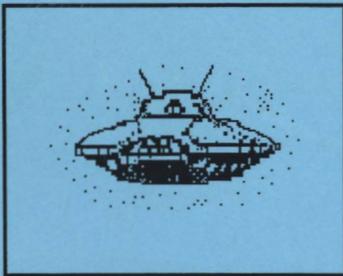


17/2

PEGASUS



Surrey Investigation Group into Aerial Phenomena

PEGASUS

Volume 17, #2

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FLYING SAUCER REVIEW

There is now only one national publication covering the UFO field, and this is, of course, FSR. It must be admitted that of late the standard of work published has fallen below what regular readers have come to expect, doubtless due to the indisposition of its now former editor, whose long and distinguished service to what he was wont to call "our subject" will always be remembered. Under his predecessors, FSR has covered ufology continuously since its earliest days, and back issues are a mine of information for serious students. It is therefore of the utmost importance that this unique publication shall continue to receive support from all who value the existence of an informed and scholarly journal covering the whole ufological field.

SIGAP members may feel that their needs in this respect are well catered for by our bi-monthly journal Pegasus, but there is seldom any overlap between the respective contents of the two magazines. FSR, for those still unaware of it, is a quarterly publication of about A4 size and printed on glossy paper, with many illustrations. If we may venture a suggestion to its new editors, perhaps a less lavish production with a lower subscription might pay better in terms of increased sales.

Though it may seem presumptuous to offer such advice, I can only say that the success or failure of FSR is a matter that must be of concern to all involved with "our subject". We all want to see it succeed and continue as the journal of record for work in ufology which it has always been in the past.

SIGAP members can receive a single copy for £4 without further obligation, and I would urge members who are not familiar with FSR to take advantage of this offer. Full details appear on the back page.

G.M.

NOT FOR YOUR EYES**by Gordon Millington**

Extracted from 'UFOs and Humanity'

Almost the only matter on which all ufologists agree is the certainty that governments world-wide are engaged in a cover-up of information about the UFO phenomena that have occurred in their territories. There are those who believe that governments have information and possibly even artefacts relating to the UFO question which they are afraid to reveal, perhaps because they fear a reaction of public panic were they to do so, though in fact their motives are far more likely to be military and economic: there are others who consider that the only things governments are trying to conceal are their own ignorance and impotence in the face of happenings they can neither understand nor control. It is no part of my purpose here to seek to prove the existence of such a cover-up, for this can scarcely be doubted by any who have studied Timothy Good's monumental work *Above Top Secret (1987)* or Jenny Randles' *The UFO Conspiracy (1987)*. I simply wish, after examining in detail one especially relevant case, to attempt an estimate of how constructive are the methods currently adopted by the governments concerned in coping with the problems posed by a phenomenon which is not merely an intellectual challenge but very probably something much more serious.

In the early hours of 27 December 1980 two station policemen of the United States Air Force were on duty at the East gate of RAF Woodbridge in Suffolk, England -- a unit assigned at that time to the USAF under NATO agreements. They saw and reported unusual lights in nearby Rendlesham Forest, thinking that perhaps an aircraft had crashed in the vicinity, and were ordered to investigate. Three patrolmen eventually went into the forest to encounter "a strange glowing object ... metallic in appearance and triangular in shape" which "illuminated the entire forest with a white light." The object was described as having a pulsing red light on top and a bank of blue lights underneath, and to be manoeuvring through the trees. Animals at a nearby farm went into a frenzy at its approach.

These details are taken from a report written by Lieutenant-Colonel (subsequently Colonel) Charles Halt, US Air Force deputy base commander at Woodbridge, which was sent to the British Ministry of Defence on 13 January 1981 with the heading "Unexplained Lights". It goes on to describe impressions left in the ground by the object concerned and to give details of fairly high readings of residual beta/gamma radiation taken the following night. A most interesting feature of Colonel Halt's report, however, is that the British Ministry of Defence, which had received it in 1981, denied all

knowledge of any untoward happenings at RAF Woodbridge for two years, until in June 1983 the Halt document was released to the CAUS (Citizens Against UFO Secrecy) group in the United States under the provisions of their Freedom of Information Act. Only then did Jenny Randles who, together with two local ufologists, had been investigating the incidents at Rendlesham, obtain from the MOD written confirmation that USAF personnel had indeed seen unusual lights for which no explanation had been forthcoming.

Colonel Halt's report continued by relating how he and others had later that night observed through the trees a "red sun-like light" which had moved about and pulsed, throwing off glowing particles before breaking into five separate white objects and then disappearing. Immediately afterwards three star-like objects appeared in the sky, displaying coloured lights, making sharp, angular movements and beaming down from time to time "a stream of light".

Although senior army officers are selected for their possession of many admirable qualities, imagination does not in my experience figure highly among them; I do not believe that Colonel Halt would or even could possibly have concocted such a story. Yet I still have to remind myself that this is an official report by a senior American officer to the relevant department of an allied government which subsequently denied all knowledge of it until the deception could no longer be maintained. They must have believed Colonel Halt, as I am sure they were right to do, and since they asked him for no further information it is fairly certain that they already had it from some other source. In October 1986 Timothy Good had an interview with Colonel Halt in which that officer confirmed the authenticity of his memorandum and added:

"There are a lot of things that are not in my memo, but there was no response from the Ministry of Defence so I didn't go any further with them". Some of the things to which others testified, and which therefore might have been part of some subsequent memorandum had it been called for, included the story of a landed UFO with occupants in attendance who were said to have conferred with American officers: radar evidence, witness accounts, film, audio tape and samples of radioactive soil were also mentioned.

