue of the newsletter is larger than previously. We hope to be able to keep the newsletter growing but it can only be done with continued support in the form of new and renewed memberships. So get out there and sign up your friends and relatives!

NEW KEMPSEY AREA ACTIVITY

The Kempsey area of N.S.W. has long been a centre for probative UFO activity, particularly since the extraordinary events of early 1971 which featured several close encounters and apparent bizarre levitation of an aborigine. Since 1971 activity has continued with the main highlights being a close encounter at Collombatti Rail and a possibly related "barn-rattling" episode in 1972; an apparent landing near Kinchela in 1973; and a Kempsey flyover with photos during July 1975 (see UFOIC Newsletter No. 46).

So far in 1976 at least 3 interesting sightings have been reported. Through the excellent cooperation of the staff of the local paper, "The Macleay Argus", the Centre has been promptly notified of the developments as they occurred. In particular, we wish to thank Patricia Riggs and Natalie Fernley of the Argus staff. Miss Riggs, the associate editor has been a long time contributing contact of the prestigious British Flying Saucer Review.

The "Argus" of January 8th carried the first report for 1976, describing how a Kempsey man had observed a yellowish light slowly spinning from SE to the N at about 4 a.m. on Friday January 2nd. The light was observed for almost an hour and appeared to be either oscillating or spinning the whole time. The man and his wife both saw the light and described it in the following manner: "At first, there was one light and it seemed to be throwing out lots of rays from the bottom. A little while later, 2 more lights appeared, one either side of the big one, like shoulder lights. There seemed to be a reflection of light that made a chain forming a U-shape". When they lost sight of it, going over the top of their house, it was moving towards the north.

On the morning of July 5th at Aldaville near Kempsey, a woman suddenly awoke from a sound sleep at about 5.30 a.m. with an inexplicable compulsion to go to the front of her house and look out the window. It was still dark but there was no cloud, wind or haze. She immediately noticed a bright yellow light in the NW sky apparently over the Kempsey airport area, at a rough angular elevation of 60°. Once the woman regained her senses, she stood at the window and watched the object. It appeared to be roughly triangular in shape, about half the size of a full moon and bright yellow in colour. The object seemed to hover for a few seconds, then it moved to the right and lost some height. This was repeated several times, each time dropping some distance. Then suddenly it disappeared "as if the light had been switched off" at an approximate elevation of 45°. The "Argus" carried some details on the above case in its August 3rd edition. It also carried details of the following case in the October 23rd edition.

On Wednesday, October 6th, 1976 Gordon Rossiter (18) of Bellbrook and Messrs Kenyon Castle and Russel Toose of the ABC were driving along the Armidale road. Rossiter tells the story: "About one mile from Bellbrook, on a slight hill, we noticed this red light in the sky to the north of the village. We stopped the car on the side of the road and watched the object for about 30 seconds. One of us looked at a watch and saw it was exactly 7.35 p.m. We watched the object take an erratic path from the north of Bellbrook. It did not travel in a straight line but kept going up and down, making its way to Bellbrook. Once it was past Bellbrook, it suddenly dropped as if it were going to land in the river. Then we saw it shoot upwards at about a 60° angle to the horizon. It levelled off for a time and then we lost sight of it behind the mountains. All the while the bright red light was pulsating like a heart beat. I could not tell what shape it was because from that distance any shape looks round."

The object was described as being about half the size of the full moon, and initially was seen in the north travelling at about an angle of 45° to the horizontal. The light seemed to keep this level except for when it dived into the valley and then shot up before levelling out again at about a 45° angular elevation.

Apparently two other independent Bellbrook residents observed the same object and locals indicate that such sightings are "so common in the Bellbrook area that we (the locals) talk about them as if they were everyday occurrences".

Bill Chalker.

UFOCON II REPORT

On the three days, October 24th, 25th and 26th, 1976 the second conference of all member groups of ACOS (Australian Co-Ordination Section) of the Centre for UFO Studies was held at the Innkeepers Motor Inn at Mt. Gambier, South Australia.

