

# SRI LANKA U.F.O. REGISTER

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EDITORIAL by ANANDA L. SIRISENA

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The "Reader's Digest" of August 1979, contains an article called "Pseudo-Science and the Counting Horse" written by the eminent astronomer Carl Sagan. In his article, Dr. Sagan, who is Professor of Astronomy at Cornell University in USA, states that of the one million UFO reports filed since 1947 there is not a single one of a close encounter authenticated by many people independently and reliably - as if such authentication would constitute "proof" in the scientific sense.

It is quite common for witnesses, say to a traffic accident or air crash, to give contradictory evidence at hearings. This is accepted as a normal failing of the powers of human observation but from widely varying anecdotal accounts it is possible to build up a fairly accurate picture of what exactly occurred. The same process, applied intelligently to UFO cases can elicit much information, which whilst not constituting "proof" in the mathematical, scientific sense is nevertheless evidence of a circumstantial nature of an unusual, unidentifiable phenomenon having taken place.

Authentication, in the case of an accident, is easier because the remains of the tragedy in most cases are there for all to see, whereas not a single UFO exists in the laboratory, or so we are told. If we sit back without studying the events around us, most of the physical and mental laws understood today will not be further enlarged upon. In any branch of new

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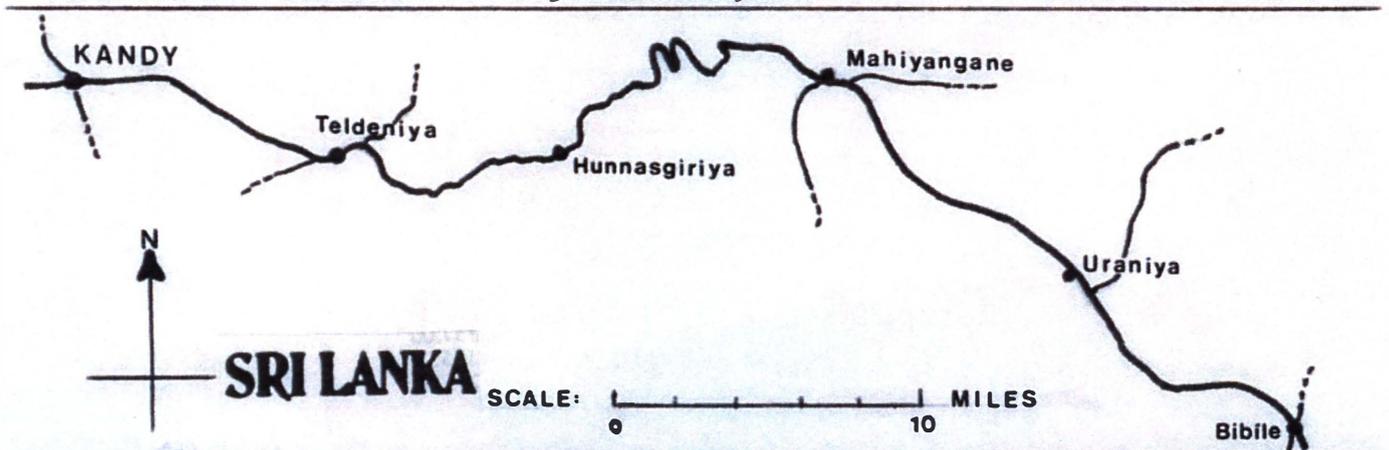
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One of the routes from Colombo to Bibile is through Kandy, Hunnasgiriya and Mahiyangane. Although this is one of the most difficult, it does afford a backdrop of extremely beautiful scenery.

It was along this route that Piyasena, a young man of 20, was driving a jeep on his way from Colombo to Bibile, towards the latter part of August, 1969. The jeep belonged to the Anti-Malaria Campaign Office situated in Bibile and the writer happened to be the acting medical officer of health in Bibile at that time. The exact date of the incident is recorded in a diary which has been temporarily misplaced but it most certainly took place on a weekday during the last two weeks of August, 1969, i.e. 18th. to 22nd. or 25th. to 29th.