Good also describes how Admiral of the Fleet Lord Hill-Norton, formerly chief of the Defence Staff from 1971 to 1973, wrote in 1985 to Michael Heseltine, then Secretary of State for Defence, raising a number of questions about the Rendlesham incidents and received on his behalf a reply stating that the events to which he referred were of no defence significance. There had been something of a stir following the publication of the Halt memorandum in the *News of the World*, but readers of *The Daily Telegraph* had the advantage of insights provided by their percipient science correspondent, Adrian Berry. He realised at once that the strange light

Colonel Halt had described must be the rotating beam of the Orford Ness lighthouse five miles away, although neither before nor since had that beam ever caused the slightest problem to anyone.

Probably the best-known case of government cover-up of a UFO story occurred on 2 July 1947 at Corona, seventy five miles northwest of Roswell, New Mexico, when it was alleged by many reputable witnesses that a UFO had crashed in the desert there, killing its occupants, whose bodies have ever since been preserved at Wright Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, together with the remains of their craft. The most recent and allegedly definitive account is entitled *UFO Crash at Roswell* by Kevin D.Randle, former Air Force intelligence officer, and Donald R.Schmitt of CUFOS. (Avon Books N.Y. 1991). The details of what actually happened there are hidden amongst the thousands of other classified pages the American government admits having accumulated on the UFO phenomenon and which it resolutely refuses to release. Indeed, when a High Court judge was called upon to hear a case put forward under the Freedom of Information Act, they would not even let him read the files which were the subject of the request. In the USA, "Above Top Secret" means exactly that, and is strictly enforced at all levels. In Britain of course, things are much simpler. There is no Freedom of Information Act and officially no one ever knows anything at all which governments might find embarrassing. Ufologists who persist in seeking a path to truth through the welter of disinformation, censorship and bureaucratic obfuscation are merely wasting time they could make better use of.

Some would even suggest they put themselves at risk from the personal attentions of the notorious MIBs, the Men in Black, defined by Sachs (1980) as "mysterious characters who reportedly question, threaten and sometimes harass UFO witnesses and researchers". There seems to be some doubt as to whether the MIBs are agents of earth governments or of the Phenomenon itself, or maybe they are both. Ed Walters, the protagonist in the celebrated Gulf Breeze sightings of 1987/88, opened his front door to a pair of "large, official-looking men" who forced their way in and flashed some sort of identity cards.

"I'm Agent McKathy with Air Force Special Security Services," said one of them. "We know you have some photos of a UFO. This is a material-seizure warrant to confiscate the photographs and negatives." As anyone who has read his book will agree, Ed is not the sort of man to be easily browbeaten, though he admits that if they had been reasonably polite he would probably have given them what they wanted. Enquiries to the authorities invariably produce bland denials of any alleged MIB activity, but they would say that in any case.

It has often been argued that any government which admitted the reality of UFOs would risk creating the sort of social panic allegedly produced in pre-war America by Orson Welles' radio broadcast of "The War

of the Worlds", though since the admittedly guarded admissions by Presidents Reagan and Gorbachev seem to have caused little comment, perhaps any such risk no longer exists. Indeed, it has frequently been suggested in ufological circles that the USA is on the verge of a more frank public admission about UFOs, but so far it has not happened. The constant barrage of ridicule and disinformation directed at UFO organisations has certainly prevented many academics, fearful of loss of tenure, from giving the field the attention it merits, and the most likely clandestine government strategy to deal with the Phenomenon is to corral a group of physicists, throw some money at them and hope for some useful answers.

Such a hope is vain. UFOs are a physical reality, but they may not be just a physical reality. Researchers unwilling or simply unable to contemplate a paranormal dimension to the problem are not going to get anywhere, and since this is an area which orthodox academics have either shunned or treated as disgracefully as Condon, the role of the amateur ufologist remains essential. We have to remember that the solution to a high-strangeness problem is likely to be itself also highly strange.

Timothy Good claims to have discovered the secret of this solution in his book *Alien Liaison*, (1991), which also suggests a possible explanation for an incident in Whitley Strieber's *Communion* (1987) which I have always found disturbing. Strieber said that he told his abductors they had no right to operate on him without his consent. Their reply has puzzled and appalled me ever since I first read it. They answered: "We do have a right."

Now, rights are either moral, legal or both. In no way can ufonauts ever possess a moral right to invade either the minds or the bodies of the unfortunates they abduct, and some have seemed to recognise this. In the USA, however, the prevalent type of small bug-eyed visitant seems to have had no such scruple. Good offers a possible explanation for this claim that a right to perform invasive surgery has been conferred, for he reports suggestions that their government has made a deal with at least one species of UFO entity (presumably the Greys) that it will neither disclose nor seek to prevent the abduction of either cattle or humans for the purposes these entities have in mind. In return, they are said to have provided the US government with technical information and assistance, including the provision of space vehicles with their unique propulsion system, sufficient to give the recipients the edge over potential terrestrial adversaries.

It will naturally be asked whether Good's informants have provided conclusive proof of these allegations. Of course they have not, but the question must first be asked about what kind of proof is to be demanded. A public admission by the US President? Signed statements by high ranking government officials possessing maximum security clearance and breaking the oaths of secrecy they have taken? Or perhaps large numbers of less elevated government servants have risked criminal proceedings and the loss

of their livelihoods to inform the public of what they know? Of course none of these things has happened, or is likely to happen. When we demand confirmation we must be prepared to give at least a qualified acceptance to a much less absolute level of assurance. Taking into account the enormous security effort mounted by the State to conceal classified knowledge at this level, it is reasonable to accord at least some consideration to the mainly hearsay information Timothy Good has put forward; his integrity is surely not in question.