The conference was intended to be a "Think Tank" for members to present proposals for research as well as to report on current activities and developments. UFOIC's two co-ordinators, Bill Chalker and Michael Smyth were in attendance.

Papers presented at the conference were as follows:-

Attitudes to UFOs by Lad Godic (UFOR Inc SA) This paper detailed the attitudes towards UFOs held by the military, the media and the general public from 1947 up to the present time. It was stated that a study of the people reporting UFOs revealed that the general public is becoming very selective in their attitudes. They expect explanations from those involved in UFO research and are capable of separating us from those involved in the "Flying Saucer Cults". The maintenance of good public relations was cited as a necessary aim of all responsible groups.

Some Thoughts on Psychological Aspects of Australian Close Encounters with the UFO Phenomenon by Keith Basterfield and Ben West (UFOR Inc SA) The psychological aspects of CEs were outlined, including social backgrounds, biological, environmental and sociological considerations. An analysis of the Australian CE3s (occupants) was used to illustrate points concerning the observer dependant data of a sighting. Two hypotheses were presented with suggestions for research aimed at verifying either/both/none of them.

The UFO Research of the late Dr. James McDonald by Colin Phillips (UFOR Qld) The collected papers of Dr. McDonald were presented as a research project (McDonald never wrote a book). These papers are required reading for those interested in the historical aspect of UFOs, as well as the USAF's involvement in UFO studies.

Instrumented UFO Research by Bill Chalker and Michael Smyth (UFOIC) A progress report of the "state of the art" in UFO instrumentation was presented, as well as an outline of the parameters of UFO data that are available for measurement. Details of overseas and Australian instrumentation devices were given. A more objective examination of the UFO Phenomenon was proposed using the processes and instruments outlined.

The Neoteric Flying Saucer Cult Syndrome - A Danger to Serious Research by Neil Huth (UFOR Qld) Man's need to find a meaning for his existence is cited to be responsible for the development of religious, and philosophical concepts within a rational framework. The development of various flying saucer cults, sparked by the claims of Adamski and others is seen as a modification of religious and philosophical concepts within a modern (space age) framework. These cults, while outwardly harmless, damage the credibility of those genuinely involved in UFO research.

UFOCAT - A Unique Tool for Research by Harry Griesberg (ACOS) The advantages of using a computer for data storage and analysis were illustrated with specific information on how this is being done by Dr. D. Saunders, on behalf of the Centre for UFO Studies. An announcement was made that UFOIC has developed a computer and storage format for use by all Australian groups, on behalf of ACOS. This will take effect as of January 1, 1977 with material backdated to include all documented Australian reports (This will be the subject of a future article in the newsletter).

Violations of the Speed of Light Limitation predicted by Frank Gillsepie (UFOR Inc SA and Consultant ACOS) The theories of Relativity have been demonstrated to be incomplete. The discovery of pulsars led to the prediction and discovery of Black Holes by the use of Relativity. Black Holes have only three properties, mass, rotation and electrical charge. Travel into a Black Hole may evoke some form of time travel, however relativity does not tell us how far and where we would end up. Using some guesswork we are able to predict the construction of time machines which can effectively travel faster than light.

Definitions for an Indefinite Phenomenon by Paul Jackson (TUFOIC) A standard terminology is required to define the characteristics of UFOs. We can then build a theoretical model which should lead to new hypotheses. Clarification of descriptions can be facilitated by the use of standard terminology. Such a terminology

does not yet exist, and should be given high priority for development.

Investigation of Unusual Aerial Sightings in Australia by the RAAF by Harry Griesberg (ACOS) A summary of Department of Defence document HQSC 5/6Air(62) Annex C was presented, which showed the reasons for the RAAF's involvement in UFOs as well as the shortcomings of their investigation methods. A complete list of reports investigated by the RAAF since 1960 was given. A reply to this paper was given by Bill Chalker who showed that most RAAF reports do not aspire to a level of scientific investigation.

How to Document a UFO Report by Bill Chalker (UFOIC) The correct procedure for documenting a UFO report was given. A UFO report does not constitute only a completed report form.