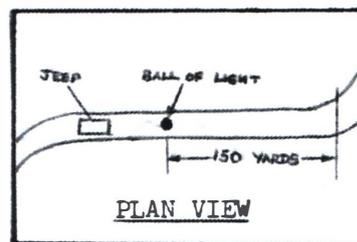
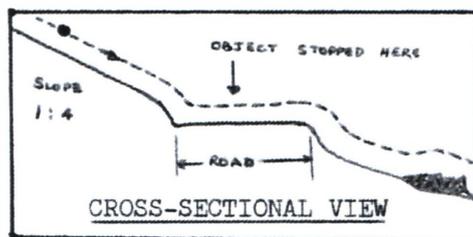
According to Piyasena it was about 6.30 in the evening when he passed the small village centre of Hunnasgiriya and was about ten miles from Mahiyangane. The sun had set almost completely at this time. (In Sri Lanka the time of sunset is fairly constant, varying only by 10 or 15 minutes throughout the year, compared to countries that are on latitudes further away from the Equator.) Dusk was fast approaching and by then he had switched on the headlights of the jeep.

The road in this area is quite winding. After coming through the village, Piyasena drove along for a further mile, climbing steadily till he came to a straight, flat stretch of the road with about 150 yards to the next bend.

Visibility was not impaired by any fog or mist and there was no rain. The lights of the four-wheel drive jeep were very powerful, projecting on to the sides of the road as well as ahead, much more than in the case of a car.

Piyasena was alone in the jeep. As he came on to the straight stretch of the road rounding the last bend, something moving to his left caught his eye. At this point of the story it is important to visualise the landscape at the location.

The road is cut across a hill, and towards the left edge is the bank of the hill rising up and away at a gradient of about 1:4. To the right of the road, beyond its edge, the hill continues down along a steep slope to reach a flat area with bushes, shrub and some rocks. The next bend is roughly one hundred and fifty yards away.



Reflexly, Piyasena slowed down the jeep and at the same time turned his eyes more than the head, as drivers often do, to get the moving object into focus. What he saw was something he had never seen in his life before.

It was a light, "eliya" he said. But it was not an ordinary light like an electric bulb, a candle flame or a kerosene lamp.

It was a ball of light, or as he expressed it in his own language, "an illuminated ball". The colour was a very bright green, which as he put it, "went right through the eyes" because it was so intense. Additionally, it had a yellowish-orange glow to it. Piyasena said it was difficult to describe this mixture of colours together - bright green and yellow-orange.

The object did not illuminate the area as an electric light would have done. This is why Piyasena used the expression "an illuminated ball", in an attempt to portray this curious feature. Some researchers refer to this 'non-illumination effect' as non-reflecting light and the theory has been put forward that it involves an unknown type of radiation. However, Piyasena's fear was only beginning.

The ball was not on the ground. It was between two and three feet above the slope of the hill. Its size was smaller than that of a football but larger than that of a grape-fruit, about 8-10 inches in diameter.

By this time Piyasena had brought the jeep to a complete halt but he left the lights on. The ball moved rapidly down the hill and on to the road following the contour of the ground and maintaining a constant height between two and three feet. It made no sound and this terrified Piyasena, who sat quietly in his seat observing the phenomenon. It did not affect the lights of the jeep, and as far as is known, did not affect the engine which was still idling.

When the ball reached the middle of the road, it stopped absolutely still for about ten seconds and "looked at" Piyasena, as he put it. Then it started up at the same brisk speed as before, traversed the remainder of the road to the right-hand edge and then down the slope till it disappeared from view, taking a few seconds to do so. At no time did it descend from its original height above the ground.

Piyasena was quite shaken. The light stopping and "looking at" him was the last straw as far as he was concerned. He threw the jeep into reverse gear, turned it around at the first available spot and sped back towards Hunnasgiriya, where he slept the night, arriving in Bibile only next morning. His fear was typical of any person suddenly coming up against the unknown. At no time did the ball of fire menace him.