Part of his book consists of claims in support of assertions which have often been made previously - that the US government has custody of crashed extra-terrestrial vehicles and the bodies of their occupants; that cattle have been killed and tissues excised without any marked reaction from the forces of law when invoked: that the very existence of UFOs and their activities has been the subject of systematic campaigns of ridicule and disinformation. It should also be remarked that Good now detects and describes a burgeoning willingness on the part of the USA authorities to admit that the cover-up cannot be carried on indefinitely and that there is a need to prepare the public to accept at least the knowledge that mankind is not the only nor even necessarily the most intelligent species in the universe: but this, however, has often been said before. The ufoauts are said to regard humanity as merely "containers", presumably for the germ plasm in which some have seemed so interested; let us hope Charles Fort's assertion that "we are property" has no validity and our Earth is not just someone's human farm.

The new and possibly most striking information Good presents is based mainly on disclosures by Robert Lazar, a physicist who claims to have been employed by the US Department of Naval Intelligence to conduct research into the propulsion system of extra-terrestrial craft at an ultra-secret area in the remoteness of the Nevada desert.

The propulsion system of the craft is said to be a form of gravity control, powered by an anti-matter reactor using an element numbered 115 in the periodic table, which cannot be synthesised on Earth but of which 500 pounds have been made available by the aliens. The total conversion into energy by anti-matter reaction of such a quantity would be sufficient to blow apart the entire planet, creating a second asteroid belt in solar orbit. This, however, could scarcely happen by accident, and the heavy element, said Lazar, is doled out to individual craft in packets of only 223 grams. He explained that the propulsion system is capable of manipulating both space and time through gravitic distortion, even achieving invisibility through its action on light rays. He claimed to have seen such craft in the hangars where he had worked and to have been given access to much information there, including details of how aliens had in the past influenced both the physical and religious evolution of humanity, much of which seems strangely

compatible with the accounts Zecharia Sitchin has derived from the Sumerian chronicles.

Lazar does not claim personal knowledge of the alien liaison which Good believes to have occurred, but it will be recalled that at Rendlesham, for instance, US officers were alleged to have held consultations with the occupants of the damaged UFO. The claim that there exists some form of formal pact, however, is certainly a novel development. It seems to suggest that it might have been in the power of the US government to prevent or at least deter alien incursions, but this seems rather unlikely. Why then should the aliens offer a terrestrial government their technology?

Some have suggested that the aliens traded it in return for the bodies of Roswell crash victims, but essentially the claim that they have given it rests mainly on the credibility of Robert Lazar, whom Jacques Vallée interviewed for several hours in March 1990. Though impressed by Lazar's scientific knowledge and evident sincerity, Vallée formed the opinion that the man had been deliberately set up as a source of disinformation, having been first approached in 1987 by Naval Intelligence for employment on an irregular basis at a secret site. (Vallée 1991) He was shown what appeared to be nine flying saucers in a hangar and witnessed at a distance the lift-off of one of them to a height of some thirty feet.

Questioned by Vallée about his actual work there, supposedly to "back-engineer" the UFO propulsion system, Lazar said that the briefings he was given didn't make sense, that his own knowledge was inadequate for such a task and that the only instruments provided for him were a voltmeter and an oscilloscope. He was confused about which year he had stopped working at the base and had the impression that his memory had been tampered with in "tests" he had been obliged to take at "a sort of infirmary", where he had been hypnotised, bled and plied with glasses of yellow liquid smelling of pine by two female medical personnel. The briefing papers he was given to study had no document control numbers or security classification.

Vallée adds that as a result of his interview with Lazar he received an expenses paid invitation to spend a month with a group offering contact with aliens, run by a colonel in Las Vegas, which he not surprisingly found rather suspect. "Robert Lazar," he concluded, "under the scrutiny of various investigations, has turned out to be far less credible than he was first claimed to be ... his background as a physicist and as a consultant to Los Alamos has evaporated." (ibid.)

Maybe so, but in all effective disinformation there is a core of truth; the problem with Lazar is that we can't be sure which parts are true and which are false. It seems he may not really know either. The purpose of such schemes is, however, clear enough. These elaborate exercises in disinformation are intended to discourage investigation into the UFO

phenomena, especially by professional academics, and cause amateurs to lose time, effort and above all credibility in pursuit of the proffered "revelations". Majestic 12 alone, the now discredited memorandum allegedly prepared for President Eisenhower, must have consumed countless futile man-hours of barren enquiry.

The important question is - "What are the disinformation exercises designed to prevent ufologists and the world in general finding out?" Any explanation suggested must be mere guesswork, for nobody knows. Matters classified Top Secret and above have stayed that way, as one would expect, and will continue to stay so indefinitely. But we can still guess, and Jacques Vallée plumps for disinformation as a means of concealing advanced defence research currently in progress; certainly this is the way the Russians used to label weapons tests as UFO phenomena when they became publicly known, and the US arms development may indeed also embody alien technology. Timothy Good, as we have seen, suggests that what is being concealed is a mutual agreement for co-operation between the US government and at least one kind of UFO occupant, most probably the Greys.

If I were to hazard a guess, it would be that the billions of dollars still being spent by the USA on "Star Wars" type projects such as the High Frequency Active Auroral Research Program (HAARP) in Alaska, to provide defences in space, are predicated on the possibility of an attack from that region, with Mars as the prime candidate for its point of immediate origin. Originally such projects were supposed to be Reagan's defence against the "evil empire" of communism, but that explanation is surely no longer tenable. One might have expected that they would all have gone the way of the Berlin Wall, but that is certainly not happening. They are costing a lot of money, so there is some chance that eventually Congress or the Senate will want to know why. If all the US ufologists currently waiting for the next wild goose chase the Pentagon will dream up were to refuse to play that game any more and start lobbying their elected representatives instead, the intelligence community would soon have one very big headache and the rulers might even feel disposed to release some of those classified documents that CAUS (Citizens Against UFO Secrecy) have long been asking in vain to be shown.

