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KALPA-NAVA: SRI LANKA'S JOURNAL OF UFO REPORTS & MYSTERIES

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KALPA-NAVA is published by the Lanka UFO Register. Any enquiries should be addressed to The Secretary, Lanka UFO Register, 53 Sri Dhamma-Dhara Mawatha, Ratmalana, Sri Lanka. Copies of this journal can be obtained in the UK (50p.) from: Ananda Sirisena, 51 Windermere Avenue, London SW19.

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SOME EARLY REPORTS FROM SRI LANKA

1951 August 28. Egg-shaped object spotted about 13 miles west of Adam's Peak (Sri Pada), Sri Lanka's Holy Mountain, revered by Buddhist, Christian, Hindu and Moslem alike. Adam's Peak is believed to have been visited by the Lord Buddha, atop which it is said He left his footprint!

1954 September (late). Cylindrical object seen in Kandy, the ancient capital of Sri Lanka.

1959 April 4. A domed disc seen just north of Colombo, the modern capital of Sri Lanka.

1960 September 18. 2 miles south off the southern-most tip of the island of Sri Lanka: seen from a coastal vessel - a triangular object with a long tail at the rear.

circa 1940. Exact date not known. At an unspecified locality in Sri Lanka, an orange cigar-shaped object was seen traversing the sky in a smooth path. This report pre-dates the coining of the expression "flying saucer".

Our thanks to Mr. J. Bernard Delair of Contact International (UK) and their Data Research branch for the first four of the above, previously unpublished reports. The pre-1947 report is from the personal files of the Co-Founder and Editor of the Sri Lanka UFO Register.

For the newscuttings in the NEWS & VIEWS section, our thanks to:

The Daily News (Sri Lanka)
 The Daily Mirror (UK)
 The Evening Standard (London)
 The Guardian (UK)
 The Toronto Star (Canada)
 The Daily Telegraph (UK)

Dates as specified with the clippings. Our thanks to readers who send in news cuttings regularly - sorry, we are not able to use all of them always.



Sacred...

this earth of ours

**"The earth is
our mother.
Whatever
befalls the
earth, befalls
the, sons of
the earth.**

This is a speech delivered in 1854 by Red Indian Chief Seattle in response to a demand that he sell his people's land. The speech is preserved in Washington. It is a moving document and has been described as one of the most beautiful and profound statements on the environment ever made.

The Great Chief in Washington sends word that he wishes to buy our land.

The Great Chief also sends us words of friendship and goodwill. This is kind of him, since we know he has little need of our friendship in return.

But we will consider your offer. For we know that if we do not sell, the white man may come with guns and take our land.

How can you buy or sell the sky, the warmth of the land? The idea is strange to us. If we do not own the freshness of the air and the sparkle of the water, how can you buy them?

Every part of this earth is sacred to my people. Every shining pine needle, every sandy shore every mist in the dark woods, every clearing, and humming insect is holy as the memory and experience of my people.

The sap which courses through the trees carries the memories of the red man.

The white man's head forget the country of their birth when they go to walk among the stars. Our dead never forget this beautiful earth, for it is the mother of the red man.

We are part of the earth and it is part of us. The perfumed flowers are our sisters; the deer, the horse, the great eagle, these are our brothers. The rocky crests, the juices in the meadows, the body heat of pony and man—all belong to the same family.

So when the Great Chief in Washington sends word that he wishes to buy our land, he asks much of us.

The Great Chief sends word he will reserve us a place so that we can live comfortably to ourselves. He will be our father and we will be his children.

So we will consider your offer to buy our land. But it will not be easy. For this land is sacred to us.

The shining water that moves in the streams and rivers is not just water but the blood of our ancestors. If we sell you land, you must remember that it is sacred, and you must teach your children that it is sacred and that each ghostly reflection in the clear water of the lakes tells of events and memories in the life of my people. The water's murmur is the voice of my father's father.

SACRED
THIS
EARTH
OF
OURS

The rivers are our brothers, they quench our thirst. The rivers carry our canoes, and feed our children. If we sell you our land, you must remember, and teach your children, that the rivers are our brothers, and yours, and you must henceforth give the rivers the kindness you would give any brother.