He was an intelligent young man who had sat, and passed the S.S.C. examinations (equivalent to GCE 'O' Levels). If not for the unemployment problem he would have been holding a better job. By nature, he was a pleasant, open-minded person with no history of psychiatric illnesses or recourse to drugs.

The total duration of the sighting was roughly sixty seconds. The writer does not wish to speculate on what this object may have been but must inform the reader that there is a legend of the Hunnasgiriya Devatta, an unknown phenomenon long associated with this area. Whether a UFO has been seen regularly in these parts and has given rise to the legend is a point worth studying.

\* Eliya - in Sinhala language, in this context, means light.

\* Devatta - in Sinhala language means a benevolent heavenly being.

Dr.Sarath de Silva  
M.B.B.S.,M.R.C.Psych

Highlights from Issue No.3 of this journal, due to be published in March, 1980. Order your copy now as demand will be great.....

RUGBY-BALL UFO IN WEST BENGAL  
INTERVIEW WITH REX DUTTA (PART II)  
REPORT ON THE FIRST LONDON INTERNATIONAL UFO CONGRESS  
READERS LETTERS

Researchers with existing files on UFOs are urged to contact the Sri Lanka UFO Register. Our address is on the cover page.

# QUOTE . . .

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"As Professor Wickramasinghe, the Head of Astronomy at Cardiff University puts it: 'I would have thought that there have been enough UFO sightings in the last year or so in Wales for there to be an excellent case for a thorough investigation. The Ministry of Defence would have to be involved, because there should also be astronomers, meteorologists and geologists..'"

From the book "THE UNINVITED" a true story by Clive Harold - A Star Book published in 1979 by the paperback division of W.H.Allen & Co. Ltd., London.

EDITOR: "The Uninvited" is a factual rendering about the encounters with UFOs and occupants, experienced by a farming family in South Wales, U.K., between January and December 1977.

Dr. Nalin Chandra Wickramasinghe is Professor and Head of Department of Applied Maths and Astronomy, University College in Cardiff, Wales. In 1978, in a book titled "Lifecloud", he proposed a radically new theory for the origin of interstellar dust. Together with Sir Fred Hoyle he has written another book called "DISEASES FROM SPACE" (J.M. Dent & Sons, 1979).

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## THE DOCUMENT THAT SHOWS 'FLYING DISCS' EXIST

During the first twenty-one years of the modern UFO controversy, there have been repeated claims that the US Air Force was withholding vital information about unidentified flying objects from the American public. This accusation had been made so often by writers with contacts inside the Air Force, that many people started suspecting that there may be a grain of truth in it but the Air Force Press Office has always denied this.

Nevertheless, it is well known that governmental departments particularly aligned to intelligence work, could as allowed by law and often did, cover up embarrassing facts, or at least re-classify them in an act of defeasance, thus making certain that only specified staff could have access to documents of a sensitive nature. Since such staff are constrained by legal penalties or Official Secrets Acts, it could be ensured that the information was forever beyond the reach of the public.

It is absolutely certain that action of such a nature took place from the year 1947, which could theoretically be called the first year of the "flying saucer".

Continued on page 11.....

The Sri Lanka UFO Register conducted an interview with Mr. Rex Dutta on 2nd. May, 1979, at his office in Blandford Street, London. Mr. Dutta, who has a degree in economics, organises "Viewpoint Aquarius", a provocative 'New Age' monthly news magazine. He has outspoken views on the subject of UFOs and we publish his statements in a spirit of open-minded inquiry. Readers will have to make up their own minds about his assertions - undoubtedly rooted in the Theosophical writings of H.P. Blavatsky, of which he is an ardent student. Rex Dutta is a noted lecturer and author of many books that neatly line a shelf in his pleasant sanctum. Above the shelf was noticed a statuette depicting the Maitreya Buddha.

INTERVIEWER: You have held a workshop at the Third Festival for Mind, Body and Spirit at Olympia - perhaps you can tell us a little about that?