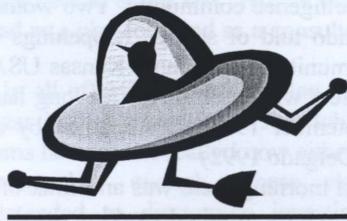
But it is not only the usual UFO phenomena that engage the active attentions of the intelligence community. Two women whose report was set down by Pat Delgado told of strange happenings in the cornfields of the small farming community of Highland, Kansas USA, after a series of huge symbols up to ten feet wide and thirty feet long had appeared there on the night of 26/27 September 1991, accompanied by a display of fluorescent blue-green lights. (Delgado 1992)

The very next morning there was an influx of smartly dressed men in suits and ties - (not exactly standard working dress in Kansas countryside) -

driving unmarked navy blue saloon cars and questioning the bewildered inhabitants about the previous night's happening. The cornfields were cordoned off, isolating an area of about two square miles, into which poured a steady stream of unfamiliar white vehicles, animal disposal trucks and three red hazardous waste tankers marked UN 1205, a reference not listed in the normal sequence of such codes. When they had finished, all traces of the symbols, which the farmer saw had occupied an area about a quarter of a mile long and forty feet wide, had been efficiently eradicated. Pat Delgado (ibid.) comments that "Some official department knew at a very early stage what was in the field".

This early information could only have been available through surveillance monitored at a preselected ground area or targeted from considerable altitude, and because of this the formations may have been expected. The necessity of a rapid cover-up required an alert response unit to be in the target area.

The symbols that appeared in the corn at Milk Hill, near Stanton St. Bernard, Wiltshire, England, were on a much smaller scale but they were at least left long enough to be placed on record, probably because the British government lacks the resources devoted to such matters in the United States. They were thought to name the "god" Enki or Ea, creator of the human race and referred to in the cuneiform tablets of the scribes in ancient Sumer, but a fragment of the inscription allegedly recorded by the farmer and passed on to Delgado's informants conveyed nothing and may well have been a crude attempt at disinformation. The farmer seems to have been rather shamefaced about passing it on to them and refused to discuss the matter further. Maybe someone had suggested that he should give it to tease the only known witnesses? Meanwhile a certain Rosemary Ellen Guiley responded rapidly with letters to both leading British cereological magazines, stating that Maurice Schwalm, an investigator she admitted to have contacts with former US intelligence operatives, has been unable to confirm Delgado's account of the Highland happenings. Ms. Guiley wrote from Connecticut, which is much nearer to the Pentagon than it is to Kansas, so that one wonders who told her about them and why Mr. Schwalm is the Midwest Coordinator for the Centre for North American Crop Circle Studies.



CROP CIRCLES: "SIGNS" FROM ABOVE OR HUMAN ARTIFACTS?

**Some personal speculations on a fractal theme
by Jacques F. Vallée**

The key to investigating anomalies often lies in asking the right questions rather than pondering a long list of assumed answers and fighting over hypotheses. The crop circles that have adorned English fields in the last couple of decades are a good example of this principle. Many well-intentioned "paranormal" investigators and New Age enthusiasts have immediately posited that the circles must be caused by Aliens, while the general opinion of journalists and academics tended to state they were the product of hoaxes. Indeed two retired men were featured in the world media as the confessed authors of many circles. Over the years several interested researchers — including this author — have met with and interviewed self-described "artists" who had generated some complex crop formations as a new type of display where the landscape is used as a canvas to shock popular consciousness and stimulate reaction. There is no question that at least some of the formations — including some remarkably complex ones — are their handiwork.

This leaves most of the formations unexplained, especially those that have appeared in a very short time or under conditions of very high mathematical accuracy. Drawing a bicycle or a spider in a wheat field is one thing, the Mandelbrot set of fractal geometry is quite another.

When sophisticated formations started appearing in the English countryside several teams of UFO investigators (who came from a background of soil and trace studies related to the familiar imprints often left behind after sightings such as Delphos or Trans-en-Provence) began to take notice. Rather than jumping to conclusions about the origin and purpose of the formations they drew up a list of fundamental questions that went like this:

1. Is there a change in the nature of the formations over time?
2. What is it, exactly, that happens to the vegetation inside the affected areas?
3. Is there anything special about the location of the phenomenon?

To seek information on these topics they established a protocol to gather vegetation samples and sent them to a number of laboratories for microscopic studies. The results, which have been discussed at meetings of the Society for Scientific Exploration and other public events, have never seemed of sufficient interest for the media (or, indeed, the ufological mainstream) to take notice, perhaps because they conflicted with the sensational nature of other hypotheses.

The answers are as follows:

1. The early formations were simple circles, then circles with satellites. In later years more and more sophisticated and precisely-drawn geometric figures appeared.
2. Vegetation is bent because the nodes are exploded. The stalks are not broken and indeed the plants are often reported to start growing again.
3. All the significant formations were observed in an area in close proximity to major research facilities of the British defence establishment, often in controlled airspace.

So much for Aliens and Druids. These studies point to the crop formations as the result of sophisticated electronic warfare experiments conducted by defence contractors.

The answer to question (1) provides the first clue: If you are trying to calibrate a beam, drawing a pattern on a wheat field can yield precision information within the diameter of one stalk over hundreds of feet, an ideal test situation.

The answer to question (2) narrows down the type of energy that can be responsible, because the amount of heat radiation that needs to be coupled into one node of a stalk of wheat to vaporize the water content is a known quantity, as laboratory tests in France and in the United States soon established. The answer to question (3) points to the likely authors of the tests.

It is tempting to jump to the conclusion that some sort of space-based weapon is being developed. I am reluctant to assume this because of the cost involved. Even if satellites represent the ultimate platform for such a weapon, which does not seem obvious to me, the calibration tests can be carried out far more cheaply from a conventional aircraft. In those cases when witnesses on the ground have seen formations in the process of being created, they have described a reddish glow at ground level, with the vegetation bent over in a matter of minutes. This would be consistent with a beam directed at the field from a hovering dirigible, painting a figure very much in the same way as an electron beam "paints" a digital image on a computer screen. From conversations I have had with the investigators involved, the beam would be unlikely to be a simple infrared beam. Instead a combination of laser and microwave transmitters may be involved, or a form of maser. Perhaps the increasingly sophisticated tests are designed, precisely, to discover optimal combinations.