The red man has always retreated before the advancing white man, as the mist of the mountain runs before the morning sun. But the ashes of our fathers are sacred. Their graves are holy ground, and so these hills, these trees, this portion of the earth is consecrated to us.

We know that the white man does not understand our ways. One portion of land is the same to him as the next, for he is a stranger who comes in the night and takes from the land whatever he needs. The earth is not his brother, but his enemy, and when he has conquered it, he moves on.

He leaves his fathers' graves behind, and he does not care. He kidnaps the earth from his children. He does not care. His fathers' graves and his children's birthright are forgotten.

He treats his mother, the earth, and his brother, the sky, as things to be bought, plundered, sold like sheep or bright beads.

His appetite will devour the earth and leave behind only a desert.

I do not know. Our ways are different from your ways. The sight of your cities pains the eyes of the red man. But perhaps it is because the red man is a savage and does not understand.

There is no quiet place in the white man's cities. No place to hear the unfurling of leaves in spring or the rustle of insects' wings. But perhaps it is because I am a savage and do not understand. The clatter only seems to insult the ears.

And what is there to life if a man cannot hear the lonely cry of the whip-poor-will or the arguments of the frogs around a pond at night? I am a red man and do not understand.

The Indian prefers the soft sound of the wind darting over the face of a pond, and the smell of the wind itself, cleansed by a midday rain, or scented with the pinon pine.

The air is precious to the red man, for all things share the same breath - the beast, the tree, the man they all share the same breath. The white man does not seem to notice the air he breathes. Like a man dying for many days, he is numb to the stench.

But if we sell you our land, you must remember that the air is precious to us, that the air shares its spirit with all the life it supports. The wind that gave our grandfather his first breath also receives his last sigh. And the wind must also give our children the spirit of life.

And if we sell you our land, you must keep it apart and sacred, as a place where even the White Man can go to taste the wind that is sweetened by the meadow's flowers.

So we will consider your offer to buy our land. If we decide to accept, I will make one condition: The White Man must treat the beasts of this land as his brothers.

I am a savage and I do not understand any other way. I have seen a thousand rotting buffaloes on the prairie, left by the white man who shot them from a passing train. I am a savage and I do not understand how the smoking iron horse can be more important than the buffalo that we kill only to stay alive.

HOW AETHERIUS BROKE THE NEWS ABOUT RUSSIA'S NUCLEAR TRAGEDY

When the Aetherius Society first revealed the facts about Russia's first nuclear accident in the Ural Mountains, in the June/July 1958 Issue of Cosmic Voice, there was not even a ripple in the Western Press.

Yet, in 1976, when Soviet biochemist - dissident Dr. Zhores Medvedev proved that the accident had occurred and details about its after-effects were available in technical journals freely accessible in a London library, there was commotion in the British Press; during which time the Chairman of the UK Atomic Energy Authority got himself deeply embroiled in the controversy.

The science journal 'NEW SCIENTIST', which thought it had been the first to bring Medvedev's stunning news to the West, had to admit that it had been "Scooped By A UFO". The reference to an Unidentified Flying Object was an allusion to the source of knowledge claimed by the Founder and President of the Aetherius Society, Sir George King, who has, since 1954, stated that he is capable of telepathic communication with Cosmic Intelligences utilising a Yogic, Samadhi trance-state, during which verbal statements given through him are tape-recorded live. (See THE NEW SCIENTIST, Volume 78, No.1100, April 1978.)

The nuclear disaster was shown to have happened a thousand miles east of Moscow, between Chelyabinsk and Sverdlovsk. It turned two massive lakes into radioactive cesspits. An area hundreds of square miles had been turned into a nuclear wasteland. There is no doubt that the Soviet authorities withheld the facts about the accident in 1958.

HOW AETHERIUS BROKE THE NEWS ABOUT RUSSIA'S NUCLEAR TRAGEDY

In 1977, Sir John Hill, Chairman of the UK Atomic Energy Authority, said he was not aware of the accident having taken place, although he challenged details about Medvedev's revelation. This caused Dr. Medvedev to retort:

"John Hill's attitude was one of arrogance, an insult. None of your scientists asked me how I knew of the explosion."

(See THE DAILY EXPRESS, 1 July 1977. Interview by Geoffrey Levy: "Don't Let Britain Become The World's Nuclear Cemetery.")