REX DUTTA: Yes, we've had a stand there right from the beginning, for the last three years. I'm on the Advisory Council of the Festival, held a workshop at the World Symposium on Humanity at Wembley the week before, have been researching on this subject since 1954. This magazine "Viewpoint Aquarius" is by far and away the largest in Britain, in its field.

It takes a deeper view of flying saucers. It's not satisfied with science, with the "nuts and bolts" view. It thinks science completely is inadequate.

For example, if two scientists want to communicate with each other, the only way the poor things can do it is to make a noise through the hole in the face. They do not go thought-to-thought direct. They go through language which represents thoughts.

Now that sort of mind, totally is inadequate. That sort of mind, of the "nuts and bolts" scientist, which looks only at the outer form is puny. We've got to do much better than that. We've got to go beyond the five senses, beyond the outer form to the living "life" within.

INTERVIEWER: Are you saying that the UFO enigma cannot be solved in the scientific way?

REX DUTTA: Of course! Because they (UFOs) do things which our laws of physics cannot explain, cannot emulate.

They appear/disappear. They become small, they become big. They become translucent/opaque. They do fantastic speeds. They don't cause sonic booms when they break the sound barrier. All this glib stuff that we talk about - our astronomers, our "nuts and bolts" view about the Universe, which is said to be so huge that if we had random probes coming out, one would reach here only once in ten thousand years - well, that is based on the wrong thinking.

UFOs travel, not with the slow speed of light, they travel with the speed of thought! How long does it take to think of getting to the stars? You're there!

Now, if you think it is all hallucination or subjective, or any of the excuses that's served up by the "nuts and bolts" guys:

the French government is one of ten governments that has said flying saucers are real - ten governments .....

INTERVIEWER: Which are the ten governments?

REX DUTTA: The others are listed in my books. Why don't I plug the books? You read them.

Let's get back to the French. The French government, in 1974, measured the depressions caused by landed saucers that gave indicated weights of a hundred tons. Now that's not hallucination.

The Space Beings can make a body take any shape they like. So when they want to travel, it's done with the instantaneous speed of thought. And when they arrive here for example, they take the body, the form, the shape that the earthling wants, fears or expects, consciously or unconsciously.

And if you get a tame astronomer, for example, there's one in Princeton University - shall we not name the man, he says: "Well, saucers can't be true because when they come here, they look like B-52 bombers or Spitfires" because that earthly astronomer couldn't see a thought when it arrived. He has to see a form. So the Space Mind has to take a form and obligingly, it assumes one that the fellow wants, fears or expects, consciously or unconsciously. They take a form similar enough to the things he can do, so that he has a chance to understand.

INTERVIEWER: Don't UFOs have a physical structure then?

REX DUTTA: They have a physical when necessary. They are mostly mind. They take a shape whenever they want and down to a hundred tons of the French government estimate - a solid, dense shape.

INTERVIEWER: This is intriguing! Are UFOs of terrestrial origin?

REX DUTTA: No. And the intelligence is not of this puny mind that can't go thought-to-thought direct but has to rely on words.

INTERVIEWER: Can we classify the source, or sources of UFOs?

REX DUTTA: Yes. Where is your mind? Not your brain, stuck here with chewing gum, your mind?

INTERVIEWER (Almost tempted at that moment to look for the chewing gum): Everywhere, I suppose!

REX DUTTA: That's exactly it.

Everywhere and nowhere, and in a totally different plane from this space-time continuum that the "nuts and bolts" guys rave about. And your mind - is it your personal mind? At this half-second of time have we got a joint mind? When a hundred million of us look at a TV programme, whose mind is it during

those moments?

It is quite a different thing. It's got to be! The questions have to be more intelligent than the scientists can ask - and certainly more intelligent than our scientists can answer.

INTERVIEWER: So UFOs come from everywhere?

REX DUTTA: No, they are based. You see, where is your mind? It may be anywhere but perhaps it's based at Sri Lanka. Mine's perhaps based in London. It's true and not true, because my mind can go to Ceylon and be in England at the same time.