This leaves several issues pending: Why don't witnesses see the supposed hovering platforms if they simply fly over the countryside? What about the "confessions" of the two retired men who claimed they made the circles with a two-by-four and a piece of string? And why do the experiments continue at a point where the technology seems to have reached a high level of perfection? I only have tentative answers to this new set of questions:

- Many years ago I gave a lecture on UFO research at Oxford University. One of the people attending, a physics faculty member, told me of an interesting personal experience. His hobby was to fly gliders over the English countryside. On one occasion, on a bright afternoon, he was astonished to see his plane reflected in a surface that appeared to be motionless in the atmosphere. He actually flew around the object and determined it was a perfectly reflecting cylinder. It is obvious that such a device would have "low-observable" characteristics — a visual stealth platform.

- What is suspicious about the two older men's "confession" is that it appeared simultaneously on the front pages of international papers and on CNN the same day. Any published author familiar with the difficulty of getting media attention will know that it takes a very powerful public relations firm to get a story to the front page of the Wall Street Journal and the New York Times, Le Figaro, and many other papers the same day. Where did the two pensioners get the kind of clout that would spin their claim around the planet? The result was instantaneous:

The press and, more importantly, most scientists lost all interest in the story for 10 years.

- Why do the tests continue? I admit I have no good answer to this. It seems farfetched to assume that they have become more sociological than technological in nature, yet this could provide an explanation. Soon or later the truth will be known, and it can be used to discredit the community of paranormal researchers who have rushed to decipher alien scripts in the formations, or have hypothesized a return of the Druids, earth lights or messages from Gaia without first testing the basic physics of the situation. It may also be that such hypotheses have been coldly planted among the New Age milieu as part of a psychological warfare experiment, and that the real nature of the crop formations can thus be hidden from serious attention for a very long time.

- Why would one need to develop such a beam? Destruction of incoming missiles (or simple confusion of their electronics) would be an obvious purpose, but several projects are already under way to produce such weapons, notably at Boeing and other defence contractors. But we may be wrong in assuming that the beam itself is a weapon; it might be used simply to guide a much larger amount of energy (contained plasma, or the fireball created by a nuclear explosion, for example) to its ultimate destination. The type of threat that is present in today's world includes targets that one may not want to blow up, but rather to fuse inside a fireball. Such a target might be a biological laboratory, or a chemical factory, where dispersion of a pathogen is undesirable. Is that what the innocent designs in English fields are really telling us to get ready for? If so, their message may be far more ominous than any communication from ETs, friendly or not.

Mystery Continues: Scientists Baffled by Spheres on Mars

By Robert Roy Britt, Senior Science Writer, Space.com, 12 February 2004

A new close-up image of the Martian surface reveals more of the tiny spherical objects that have been puzzling scientists for several days. Researchers reiterated that they don't know what process created the spheres but that they don't think biology is involved.

NASA and journalists had been getting questions from the public about whether the spherules, as they are called, might be fossils.

Each spherule is about the size of a BB [gun pellet]. The "Opportunity" rover has photographed them on the sandy soil at its landing site and embedded in rocks at a nearby ledge. The new images include a 3-D view.

The landing site is covered with fine grains of sand, larger irregular-shaped grains that possibly have eroded from the rock ledge, and the "spectacular" spherules, said Mark Lemmon, science team member for the rovers at Texas A&M University.

"There's much more than meets the eye in these images," Lemmon said, but he couldn't say what that was.

Scientists would like to know if the spherules were created by water, or if they were instead born in volcanic eruptions. More observation will be needed to find out, assuming answers are forthcoming.

"We haven't seen anything that leads us to conclude that water has to be involved," Lemmon cautioned at a press conference today.

"Personally I'm really stumped" about the spherical objects, said Wendy Calvin, a geophysicist at the University of Nevada at Reno and member of the rover science team. "I have no idea how they got there." But she added that there was "no reason" to assume biology was involved.

Digging in

"Opportunity" will further investigate the spherules, along with interesting layering found in rocks protruding from the ledge, in coming days. The rover has yet to use one of its most powerful research instruments, a Rock Abrasion Tool (RAT) that will dig into the rocks to expose their inner compositions.

"Opportunity" is traversing the small ledge, which is about the height of shoebox, to examine various outcroppings. It started with a rock called Stone Mountain and has since investigated locations dubbed Alpha and Bravo, said Art Thompson, an engineer on the rover project. It is now at the Charlie site.

Each position change involved driving the rover about 13-20 feet (4-6 meters).

Engineers experienced some problems with the rover slipping as it navigated the slope leading out of the subtle depression in which it landed on the Meridiani Planum near the Martian equator. That problem - which could lead to trouble if the rover were to run into something unexpected -- has apparently been solved, Thompson said, by having the robot intentionally over-drive on the way up and under-drive on the way down.

Once scientists decide they've got all the information they want from the ledge, "Opportunity" will crawl above it and dig into some soil on the surrounding plain, where higher concentrations of the mineral hematite appear to exist.

Hematite typically forms in the presence of water, but it is sometimes the result of volcanic activity. Scientists want to know which was the case around the "Opportunity" landing site.

The search for water drives all of NASA's Mars missions, because water is the key ingredient required for life.

Spirits up

On the other side of the planet, in the Gusev crater, the twin rover "Spirit" continues to drive toward a small impact crater some 800 feet (240 meters) from its landing site. Its last two daily runs covered 89 feet (27 meters) and 79 feet (24 meters).

A glitch earlier this week caused "Spirit" to miss a day of work. Cold onboard temperatures, caused when the rover shaded parts of itself, prevented it from pointing an antenna earthward. The problem has been solved, Thompson said.