More to the point, none of the scientists or journalists bothered to investigate how the Aetherius Society came to know of the explosion in 1958 and published the news eighteen years before THE NEW SCIENTIST thought it was first on the newsstand with its alleged scoop.

The explosion, near Kyshtym, had killed many people, endangered many more lives, turned villages into graveyards and produced grotesque mutation in animal and plant life for many generations after.

The disturbing aspect of the tragedy is why, if the CIA and other Western intelligence agencies had been aware of the accident shortly after, did they not leak it to the Western Press? Proceedings under the Freedom of Information Act indicate that the CIA did know about it when it happened, despite Sir John Hill's professed ignorance about the explosion. What were Western governments trying to cover? They usually seize with relish every opportunity they get, to embarrass the Soviet Union - why not that time? Was there fear of public reaction in the West to the dangers of atomic experimentation, the nuclear power industry and its concomitant waste disposal dilemma? It seems Three Mile Island was tiny in comparison with Russia's nuclear tragedy.

ITV'S "World In Action" programme of 7 November 1977, delved a long way into uncovering what had happened at the time of the accident. Interviews with Russian emigres in Denmark, Japan and Israel indicated that hospital wards in the area had been full of people injured by the nuclear blast, which had occurred in a dump and that thousands may have eventually died as a direct result. The flora and fauna had been seriously affected by the ecological disturbance.

HOW AETHERIUS BROKE THE NEWS ABOUT RUSSIA'S NUCLEAR TRAGEDY

Dr. Medvedev uncovered over a hundred scientific papers published by Soviet scientists who had been allowed to study the aftermath later, when blame for the disaster could be placed on the authorities appointed by Kruschev. Neither ITV, nor any of the British newspapers in 1977 acknowledged a single word of reference to the Aetherius Society journal "COSMIC VOICE" or its Editor, Sir George King.

Had Fleet Street lost its sense of fairness and justice to a British pioneer?

Ananda Sirisena.

NOTES AND REFERENCES

1. COSMIC VOICE - Issue No. 16, June/July 1958. Published by the Aetherius Society, London.
"Cosmic Transmissions Delivered by Mars Sector 6 and Master Aetherius" on 18 April 1958 at 10.00 p.m. The Editorial in this issue of Cosmic Voice by Sir George King, Founder and President of the Aetherius Society, had this to say to the Kremlin:
"STOP ALL ATOMIC EXPERIMENTATION IMMEDIATELY. GIVE THE FULL FACTS REGARDING THIS ACCIDENT TO THE REST OF THE WORLD."
As far as is known, no other political, scientific, news or religious chronicle or journal carried any news about this nuclear disaster in the Urals at the time, that was freely accessible to the public.
2. NEW SCIENTIST - Volume 72, p. 264, 11 November 1976.
This journal wrongly thought that they were the first to break this news in an article by Dr. Zhores Medvedev.
3. PRESS RELEASE - by the Aetherius Society, 7 November 1976.
This press release reprinted the whole text of the two Cosmic Transmissions by Mars Sector 6 & Aetherius. In the Press Release, Sir George King stated:
"The statement by Mr. Medvedev proves the authenticity of my sources. I invite scientists to study the other Transmissions from the Cosmic Masters which deal in great detail with the dangers of atomic experimentation and with the whole aspect of Metaphysics."
4. THE GUARDIAN (UK) - 30 June 1977. "Nuclear Disaster Proved"
In an article by Alec Hartley, the Guardian newspaper referred to the Russian science journal "Atomiya Energiya", which in 1956 published the results of tests in two contaminated lakes, 11.3 and 4.5 square kilometres in area respectively.
The Guardian stated that research uncovered by Zhores Medvedev showed the effects of excessive exposure to highly radioactive Strontium 90 and Caesium 137. Although these research papers had been strictly censored, one contained a slip and mentioned Chelyabinsk as the area!
5. DAILY EXPRESS (UK) - 1 July 1977. "Don't Let Britain Become The World's Nuclear Cemetery". Interview by Geoffrey Levy. This interview of Medvedev by the Daily Express was probably the strongest warning in the popular press at the time against all the inherent dangers of the whole atomic process. Part of the article said:
"What it shows is that either our nuclear scientists are not very well informed, or that particular care is being taken in certain areas to keep us, the public ignorant."