They are a state of consciousness, a state of development, a life-form and they don't have to have this funny body that we have. We are duality creatures and we imagine - I don't know where we get the cheek for it - but we imagine that the entire Galaxy is as backward as we are. And you know, there's some of us swaggering around, particularly in the Royal College of Materialistic Science that actually think logic, thought and mind, started with us earthlings and that the entire Galaxy was a dumb-witted something or the other till they came along. Where such conceit comes from I do not know!

INTERVIEWER: But you do admit UFOs have certain definite shapes?

REX DUTTA: Any shape the earthling wants, fears or expects, consciously or unconsciously.

If you want a golden-haired Messiah, you'll get it. If your personal aura stinks, you'll see sulphur-smelling monsters and if we are terribly conceited, we see imitations of ourselves - of course, not quite as good as ourselves - i.e. humanoids.

INTERVIEWER: In a sense, are you saying that UFOs are a reaction of the subconscious mind?

REX DUTTA: No, no, no! You are back with Jung, you are back with the excuse line. You are forgetting the hundred tons solid weight - this is the slipaway of the "nuts and bolts".

No, we've got to face the fact that there's a mind far, far greater than our puny little one which can only communicate second hand.

We've got to get this straight. We're the kids. We've only got five senses, we haven't yet got the sixth and seventh. It's potential, it's latent. We ought to develop it. Some earthlings have developed it. That's the whole point but we are not going to do it with the Royal College of Materialistic Science and its limitations.

INTERVIEWER: Can we classify the types of UFO?

REX DUTTA: In the earlier books I wrote are catalogued sixteen types of saucers; the classic one, diameter twenty-eight feet, saucer-shaped; the doughnut and many others. We've been doing this research since 1954.

There have been a hundred and fifty thousand contactees.

INTERVIEWER: A 150,000 contactees?

REX DUTTA: Contactees. People who have had rides in saucers, spoken to 'saucer beings'; a hundred and fifty thousand of them.

Let's come back to the form and then back to these contactees. These are the sort of facts which are kept under the carpet.

Now, in the original book were 16 types of saucers listed, their dimensions and their estimated uses. Some are unmanned 'flying television sets' as they are called, which pick up thought and feeling as well as sound and vision, and so on. Later, researchers all over the world who genuinely had done open-minded examination came to the conclusion that this was quite obviously not so because the shapes changed so much, even while being watched. You've always got the tame psychologists bringing up their excuses, "Oh it was just subjective, it was just this, it was just that."

Then researchers started realising that saucers took the shape we wanted - wanted, feared or expected, consciously or unconsciously. It took an awful long time for that to get through our conceit! In fact, it has not got through the conceit of quite a lot of us yet.

Now contactees. Let me give you a couple who've had contact. On the 22nd. September, 1947, Air Technical Intelligence Centre, the nerve centre of the US Air Force, officially reported to the President of the US they'd had contacts. Contacts!

INTERVIEWER: Are you now referring to General Twining's memo?

REX DUTTA: No I'm not. I'm referring to the official report to the President of the United States from ATIC, made on the 22nd. of September, 1947.

Now that caused the row you'd imagine. So in 1948 - and we publish all this information in "Viewpoint Aquarius" - we call it our "Backup Information", in 1948 the US government put on the fullest conference it had. The best scientists, the best military, the best legislators, the CIA, the FBI and other secret units, under Brigadier General George Schulgen, whose name you are not even supposed to know, reported to the President: "Saucers are real, contacts are real."

In 1949, the special Telecommunications Project of the Canadian government, under Wilbert B. Smith reported: "Saucers

are real, contacts are real and the only way to understand the superior science of the aliens is by the philosophical approach." Not the usual "nuts and bolts".

INTERVIEWER: You are referring to Project Magnet, I believe?

REX DUTTA: That's Project Magnet.

INTERVIEWER: Can I just pin you down on that earlier announcement of 22nd. September 1947, which you mentioned? Now, there was a memo round about that time from General Twining to Brigadier General George Schulgen, which was an internal memorandum.

REX DUTTA: Yes. This was a report to the President.