"She's in outstanding health now," he said of "Spirit", adding that the rover is experiencing no adverse effects from an earlier memory problem that had put the robot out of commission for several days.

"We have two very busy rovers," Thompson said.



"We have a communication problem..."

COMMON ABDUCTION EXPERIENCES

by Richard D. Butler

The following is a brief description of the most commonly reported abduction experience [AE] types.

It is intended to provide a standard of classification in abduction research.

[AE-1] LUCID DREAM

This is a lucid dream experience generated internally by the subject's subconscious. There is no Human/ET interaction at any level. They are usually grandiose in nature and lack a logical progression.

[AE-2] TECHNO/TELEPATHIC LUCID DREAM

This is a lucid dream experience, internally generated by external forces. It is ET in origin and accomplished by technologically enhanced psychic intrusion of the subject's subconscious. The subject reports the disassociation, or collapse of, a normal dream and the insertion of a scenario or message which enhances certain ideals or beliefs. If the subject awakens immediately after, they report a circle of glowing whitish coloured energy on the ceiling, approximately 2 to 3 feet in diameter, with a shaft of the same energy slowly retracting back into the circle. This shaft is approximately 3 to 6 inches in diameter and 2.5 to 4 feet long.

[AE-3] PSY/BIO ENERGY FIELD EXTRACTION

This experience involves the extraction of a conscious energy field from the subject's body. It should not be confused with naturally occurring OOB phenomena, as separation is externally induced. The technology employs the use of a white or bluish-white coloured extraction beam. Subjects describe a feeling of deep penetration of this beam throughout their body, followed by the sensation of an irresistible or attractive force. The extracted field maintains cohesion, and is capable of perceiving stimuli at a greatly enhanced level. Perceptions include 360 degree sight and sensory feedback at the molecular, and even atomic level. Experiences seem to focus around communications and reinsertion of the bio-field into a humanoid body other than the original. It is this type of abduction that accounts for the severe missing time memory failure in some cases.

Since the subject's brain is not physically present, the memories are not hard-written. There does appear to be a shadow memory effect that can retain the memories of the events in some type of energy memory matrix, within the subject's bio-field. Full understanding of this process could lead to breakthroughs in education and learning technologies.

[AE-4] PHYSICAL ABDUCTION

This is the physical removal of a subject from their environment to an ET environment. The subject is first tranquilized to reduce possible injury to either side. These abductions follow a very strict military-like protocol. Subjects are transported via a small shuttle, lifting beam or direct transfer. Direct transfer utilizes a hyper-dimensional tunnel. It will appear as a large brilliant white energy gate. The subject steps through the gate and is instantly aboard the craft. Also reported is the nullification of the nuclear repulsive forces in solid objects. This allows the subject to physically pass through solid objects. Once onboard, the person is subjected to various physical tests and procedures. The main thrust is in the genetic experimentation area. Reports of sperm and ovum extraction are quite common. After these procedures are performed, the subject is returned unharmed, to their original location. A screen memory is then inserted into the subject's subconscious. This slightly shifts the reality recalled by the abductee but never erases the event entirely. This distinguishes them from [AE-3].

[AE-5] PAST-LIFE RECALL

These experiences are the least reported and the most interesting, in terms of their implications. They appear to represent events in the experience of an ET life form. Subjects relate being in an underground military facility, sometimes on Mars, the Moon and even under the Earth's oceans.

Memories of being onboard a spacecraft and other ET environments are also recalled. What is so interesting is that the subject views this, not from an Earth human perspective, but from that of an ET. This suggests two very interesting possibilities.

- During telepathic communication some memories are subconsciously transferred.
- The subject is recalling actual past-life memories of their own. This second possibility opens the door to much speculation. It suggests that part of the abduction phenomenon may be a massive, and covert, reconnaissance operation. It may also explain why the Greys have said they have the right to do what they do. If abductees are souls that have been transferred from the ET environment to Earth, then technically they are not abducting human beings but volunteer-ETs.

Source: http://www.meta-religion.com/Spiritualism/New_age/abduction_experience_classification.htm

SHAMANISM AND UFO ABDUCTIONS

Douglass Price-Williams, Ph.D. Dept. of Anthropology, UCLA, April 16, 1999

Introduction

There have been some anecdotal reports suggesting experiential similarities between UFO close encounter reports and shamanic initiations and rituals. The following annotated bibliography on the overlap between shamanism in different global traditions and aspects of the UFO phenomenon is presented by Dr. Douglass Price-Williams in order to obtain feedback from other anthropologists. Dr. Price-Williams is professor emeritus in anthropology at UCLA and has spent a substantial portion of his career studying shamanism. We at NIDS and Dr. Price-Williams invite feedback from the anthropology community on this topic. Dr. Price-Williams stresses that this annotated bibliography is incomplete and preliminary and may serve as a foundation for further studies and reports from other anthropologists. We are particularly interested in data and case studies that anthropologists may have found that pertain to this hypothesis. Any comments can be e-mailed to: nids@anv.net

The literature on shamanism is now very extensive; the majority of the material has been written by anthropologists, and has been written from a number of different perspectives. The classic study, from the point of view of comparative religion, is the book by Eliade (discussed below). Some anthropologists have taken a regional perspective, like Eurasia¹ or Colombia.² Others have focused on a single shaman and his/her symbols and activities, like Sharon in Peru³ or Myerhoff with a Huichol shaman in Mexico,⁴ or Peters with a Nepalese shaman.⁵ Still others have grappled with the problems of definition and differentiation from other magico-religious specialists such as medicine men, sorcerers, priests etc., and the psychological bases of their experience (e.g. Peters and Price-Williams⁶; Winkelman⁷). Still others have concentrated on the hallucinogenic factors involved in the pursuit of shamanic trance (e.g. Harner's *Hallucinogens and Shamanism*⁸). And others again have collected texts in which the shaman him or her self related their experiences (e.g. Joan Halifax⁹).