HOW AETHERIUS BROKE THE NEWS ABOUT RUSSIA'S NUCLEAR TRAGEDYNOTES
&
REFERENCESContinued
on
page 10

This was in regard to John Hill's professed ignorance about the accident. The article continues:

"One of these must be true. Neither provides much comfort. The explosion (said to be a conventional blast probably caused by overheated rainwater that blew open a nuclear waste coffin) took place almost 20 years ago.

"It turned a region as big as an English county into a nuclear wilderness. Villages there are now deserted, crops and cattle gone, the water undrinkable. The people have been moved and may not be able to return for generations."

During the interview, Medvedev gave a stern warning: "I tell you, Britain could well become the nuclear cemetery of the world. And the more you accept it, the more will come. A chain reaction." He continued:-

"Many areas of nuclear research are covered by secrecy - they have to be - and scientists in these fields are not willing to disclose things. They do not like public scrutiny. That is okay when their work is military but even when it is for peaceful uses, they still don't like the public to know everything. That is wrong. So people do not trust scientists."

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EDITOR'S COMMENTS: Shocking as it may seem, neither Fleet

Street journalists and editors, nor the Independent TV programme "World In Action" of 7 November 1977, had the decency to acknowledge that the Aetherius Society had been first with the news of Russia's first nuclear tragedy in 1958.

Full credit should have gone to the Editor of COSMIC VOICE, Sir George King, Founder and President of the Aetherius Society, for his courage in having published the news a matter of weeks after the tragic explosion in 1958 but even more symbolic, the Source of his information should have been accredited by both journalists and politicians - namely, the Cosmic Transmissions delivered through Sir George King in Yogic, Samadhic Trance by Master Aetherius and Mars Sector 6.

No longer can any UFO researcher, worth his salt, sit on the ET fence, pretending that UFO contactees have never given information which can be verified. UFO researchers do not have to go to Mars or Venus to verify that Sir George King published the knowledge about the Soviet disaster in 1958, nor the earlier news about the Windscale (now Sellafield) blunder in 1957, shortly after each tragic event.

If UFO researchers cannot stand the heat of open-minded investigation, they might as well give up and leave the field to those who have the courage to pursue their convictions - be they religious or scientific, or both!

We hope that KALPA-NAVA, in its fairness, has redressed the obvious injustice perpetrated against the Aetherius Society by press and scientific community alike. No one can accuse this journal on UFOs of being narrow-minded.

NEWS & VIEWS

FROM THE DAILY NEWS (SRI LANKA) 19 APRIL 1986

Meteorite rain hits villages

PEKING, Friday (AFP) - Meteorites weighing up to 55 kilograms (121 pounds) rained down on three central Chinese villages, the people's daily said

Thursday.

Meteorites were found over a 25 kilometre (15 mile) area in Hubei province Tuesday, the newspaper added.

FROM THE TORONTO STAR (CANADA)

Hundreds see mysterious light in sky

14 August

1986.

By Craig Benjamin Toronto Star

Space experts still can't explain a mysterious light — seen by hundreds of people in southern Canada and the eastern United States — that crossed the sky about 10 p.m. Tuesday.

"I've never seen anything like it," said author and astronomer Perry Dickinson, who reported seeing "a small, bright, spiral-shaped cloud the size of the moon" while driving near his home in Yarker, Ont., northwest of Kingston.

Dickinson, who writes the Sky at Night column for The Saturday Star, said he "pulled over and watched as the cloud slowly expanded and it moved west to east, the way a stationary Earth satellite does.

"It was very surprising."

Dickinson contacted NASA headquarters in Washington, D.C., the Goddard Space Flight Centre in Maryland, NORAD headquarters in Colorado and the National Research Council in Ottawa, but couldn't get an explanation.

He speculated that the object might have been a military satellite, possibly Soviet, either crashing, manoeuvring in the upper atmosphere, or releasing gases.

Robert Gribble, a spokesman for the U.S. National Reporting Centre in Seattle, Wash., said the centre received more than a hundred calls before staff stopped counting around midnight Tuesday.

The calls came from an area bounded by Michigan, Maine, South Carolina and Louisiana.