INTERVIEWER: Was this reported to the Press as well?

REX DUTTA: No. To the President.

INTERVIEWER: A totally secret report then?

REX DUTTA: It's secret and even now there are people who haven't a clue about it. They're still saying: "Saucers haven't been proven yet".

INTERVIEWER: Do you have any idea what this document was called? Was it an "Estimate-of-the-Situation" type of thing?

REX DUTTA: It was a "Considered Opinion of this Command" and dated 1947. In fact we publish it verbatim.

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The concluding part of this interview will be published in the next issue of this journal.

NOTE: See elsewhere in this issue for details of General Twining's memorandum, which was dated 23rd. September, 1947.

EDITORIAL continued from page 1

knowledge, a start has to be made somewhere and in the case of UFO research the first step lies with UFO reports, even if there are only an unverifiable million in the computer.

In fairness to Dr. Sagan, it must be proclaimed that he has retained an open mind about UFOs and was instrumental in organising the first debate on the subject that was held by the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 1969. Together with another astronomer, Dr. Thornton Page, he edited the papers from that historic debate.

However, in the "Reader's Digest" article he makes a curious ...continued on back page

THE DOCUMENT THAT SHOWS 'FLYING DISCS' EXIST...from page 5 11

One of the most vocal and persistent to state that the US Air Force was covering up firm knowledge about UFOs was a retired US Marine Corps Major, Donald E. Keyhoe. Between 1950 and 1960, Major Keyhoe wrote four books and numerous magazine articles espousing his conviction that the US Air Force had secretly arrived at the conclusion that "flying saucers" were real and interplanetary in origin.

Keyhoe, who had been an aviation writer was eventually to become Director of the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP) and produced his first book on the subject in 1950. It was called "The Flying Saucers Are Real" and published by Fawcett in New York. It was written in a racy style but sold well and added fuel to the fire of fierce controversy about "cover up", which exists to this day.

He reiterated the theme in subsequent books: "Flying Saucers From Outer Space" (New York, Holt, 1953), "The Flying Saucer Conspiracy" (New York, Holt, 1955) and "Flying Saucers: Top Secret" (New York, Putnam, 1960). Keyhoe was regarded as a crank by many people and no doubt, as a nuisance, by many Air Force echelons but his books were factual; many of the cases he reported had been passed to him by sources within the Air Force itself and their veracity could not be doubted.

Today, the truth must be appreciated, that Keyhoe was vindicated in most of his claims, in 1968 when the Scientific Study of Unidentified Flying Objects\*, directed by the late Dr. E. Condon at Colorado University, released an important document that had been classified secret since 1947.

The Condon Report, despite being negative in its conclusions and summary, did publish a copy of an internal Air Force communique that essentially stated that UFOs are real. The memo, titled "AMC Opinion Concerning Flying Discs", dated 23rd. September, 1947, was a recommendation from the Commander of Air Material Command (AMC) to the Commanding General of the Army Air Forces (as the US Air Force was then called).

In recommending that the Army Air Forces Headquarters make a detailed study of the matter, it minces no words when it states that: "The phenomenon reported is something real and not visionary or fictitious."

That sentence alone from this memo would have substantiated Major Keyhoe's first book, if it had been made public at the time. The memo does give due consideration to the possibility that some "foreign nation has a form of propulsion possibly nuclear, which is outside of our domestic knowledge." It does not state what nation this might be but the USSR, Great Britain and Germany may well have been candidates for this speculation.

\*Published by the Board of Regents, University of Colorado.

The memorandum is very definite when it comes to the description of "Flying Discs":-

(1) Metallic or light reflecting surface.

It is true that the majority of UFOs spotted during the daytime do appear metallic, or made of a substance that reflects light like polished aluminium. Since 1947, this description has remained consistent.

(2) Absence of trail, except in a few instances when the object apparently was operating under high performance conditions.