For the purposes of this presentation we can say that although scholars have provided numerous definitions of shamanism, it can be briefly stated that the shaman is a person who enters into what we would now call an altered state of consciousness, and during that period, take what is called 'a magical flight', going to either what are generally called 'lower' or 'higher' worlds, in which the shaman meets forces, who have either stolen the life force (soul) of a human person or inflicted damage of some kind to humankind. As a result of his training and experiential journeys, the

shaman returns with a number of capabilities, such as dream interpretation, the power of healing, locating food sources for the community, and a number of other helpful actions for the sake of the group or tribe. There are of course many variants to this and to the stimuli that shamans resort to invoke an altered state of consciousness. Some take psychedelic plants, others rely on drumming. Visualization — imagery that is — is pretty constant. Their journey, needless to say, is taken realistically; we would understand it as visionary.

If you review the shamanistic literature, you will note that most of it is concerned with the final product — little is noted of the training or the kinds of experiences that are, as it were, pre-shamanic, that is to say where the person has spontaneous experiences that suggest to the community that this person could become a shaman. It is in this area of inquiry, in my opinion, that more fruitful comparisons of shamans and UFO experiences may be found, especially in the sub-class of abduction experiences.

Whereas the expert shaman can be said to be quite in charge, quite conscious of what he/she is doing, the beginnings may not be like that. Although many shamans have begun their lives with a definite vision quest, others, as it were, have had "shamanism thrust on them." Many future shamans have had severe illness, many of these being psychological problems (quite a number of early anthropologists flatly considered that the shaman was psychotic). Others began their shamanistic lives by having unusual dreams, and perhaps visions, at an early age. But some have had the spirits intrude. Eliade cited an early work in which the actual term "abducted" was used: "a man or woman may be made a seer by being bodily abducted by the spirits. [One young man] was taken up to heaven by the sky-spirits and given a beautiful body such as theirs. When he returned to earth he was a seer and the sky-spirits served him in his cures."

Although a significant part of the shamanistic experience - that to do with the "lower worlds," in which the shaman goes down caves or cracks in the rock or below the vegetation, and the encounters with "power animals"¹⁰, simply (as far as I am aware; the so-called "hollow-earth" theory notwithstanding) do not appear in the reported experiences of UFO abductees, nevertheless there is sufficient thematic similarities for a person very familiar with the UFO data, like Thomas Bullard¹¹ to note: "How much abduction narratives have in common with a very different kind of story can be seen in the account of a Siberian shaman's initiation [here he cites from a description written by Eliade]. This account parallels the capture, examination, conference, and aftermath of abductees, while even the implant and fluorescent examination room have analogues in this narrative."

The phenomenon of light is especially salient in the shamanic experience. Eliade¹² emphasizes it: "...a mysterious light which the shaman suddenly

feels in his body, inside his head, within the brain...." Eliade says further "Here, too, we find the experience of height and ascent, and even of levitation, which characterizes Siberian shamanism, but which is also found elsewhere and which is regarded as a typical feature of shamanic techniques in general." That such light phenomena might be seen external to the shaman has been noted by Richard Erdoes who worked with Sioux folk in North Dakota and reported in his book *Lame Deer, Seeker of Visions*.¹³

"[The ritual] began with ceremonial drumming, and soon afterward, tiny lights began appearing throughout the room. They came floating up out of the darkness for a fraction of a second, and they were gone almost before eye and brain had been able to register them." Also, Erdoes noted, his photographic electronic equipment went haywire.

The phenomenon of little lights is probably widespread. I myself have been in two places in the world where the local folklore mention them, the first was among the Tiv tribe of Central Nigeria. An anthropologist who preceded me there, Eleanor Smith-Bowen noted in her book on the Tiv people¹⁴ that balls of light have been seen cruising over the ground. The Tiv identified them as witches, the Europeans as atmospheric phenomena. The second place was on the big island of Hawaii, in which these lights - which are said to alight on trees and fly above houses, are labelled "akualeles"¹⁵. Parenthetically, in both places, I never saw any such phenomena. I do not think this phenomenon of lights is restricted to these places; but it would take some copious research to document them elsewhere. In Holger Kalweit's book on Shamanism¹⁶, there is a whole chapter on lights and balls of fire (Chapter 18). One example might be relevant to the UFO case: "We have seen that illumination does not only manifest subjectively, within the shaman, his radiance is often perceived by others as well. It is said, for instance, that a bright flame hovered above the Eskimo shaman Kritdlarssuark as he led his companions on a train of dog sleighs in search of a distant people."

There is another report from Prem Das¹⁷ on a visit to a Huichol shaman in Mexico who saw what he called 'luminous clouds'. They were identified by Don Jose, the Huichol shaman: "The luminous clouds...these are the *urucate* (spirit beings)."

Another relevant element (to the UFO literature on "implants") is something also noted by Eliade. This is the insertion (by the spirits) of sacred stones into the body into a future medicine man¹⁸.

When it comes to the more "humanoid" appearance of spirits, we find in shamanistic accounts and folklore about as much variety as do the UFO reports. The following selections of descriptions of spirit beings come from the shamans' accounts in Joan Halifax's book¹⁹.

"He has horns...his ears stick out...his face is big...his hair hangs off his body...A foul thing!" (p. 59. Kung bushman, Africa).

"A lovely and beautiful helping spirit. A white woman" (p. 67. Caribou Eskimo of Hudson Bay).

"There came a little man up from the ground...he was half as long as a man, was clad in a white frock, and had black arms. His hair was curly."

"The following year I repaired to a place where a brook was flowing from a little lake. A little man with a pointed head, which was quite bald, came up from the stream." (p. 112. Both cases from the Angmagsalik Eskimos of Greenland).