Gribble said the centre hasn't received so many reports in such a short time or over such a large area in at least three years. Many calls were received three years ago when a satellite burned up as it entered the atmosphere.

NOTES & REFERENCES continued
from page 9:

HOW AETHERIUS BROKE THE NEWS
ABOUT RUSSIA'S NUCLEAR
TRAGEDY.....

6. THE SUN (UK) - 7 November 1977. "A Tragedy They Hid For 20 Years." This article on their TV page coincided with the ITV programme that night in the series WORLD IN ACTION
7. NE: SCIENTIST - 27 April 1978. "Scooped By A UFO" in the Feedback section, p. 241. Reluctantly, they admitted that the Aetherius Society had beaten them to it, by about 18 years only!
8. PRESS RELEASE - by the Aetherius Society: "UFO Contact Genuine", 1 March 1986. This release reiterated the 1956 information received from Master Aetherius as well as an earlier Transmission received in October 1957 about the Windscale Blunder. (To be the theme of another article in this journal KALPA-NAVA, at a future date.)

EDITORIALPROBING BEYOND FRONTIERS PLACED BY MATERIALISTIC SCIENCE

Any venture into fields uncharted by orthodox religion or science is bound to bring down the opprobrium of those who have a narrow view of progress and whose definition of science is limited to the base-physical only. Or those who have a vested interest in maintaining the ignorance of mankind.

What is refreshing about a relatively new monthly on the UK newstands - called BEYOND SCIENCE - is its open-mindedness. All UFO researchers must understand the meaning of the term: open-mindedness! How often have we chided those narrow-minded scientists for not investigating cherished flying saucer reports with fairness? Yet we can be guilty of neglecting some aspect of the puzzle that we do not like.....

Many researchers, have in the past, poured scorn on UFO contactee stories because they find them beyond belief or because they do not like them or their implications. Like and dislike do not form part of a genuine search for Truth.

According to The Universal Dictionary of the English Language the word science means: (1) Knowledge in general, learning. (2)(a) Systematized co-ordinated knowledge based upon the accurate observation of facts and the relation of these to general principles or laws; an inquiry into the causes and conditions which determine the character of the phenomena observed;(b) any collection of facts and principles and methods bearing upon a particular group of phenomena; a branch of knowledge.

By this comprehensive definition, modern physics cannot be a study only of the apparently physical, for what could be less physical than quantum mechanics which probes into the very essence of atomic structure? If physicists state that science is only a study of the physical, then they are blinding others with their delusion.

If they state that transient phenomena such as UFOs, flying saucers or whatever else we wish to call extraterrestrial spacecraft (in our elementary ignorance about the Universe) do not conform to the known laws of physics, they are correct! What they may not realise is that in the same breath they are admitting their own limitations. If science in general and scientists in particular wish to understand these things, then they must either broaden their horizons considerably or they must start removing the boundaries placed by scientists in the past and search beyond these arbitrarily-placed barriers.

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Readers interested in BEYOND SCIENCE! please write to:
7 Chapel Road, Worthing, West Sussex, BN11 1EG, England.

Mystery mass found adrift in universe

WASHINGTON, Wednesday (AFP) — Princeton University astronomers have found proof of the existence of a vast, mysterious mass adrift in space about halfway between the earth and the observable limits of the universe, the Washington Post reported on Tuesday.

Although the mass, situated near the constellation Virgo, has never been seen with the naked eye, it could have a gravitational force equal to that of a 'cluster of galaxies', said the Post.

It said the discovery "could lead to a revolution in understanding of the universe".

Edwin Turner, a Princeton astrophysicist and principal author of a paper on the discovery, said the mass could not be classified by normal parameters because it was not visible through any existing telescope, even the most sensitive radio-telescopes.

In that respect, said Mr. Turner the

mass seemed to possess certain characteristics of a 'black hole', a cosmic mass of such gravitational density that it even engulfs its own light waves.

The first proof of the mass's existence was discovered last March when the huge telescope at the Kitt Peak National Observatory outside Tucson, Arizona, recorded a strange optical illusion: a double image which, in fact, was only one.

The illusion was the result of an unidentified mass whose gravitational force was so powerful that it functioned as "a distorting lens," the paper said.