UFOCON II was rated by all concerned as a complete success with many topics being discussed. At future public meetings, we hope to be able to present talks based on some of these papers.

A CLOSE ENCOUNTER AT PENRITH WITH POSSIBLE ASSOCIATED PHYSICAL TRACES

A middle aged single woman was in bed reading at about 2300 hours on April 12, 1976 when she heard a loud whistling noise, followed by what sounded like a ricochet (perhaps off a nearby fence). She thought a prowler was in the vicinity, and so within ten seconds she switched off the light got out of bed and stood at the window.

Out the window she could see a strange aerial object coming into view from the east. It appeared to be a large black sphere, with a periphery of white light surrounding it. The object seemed to be some 30 to 40 feet in diameter. It stopped, then slid smoothly right into the corner of the paddock, close to the fence, adjacent to the woman's home. The object could not proceed any further because of buildings in its path.

Fearing an imminent collision or explosion, the woman yelled out to her mother who was in the adjacent room. At this stage, her mother had been awakened by the whoosing noise, and was then shocked to see an "orange cloudy effect like smoke" seemingly "flowing into the room". At first thinking the house was on fire, she called out to her other daughter and then hearing the other calling her, she rushed into her room.

By this time, they both observed the object higher in the air, pulsating very strongly with a very bright orange-red light. This object "vanished" from this point and they were able to see a bright orange sphere travelling at a high altitude moving across the sky towards the north-east. At this point the objects trajectory was traced as a ball of orange light flashing on and off.

They also observed "a soft white vapour trail", long and definite, trailing behind the pulsating object. When the object finally disappeared, the "trail" disappeared and faded away.

There was only one witness to the initial close observation, a further three for the later part of the sighting, including the widespread orange glow. At least 6 people heard the strange noise which preceded the event.

Next day, the main witness, the middle aged woman, and a neighbour explored the paddock in which the object had appeared to hover and they discovered an area (100' by 45') of long grass, swept in an outward direction, from the centre, between two trees. No other grass effects were noticed, except for 4 plate sized "pod marks" alligned in a straight line with the approximate direction of the original sighting of the UFO. These marks were in close proximity to the house fence. 6 black and white photos were taken that day of the large trace, but unfortunately by the time UFOIC investigators made their enquiries, the large trace was not distinct and the "pod marks" had been obliterated by neighbourhood traffic examining the "traces". Therefore no samples could be taken.

Investigators: B. Chalker & B. Carter

THE MIN MIN LIGHTS

Strange lights haunt the earth. They exist throughout the world and have been given many names.

These types of UFOs do not appear to be related to the normal "flying saucer" reports. They are usually small in size and appear close to the ground. Their outstanding characteristic is that they are localized to one area or place.

In Australia, the most famous of these lights is the Min Min Light, which has been the subject of numerous investigations but still remains a mystery. The light derives its name from the old Min Min Pub and mail change which used to stand at the Warenda-Lucknow boundary in the Boulia district of Western Queensland, and the pub that was is now only a stack of old bottles.

From the Hamilton river to Min Min where the light used to do its walkabout, there is a stretch of about 40 miles of open downs country with high ridges, treeless apart from the few watercourses and inhospitable to the extent that only a man who knows the western downs may imagine.

In 1912 Henry Lamond was manager of Warenda, then the largest station in Queensland. During the middle of winter he was riding on a frosty night when he saw out on the downs a car headlight coming straight for him. Cars, though not common were not rare, so he took note of the thing even estimating the distance of the approaching light. Suddenly he realised that it was not a car light as it remained in one bulbous ball instead of dividing into the two headlights, which it should have done as it came closer: it floated too high for any car - there was something eerie about it. The mare he was riding stopped and became very restless. But the light kept on coming, floating like a bubble, moving with comparative slowness. It was about the size of a newly risen moon. Travelling at approximately 10 miles per hour and between five to ten feet from the ground it passed Mr. Lamond going in the opposite direction. When it was about two hundred yards off, it suddenly faded and died away. It did not go out with a snap - its vanishing was more like the gradual fading of the wires in an electric bulb.