This observation is an astute one, as it must have been made with the relatively few UFO reports filed upto that time. Condensation trails are generally formed by aircraft flying at altitudes greater than 1,500 metres (approximately 4,900 feet). Many UFOs have been seen at altitudes greater than 1,500 metres leaving no vapour trail, except in a few cases when the object took off rapidly or manouevred at great speeds. The mystery has never been explained and could indicate a propulsion process that is new to man's technology.

(3) Circular or elliptical in shape, flat on bottom and domed on top.

One cannot find a more apt description of the classical "flying saucer"!

(4) Several reports of well kept formation flights varying from three to nine objects.

(5) Normally no associated sound, except in three instances a substantial rumbling roar was noted.

Since 1947, there have been a lot more than three cases when a UFO has made a rumbling sound (at times) although the majority are noted to be completely silent. This lack of sound is another mystery unexplained by scientists; it is another feature indicative that the UFO phenomenon represents a technology new to man.

An associated observation is the absence of sonic booms caused by UFOs. Although sonic boom research has progressed rapidly since 1950, present technology is incapable of completely suppressing sonic booms at ground level and the fact that many UFOs flying faster than sound have not produced sonic booms is significant.

(6) Level flight speeds normally above 300 knots are estimated.

Any reader who doubts that the US Air Force, or a section of the Air Force (Air Material Command) secretly concluded that flying discs are real, should study the whole of this memorandum. Note particularly, the recommendations it made regarding detailed study of the matter to "include the preparation of complete sets of all available and pertinent data" to be disseminated to various organisations, including the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) and RAND, the Research and Development 'think-tank' in USA, and that a

"complete interchange of data should be effected".

The latter is particularly noteworthy because for many years the RAND organisation denied producing a report on UFOs. A RAND document on UFOs is now available.

Finally, no one should be under the illusion that this memo was the sole opinion of a Lieutenant General. Quite the contrary, it was "arrived at in conference" between personnel from the Air Institute of Technology and the Engineering Division of the Aircraft, Power Plant and Propeller Laboratories. It was signed by Lieutenant General N.F. Twining and addressed to Brigadier General George Schulgen. Its recommendations culminated in the inauguration of Project Sign, also known as Project Saucer.

A separate study of Project Sign will be published in a future issue of the Sri Lanka UFO Register.

Ananda L. Sirisena.

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A LOOK AT A UFO BOOK

by Ananda L. Sirisena

"THE UTAH UFO DISPLAY" by Dr. Frank B. Salisbury.

Since full impact is lost in reviewing a book many years after it has been published, the Sri Lanka UFO Register will start the series "Look at a UFO Book" to enable readers to familiarise themselves with books on UFOs that have been in print for many years, or out of print, or are difficult to obtain and probably have not been seen by most readers of this journal.

In order to maintain a balance, both well-written books and poorly hatched-up sensational-type books will be looked at. Readers who wish to submit their own re-views are welcome to do so.

"The Utah UFO Display: A Biologist's Report" is written by Dr. Frank B. Salisbury, Director of the Plant Sciences Department at the State University of Utah, and was published in 1974 by the Devin-Adair Company, Old Greenwich, Connecticut, USA.

It is a finely written book with a strain of logical sense running through it that one expects from a scientist working for the US Atomic Energy Commission in the Division of Biomedical and Environmental Research.

The first part of the book is devoted to an in-depth study of a series of UFO sightings between 1966-67 in a remote area of the state of Utah, in the Uintah Basin. The sightings were principally clustered around three towns linked by Highway 40, the main freeway between Salt Lake City - the capital of Utah - and Denver, the capital of Colorado.

It is an example of meticulous research, painstaking cross-referencing and tantamount to solid evidence that a multi-coloured assortment of unidentifiable flying objects, mostly shaped like discs, swooped down over Uintah for many months, for a reason or reasons which we have not the faintest idea about.

Dr. Salisbury concludes that it was a display put on for the benefit of the local populace and one assumes, in the final run for the whole of humanity. From the picturesque description given, one cannot help feeling that the UFOs were engaged in some other activity beyond our understanding and the deliberate flaunting of aerobatic prowess was merely a side-show thrown into the bargain. Now this raises many pointed questions - alas, science does not have the answers. One can only speculate on the purpose of these powered craft, a conclusion that is inevitable from the motions described, and he winds up Part I of his book with a brainstorming session that activates the imagination and leaves much food for thought.