Described in theory in the 1930s by Albert Einstein and other scientists, the phenomenon "of gravitational lenses" was not actually detected until 1979, and has since been observed five times, but never in such intensity as by the Kitt observatory in March, the Post said.

NEWS & VIEWS

LEFT: FROM THE
DAILY NEWS (SRI
LANKA)

8 MAY 1986

BELOW: FROM
THE GUARDIAN (UK)
THE SCIENTIFIC
CONTROVERSY
CONTINUES.....

14 MAY 1986

A muffled message from space

SECOND OPINION

IN THE article on Fred Hoyle's cometary bacteria theory (Society Tomorrow, April 30) your writer allows Hoyle's incredibly glib statement "The only thing left to show is that they (cometary particles) are of a biological nature" to pass without critical comment. Too true. The whole point of the controversy is that Hoyle has made an old and relatively respectable theory about the dispersal of life through the universe — as well as ideas about the composition of comets — his own (in the eyes of the popular press) by making the truly sensational claim that he has proof of life

in space. Now, apparently, it still has to be shown!
H. W. Kroto,
Professor of Chemistry,
University of Sussex.

SIR Fred Hoyle's attempt to relate the incidence of infectious diseases directly to the presence of viruses and anti-bodies in Sienna shopkeepers and W H Smith cashiers is both fallacious and misleading. The presence of a given virus in an individual's body is a necessary condition for the manifestation of the associated infectious disease in that individual. It is not, however, in itself, in most cases a sufficient condition, and the reasons for this go beyond the presence or absence of the relevant anti-bodies.

Nutrition, environment, Hippocratic "constitution," age, sex and a whole host of socio-economic and psycho-

logical factors, determine the precise pattern of infectious maladies and an individual's susceptibility to them.

The notion that all diseases have only one precipitating physical cause is too simplistic to account for the vast majority of infectious diseases. The damages done by this conceptual framework to modern medicine is huge. Diseases whose root cause lies in the economic, social, psychological and political spheres are "cured" through ever more complex and expensive technological fixes. Although the developed nations conquered TB largely by environmental, economic and social advances, their present-day prescription for the Third World is a disease-specific technological assault using vaccination and other foreign currency-hungry treatments.

Andrew Clay,
London SW17.

Series of space failures dazes

Nasa's scientists

AS AMERICAN rocket scientists picked up the pieces of their latest rocket failure yesterday a dark mood of shock and bewilderment settled on the offices of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa). The agency was eating humble pie.

This was 25 years to the day after champagne corks popped to celebrate Alan Shepard's triumph as the first American in space.

The men who put golfers on the moon were wilting at the onslaught of Presidential commissions, boards of inquiry and investigating panels, all seeking answers to the questions raised by an unnerving sequence of failures.

Logic and reason seemed temporarily suspended as dazed scientists publicly wondered if their labours were suffering from some mystical curse.

'Crazy to say ...'

"It's crazy for a scientist to say it's a jink. We're not supposed to talk that way," said Herman Krier, a rocket propulsion expert at the University of Illinois.

"But this is queer. If you had asked me as an engineer to calculate the probability of there being a major accident on any of these rockets, I would have put down \$1,000 against it.

"That all three should fail like this I would have said the odds on were in the millions."

At Cape Canaveral a veteran Nasa spokesman told the Washington Post: "I just sat there and said to myself, 'I can't believe I'm seeing this. We were so confident about this I would have bet you my month's salary we were going to have a successful (Delta) launch'."

Four vehicles

Philip Culbertson, Nasa's general manager, was equally perplexed "We basically have four launch delivery vehicles in this country, and three of them have had successive failures. That seems to defy insurmountable odds," he said. "This has been a very uncanny, strange series of events."

The notion that the gods are somehow displeased with American trespassing in the heavens was the least scientific of various explanations offered for Nasa's mishaps yesterday.

A more technical hypothesis for the Delta explosion was put forward by John Yardley, of McDonnell Douglas, who said his company's engineers were speculating that the Delta's main engine suffered an electrical short, causing it to shut down.

As yet another official investigation opened into possible causes of the Delta failure, space agency officials stressed that unprecedented precautions were taken before Saturday's launch of the Delta rocket and its \$57,500,000 (£37,600,000) satellite.