Almost as widely known outback as the Min Min Light is Quinns Light, a phenomenon that on and off over the years has made its appearance in the Daudaman Valley in the Go-Go-Billi Ranges by the Lachlan River in N.S.W. It derives its name from one John Quinn on whose property it has periodically made its strange appearance. Quinn, who was formerly a judge at N.S.W. sheep dog trials, was from all reports a practical man of the land whose testimony could be thoroughly relied on. Quinn claimed to have seen the light on many occasions.

More than anything else, the light is said to resemble a very large bird, crested and something the size of an eagle in flight. In colour it is glowing orange, of extraordinary brilliance and possessed of a luminous glow that lights up the trees as it passes among them. It follows a fairly regular course moving or floating down from the valley, then making a more or less circuitous path about the homestead and fading away again up the valley.

Many have attested to seeing it and many attempts have been made to follow it but without being able to close in upon it. As in the case of the other lights, its nature or origin remains a mystery.

Other outback lights in Australia are the Blairmore Light, Yatton Light, Green Mountain Light and the Mystery Light of One Tree Plain. These lights, the Min Min light phenomenon, is not confined to Australia, it is in fact worldwide.

Along the trails of the Andean highlands in Peru appear La Luz del Dinero, the "money lights". Across the cordilleras at twilight they float about the rock soil, gleaming white or green then hover and fade into darkness. The natives believe they indicate the locations of buried treasure.

In the mountains rimming Lake Iliamna in Alaska are the Iliamna lights, often mistaken for approaching aircraft at a nearby airfield.

The Ozark Spook Light also known as Hornet Light is a well known tourist attraction in the mid-west U.S.A. Throughout America the ghost lights are a well known

phenomenon occurring all over the country. Some of the better known lights are The Phantom Light of Ringold, The Maco Lights, The Brown Mountain Light - the common name for these lights and others are cemetery lights, Indian lights and ghost lights.

In Hawaii, they are said to appear on the first two or three nights of the new moon, close to midnight, drifting over the plain and vanishing in the foothills near the base of Mauna Kea. These lights are called the Waimea lights and they float five or six feet about the ground. Some close observers claim to have heard faint music emanating from their misty cores. Luminous, with a texture like that of heavy fog, they seem to pulsate rhythmically.

In Aboriginal and Indian legends frequent mention is made of these mysterious lights and yet no one has been able to offer a satisfactory explanation as to their cause or origin. Several theories have been advanced as to the cause or causes of the Min Min light phenomenon. Some people believe them to be fireballs or an as yet unknown electrical discharge; others say they are probably swamp gas. Perhaps the best explanation to date has occurred quite recently near Deniliquin, N.S.W. A farmer driving a grader saw a small low ball of light approaching him quickly so he turned the blade towards the light source and rammed it. The glowing ball of light disintegrated. On closer examination, he found that it had been composed of hundreds of luminous glowworm like insects.

Perhaps some of our readers have further information which may shed more light on the mystery of the elusive Min Min lights.

Michael Guider

References: 'Australian Ghost Stories' - F. De Cusak
'Mysterious Lights and Fires' - V. Gaddis
'Walkabout' - 1937 - H. Lamond

UFO AND CREATURE REPORTS FROM THE CENTRAL COAST

The Central Coast area of NSW has recently experienced a small flap of UFO activity during September 1976 with reports emanating from Gosford, the Tuggerah Lakes, Davestown and Holgate. On the night of October 10th, 1976 two separate events occurred which seemed to herald a spectacular end to this new activity. These events were investigated by researchers from Central Coast UFO Research, ACOS and UFOIC.

At 6.50 p.m. a woman was driving along Wilfred Barrett Drive in the North Entrance area when she noticed that several cars suddenly accelerated away from her. She suddenly made out a strange aerial object hovering at an angle of about 45° over the Tuggerah Lakes area. The object was apparently saucer-shaped with a dome on top and had 4 lights - one green and three red (see sketch).

Terrified she did not stop and last saw the object in her rear-vision mirror, apparently still hovering in the same position. The duration of the observation was about 5 minutes. Further along the road, the woman saw that one of the other cars had pulled off the road and its two occupants were standing outside looking at the object. The woman again did not stop and drove on in a terrified state to her destination.