Part II of the book is an overall approach to the entire UFO phenomenon. In particular, Dr. Salisbury tackles head-on the question whether UFOs are extraterrestrial or not. With clear thinking and an unbiased attitude he weighs the pros and the cons of the argument in a cool, unemotional fashion. It is a pleasure to read such a level-headed consideration of all the facts available; the difference between his approach to the million dollar question and that of many a sceptic (sceptic to the UFO phenomenon, that is) is quite marked. He states, in regard to UFO sceptics:

"The message of this discussion is that the UFO reports, taken as a whole, and considering the expected distortions, might well provide a body of facts far more impressive than the speculation of sceptics. It would seem to be much more profitable to apply our scientific efforts in trying to understand what the UFOs are, rather than wasting a great deal of energy trying to argue that space-ships don't exist".

One hopes that all persons sceptical that there is a UFO phenomenon study the evidence, read that paragraph from Dr. Salisbury's book, take heart and spend less time proselytizing that space-craft from other worlds cannot come to this planet simply because they believe that such is impossible. There is not a shred of scientific evidence that UFOs cannot be extra-terrestrial space-ships. This does not of course prove that they are!

A LOOK AT A UFO BOOK

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Dr.Salisbury hits the thorn on the head when he says,

"One does not believe in UFOs; one simply seeks for the truth about UFOs....."

The book is immensely readable and is recommended to serious UFO researchers.

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Persons willing to investigate UFO reports in their town, district or province should write to the Secretary asking for the free leaflet: TIPS FOR FIELD INVESTIGATORS. Enclose S.A.E.

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remark that should be analysed carefully. He says,

"No one has turned up even a small fragment of an alien aircraft - much less the logbook of the starship captain."

But Dr. Sagan, even if someone did turn up such a logbook, would you believe them - or the logbook? And what about the persistent rumours of a 1948 "saucer" crashed in the New Mexico desert? In any case, would a fragment "prove" that such vehicles exist?

Note how Dr. Sagan associates UFOs with interstellar travel! So far, scientists have failed to enumerate precisely what would constitute "proof" of the extra-terrestriality of UFOs; therefore to suggest that a fragment somehow holds special significance is unfounded. It would be ironic if a "flying saucer" did crash in New Mexico and the authorities hushed up the fact because they could not determine its origin.

The UFO phenomenon is not without physical evidence: radar and sonar tracking, landing traces, photographs and motion films, electromagnetic effects on motor vehicles and aircraft, and physiological after-effects on witnesses all record the strangeness. Granted that they do not reveal the origin of UFOs but that surely is part of the million-dollar quest.

A list of eminent scientists who accept that the phenomenon of UFOs deserves close attention would serve to redress any imbalance noted by readers.

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BRIEF LIST OF SCIENTISTS WHO TAKE THE UFO PROBLEM SERIOUSLY

Dr. Robert M.L.Baker, Dept. of Astronomy, UCLA; Col. R.B.Emerson, Emerson Testing Laboratories; Dr. Stanton Friedman, Westinghouse Astronuclear Laboratory; Dr. Richard Hall, American Psychological Association; Dr. Robert Hall, Professor of Sociology, University of California; Dr. James Harder, Professor of Hydraulic Engineering, Univ. of California; Dr. J.Allen Hynek, Northwestern Univ., Director of the Centre for UFO Studies; Dr. Magoruh Maruyama, Univ. of California; Dr. Hermann Oberth, co-designer of the V2; Dr. Roger Shephard, Stanford University; Dr. Leo Sprinkle, Univ. of Wyoming; Dr. Norman Wolf, University of Washington; Dr. Felix Zigel, Professor of Higher Mathematics and Astronomy, Moscow Aeronautical Institute, USSR; Dr. Edward J. Zeller, Professor of Geology, Physics and Astronomy, University of Kansas.

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