Mindful of the need to restore their reputation for reliability, engineers lavished thousands of hours of additional tests on the 116ft tall rocket.

The flight was delayed 48 hours to check out a minor fuel leak. Project managers were all required to sign formal documents that the rocket was ready to fly.

NEWS AND VIEWS

FROM: THE DAILY TELEGRAPH (UK)

6 MAY 1986

As the countdown proceeded flawlessly through Saturday, launch officials were fully confident. The delta's last 43 launches had gone off without a hitch.

But disaster occurred, leading John Pike, of the Federation of American Scientists, to offer a summary of possible causes.

Three views

"You can look at it three ways," he told the Washington Post. "One is to say complicated technologies are inherently unreliable.

"The second is to say we've got the worst infestation of gremlins anybody's ever heard of. The third is to say we have a problem with quality control and reliability in the aerospace industry."

In the minds of some critics of Nasa management rocket missions have for many years been "accidents waiting to happen". If quality control turns out to be the problem, scientists predict that the space programme could be set back for years.

NEWS
AND
VIEWS

Sun in role of water purifier

FROM:
THE
DAILY
NEWS,
SRI
LANKA
28
APRIL 86

Developing nations still struggling to provide their populations with safe sources of drinking water can now use an almost cost-free method to disinfect water, reports

— IAN STEELE —

NEW YORK (Depthnews) - Researchers at American University of Beirut have discovered a method for disinfecting drinking water and oral rehydration solutions using nothing more than clear glass containers and natural sunlight.

After more than two and a half years of experimentation, the researchers have reported that bacteria introduced to a bottle of unchlorinated water in the form of raw sewage can be destroyed within one to two hours simply by standing the bottle in direct sunlight. Moreover, they say the effect of the sun's radiation is so lethal that the disinfected water can be stored under ordinary room conditions for several days without fear that the coliform bacteria will regrow.

The findings have great potential for scores of developing countries where the most commonly recommended methods of disinfecting water involve the use of scarce energy for boiling, or more complicated applications of equally scarce chemicals.

The experiments with solar disinfection were first publicised in the British medical journal *The Lancet* in 1980, but a more extensive interpretation of the significance of the findings and their domestic application is now available in a booklet published by the office of the United Nations Children's Fund in Amman, Jordan.

The booklet explores the value of solar disinfection in the context of UNICEF'S advocacy of Child Survival Revolution which draws on proven low cost methods to combat the main threats to child health in developing countries.

Experiments with solar disinfection were conducted on a rooftop on the University campus in Beirut from early June of 1979.

Raw sewage containing enteric bacteria were introduced to unchlorinated water and Oral Rehydration Solutions of the kind used to treat infants and young children suffering from acute diarrhoeal infections.

The potentially lethal mixtures were stored in containers of various shapes, colours and thicknesses ranging from laboratory type Pyrex vessels to glass and plastic jars, bottles and bags commonly found in domestic use. The containers were then exposed to direct sunlight between the hours of 9 am. and 2 pm. and tested at regular intervals.

The researchers report that the time required to destroy 99.9 percent of coliform bacteria ranged from 70 minutes for colourless plastic bags to 1,050 minutes for dark brown bottles — time frames which reflected the various containers' ability to absorb the sun's near-ultra violet (A) band radiation which was the lethal agent.

The optimum result was obtained when enteric bacteria cultures were introduced to unchlorinated batches of water in 300 ml round Pyrex flasks.

The time required for the complete destruction of such organism was as follows: *P. aeruginosa* (15 minutes); *S. Flexneri* (30 minutes); *S. typhi* and *S. enteritidis* (60 minutes); *E. Coli* (75 minutes) and *S. paratyphi B* (90 minutes). Efforts to run experiments on water inoculated with *V. cholerae* were unsuccessful, possibly because the pure culture used was not viable.

Similar tests with Oral Rehydration Solutions, which by definition are in greatest demand in areas where water quality is poorest, were equally successful.

ORS solution prepared with chlorine free water and contaminated with raw sewage was placed in sterile one litre plastic bags. The bacteria count in the bags equalled contamination levels typically found in Third World villages, ranging from 7,100 to 16,500 per 100 millilitres.