Source: Central Coast UFO Research, ACOS and "Central Coast Express" 16.10.76

Just over 2 hours later that same night, to the south of the Entrance, two young couples were in a parked car at the Crackneck Lookout on the Southern headland of Bateau Bay. At about 8.15 p.m. the 2 young men, Tony C. and Nigel B. went down to the nearby cliff edge. Tony describes the event: "...We heard some noises down there. We walked down and heard the noises ... We went up a bit further and we heard more noises (like grass rustling and shuffling of local debris). So we walked up to this little clearing, a little gully, in the side of the cliff. And there was a noise, and we looked down there. We saw this thing crawling up the hill and it was all in an off-white colour ... We ran all the way back up to the car and we got inside. I was shaking like anything. We locked all the doors. We said (to the 2 girls, Linda W and Mandy F) we saw something down there... They started to believe us. Then all of a sudden, we saw this thing coming up through the trees. Nigel saw it first. He said to the rest of us that he saw it. So we all looked down there and Mandy in front started to just scream:.

Mandy F. at first saw nothing, then after some movements in the trees saw a figure similar to a man approaching them. It had no hair, and appeared to be about 8-9 feet tall. She covered her eyes and lowered her head and screamed for her boyfriend, Nigel, to start the car and "get out of here". She had screamed, "it's eyes, it's eyes!" What she saw were likened to fly's eyes, somewhat mesh-like in appearance (or faceted?)

Tony continues his story: "After that I saw it. I saw it from its knees going up to its head ... all off white and its face - its eyes were just like fly's eyes ... and its mouth was just only round ... I could distinctly see it had just 3 joints in its arms. Its legs were huge. Its shoulders were about 36" across. Its fingers were sort of pointed. I was really frightened about that. I got my eyes stuck on the eyes and I couldn't get them away, until my mate reversed the car and we got going again".

Meanwhile, Linda, Tony's girlfriend sitting in the back seat saw nothing but when Mandy started yelling, she herself started screaming "Start the car! Let's get out of here!"

The creature appeared to approach the car and momentarily looked away when the car lights came on. Tony C. claimed that he thought his heart "stopped for a while. I was shaking and just about crying. We all got back home ... we were talking about the thing and we couldn't get to sleep for a while. So for the next three nights we kept on talking about it and I kept on having nightmares about it ... shocking ..."

Just after the two men had returned to the car and immediately before the approach of the creature, Linda has observed a rectangular light "burnt orange" in colour and slightly larger than the angular size of the full moon out to sea, apparently on the water surface. She told Mandy about this but she did not look, indicating that she had seen in on previous nights. Indeed on the previous night, she had been with others at the lookout and saw an orange rectangular light, on the horizon out to sea. It would come on for a few seconds then went off for 5 minutes, repeating this pattern. She described it as being like a bright flourescent light and about twice the width of a thumb at arm's length. It remained in one position for the best part of 2 hours and was still there when they left.

About a week later, cement picnic chairs and tables at the lookout were wrecked. The damage was thought to have been perpetrated by vandals. Interestingly enough there seems to have been other claimed sightings of the same or similar creatures in this area over the last 6 months.

One of our consultants, Dr. Ralph Molnar, a specialist in anatomy, indicated that while the description of the Crackneck "creature" presented no real "internal contradictions", the bulbous faceted eye features, the tri-segmented arms and the apparent lack of a thumb were quite unusual. While it seems that the percipients were genuinely describing what they believed to have seen, the seemingly remote possibility of an elaborate hoax has not been entirely ruled out. Suffice to day the encounter coupled with the strange light out to sea and the Entrance UFO sighting, represents some rather bizzare activity. Further investigations are planned.

Source: B. Chalker & M. Smyth (UFOIC) and H. Griesberg & D. Seargent (ACOS)

W A T C H T H I S S P A C E ! ! ! !

A cross in the box indicates that your UFOIC membership expires with this issue.

Current rates for renewal are:-

\$6.00 p.a.

\$3.00 p.a. (pensioners and students)