The test samples were placed in direct sunlight, and the bacteria counts were reduced to zero in one and two hours, respectively. The irreversibly lethal effect of the sunlight was demonstrated later by the inability of the bacteria to regrow when the exposed solutions were kept in a dark place for 24 hours.

Continued from page 14.....

SUN IN ROLE OF WATER PURIFIER

Wonder if they experimented with dark blue bottles? - Editor.

The temperature of the ORS solutions in the test did not rise much above 30 degrees centigrade during exposure to the sun and supported the hypothesis that the heat of a given day was not a factor in the destruction of microorganisms.

Obstacles involved in other methods of sterilisation help strengthen the case for a solar option. The effective preparation of safe water for ORS solutions and day to drinking by boiling demands roughly one kilogramme of fuel wood per litre, an insurmountable problem in desertified regions.

Chlorine, Halazone or calcium hypochlorite tablets have a limited "shelf" life and sodium hypochlorite solution requires the careful measurement of one to two drops of solution per litre. Neither droppers nor litre measures are common to households in developing countries.

The UNICEF booklet contains instructions for domestic preparation of safe water and ORS solutions using solar disinfection and recommends a pattern for continuous supply whereby families place clear glass or plastic containers in direct sunlight during the peak daylight hours and allow it to cool overnight for use over several days.

The booklet comes with an attached note of caution, however, from Martin G. Beyer, UNICEF's senior policy specialist with the organisation's Water and Environmental Sanitation Team.

Mr. Beyer notes that with so many factors at play in the solar disinfection equation — among them the size, shape, colour and thickness of water containers available in the Third World domestic environment — that absolute guarantee can be given for water quality after treatment without scientific testing.

Mr. Beyer said it was hoped that UNICEF's publication of the facts would serve as a stimulus for further research in other parts of the world and under different conditions.

"This work represents the very beginning of what is hoped will become a series of in-depth studies and analyses, coupled with extensive field tests," he said.

With that word of caution, however, Mr. Beyer said that for areas where there are no other means available for disinfecting water, the methods described were "well worth trying out."

NEWS & VIEWS

FROM:

THE DAILY NEWS (SRI LANKA)
19 APRIL 1986

135 million-year-old mammal found

NEW DELHI, Friday (AFP) - Indian scientists have found a 135 million-year-old to 180 million-year-old relic of a rare micromammal, reports said Thursday.

They say the discovery might help study the evolution of mammals from reptiles.

The micromammal, called "Kotatherium Hadenii" and belonging to the Jurassic era, was characterised by the presence of dinosaurs, Press Trust of India (PTI) said in a dispatch from Bangalore.

FROM: THE DAILY MIRROR (UK)

11 JUNE 1986

BRAVE TRY, SUNSHINE

● SMILING Medicine Cloud and other Dakota Indian dancers did a sun dance at Stoke's National Garden Festival yesterday ... and the rain stopped immediately.
● Unfortunately, 15 minutes later when they stopped dancing, the rain started again.

FROM: THE EVENING STANDARD
(LONDON)

18 JULY 1986

'A giant star is born

A GIANT exploding star packing more energy than any other star in its distant galaxy has been discovered by scientists who now scan up to 400 galaxies a night with a new automated system.

The brilliant supernova, detected by astronomers at the University of California's Lawrence Berkeley laboratory, was located in the Galaxy M99 in the Virgo Cluster, 70 million light years from Earth.

KALPA-NAVA ISSUE NO. 10

Sri Lanka's Journal of Mysteries and UFO Reports:

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- NO. 2: BALL OF FIRE AT HUNNASGIRIYA/ QUOTE FROM PROFESSOR WICKRAMASINGHE/ THE DOCUMENT THAT SHOWS "FLYING DISCS" EXIST/ AN INTERVIEW WITH REX DUTTA: PART I/ A LOOK AT A UFO BOOK: THE UTAH UFO DISPLAY BY PROFESSOR SALISBURY
- NO. 3: RUGBY BALL UFO IN WEST BENGAL/ QUOTE FROM MAJOR DONALD KEYHOE/ AN INTERVIEW WITH REX DUTTA: PART II/ THE LONDON INTERNATIONAL UFO CONGRESS: DAY I/ RUSSIANS CLAIM NEW DISCOVERY ON UFOS/ THERE IS LIFE ON MARS!
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