"Shore spirits, who run about with a pointed skin hood on their heads; their breaches are queerly short, and made of bearskin. Their feet are twisted upward, and they seem to walk only on their heels. They hold their hands in such a fashion that the thumb is always bent in over the palm...they resemble most of all sweet little live dolls; they are no taller than the length of a man's arm" (p. 119. Iglulik Eskimo).

"A very beautiful woman. Her figure was very slight, she was no more than 71 cm. tall...Her hair fell down to her shoulders in short black tresses." (p. 121. Southern Tungu, Siberia).

I myself have received contemporary oral reports of "little men" traditions. Larry Peters, an old friend and former student, told me that established shamans in the Katmandu, Nepal, region, told him that they were taught their art by so-called "forest shamans," little beings with pointed heads. In 1997 I was invited to go to Katmandu by a Nepalese psychologist to study shamanism with him, and Larry and I would have delved further into this tradition. However, I was not able to go at the last moment. Another friend, Holger Kalweit told me that there was a strong tradition of little men who are supposed to live in Eastern Tibet, in Amdo province, with the Dzopa ethnic group. Holger also told me that on the island in the middle of Lake Titicaca, Bolivia, such "little men" are said to live side by side with ordinary people.

The above outline is just a sketch of the topic. What it all amounts to would warrant another discussion. I am just leaving it here for the moment. The only thing to note now is that some shamanic reports seem to go beyond the subjective - other people appear to report light phenomena and the like. To go further than this would need a more focused investigation.

Footnotes

1. Mihaly Hoppal (Ed.). *Shamanism in Eurasia*. Parts 1 & 2. Gottingen: Edition Herodot, 1984.
2. G. Reichel-Dolmatoff. *The Shaman and the Jaguar*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1975.

3. Douglas Sharon. *Wizard of the Four Winds. A Shaman's Story*. N.Y., The Free Press, 1978.
4. Barbara Myerhoff. *Peyote Hunt. The Sacred Journey of the Huichol Indians*. Ithaca and New York, Cornell University Press, 1974.
5. Larry Peters. *Ecstasy and Healing in Nepal*. Malibu, California: Undena Publications, 1981.
6. L. Peters and D. Price-Williams. "Toward an experiential analysis of shamanism." *American Ethnologist*, 1980, Vol. 7, 397-418.
7. M. J. Winkelman. *Shamans, Priests and Witches. A Cross-Cultural Study of Magico-Religious Practitioners*. Arizona State University: Anthropological Research Papers, No. 44. 1992.
8. Michael J. Harner (Ed). *Hallucinogens and Shamanism*. London: Oxford University Press, 1973.
9. Joan Halifax (Ed). *Shamanic Voices. A Survey of Visionary Narratives*. N.Y., E. P. Dutton Paperback, 1979.
10. For both of these elements read particularly Chapter 4 of Michael Harner "The Way of the Shaman." San Francisco: Harper & Row 1980. An obvious reason why these elements do not appear in the UFO literature may be that they would not be congruent with the notion of inter-planetary visitors coming here in the conventional way, i.e. through space. It is as if our culture might be ready for sky-gods but not chthonic deities.
11. Thomas E. Bullard, "The UFO Abduction Phenomena: Past Research and Future Prospects." p. 102, of Rima Laibow, Robert Sollod and John Wilson (Eds). *Anomalous Experiences and Trauma: Current Theoretical Research and Clinical Perspectives. Proceedings of TREAT II*. Published by the Center for Treatment and Research of Experienced Anomalous Trauma. Dobbs Ferry, New York. 1992.
12. Mircea Eliade. *Shamanism: Archaic Techniques of Ecstasy*. Bollingen Series LXXVI. Princeton University Press. Paperback edition 1972. pp. 60-61. In these pages, Eliade cites the obvious parallels with the inner and clear light of Buddhist and Yogic schools.
13. This book was published in 1972. The account I am following here, that quotes Erdoes, is from D. Scott Rogo "Shamanism, ESP, and the Paranormal." Chapter 8 of Shirley Nicholson (Ed). *Shamanism: An Expanded View of Reality*. Madras & London. The Theosophical Publishing House, Wheaton, Ill, USA, 1987.
14. *Return to Laughter*.
15. See the account in Kalweit's book, ref# 16, p. 207. Kalweit cites the article by Theodore Kelsey — "Flying 'Gods' of Hawaii," in *Full Moon. A Report from the Islands*. Vol. 1, Nos. 3 & 4, 1980.
16. Holger Kalweit. *Dreamtime and Inner Space. The World of the Shaman*. Boston & London, 1988. The quotation is on p. 204.
17. Prem Das, of course, is actually an American, the colleague of Timothy Leary. See his report in Joan Halifax *Shamanic Voices*, pp. 240-241.
18. Mircea Eliade, op.cit., pp. 46-49. The account is from aboriginal Australians. Kalweit also cites this kind of material in Ch. 22.
19. Joan Halifax. *Shamanic Voices*, op.cit. The page numbers refer to this book.

BEST UFO CASES : IRAN, 1976

Ah! My dear Watson, there we come into those realms of conjecture, where the most logical mind may be at fault. Each may form his own hypothesis upon the present evidence, and yours is as likely to be correct as mine. [The Adventure of the Empty House by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle]

Declassified Defense Intelligence Agency documents released under the Freedom of Information Act reveal that on 19 September, 1976, an unusual incident occurred over Tehran, Iran.

At about 0030 hours, the Shah's Imperial Iranian Air Force command post at Tehran received four telephone reports from citizens in the Shemiran area of the city. Some of the callers reported seeing a bird-like object in the sky, while others reported a helicopter with a bright light. When the command post found that there were no helicopters airborne at that time, they called BG Yousefi, assistant deputy commander of operations. Yousefi at first said the object was only a star, but after talking to the tower at Mehrabad Airport, he looked for himself and saw a very bright object larger than a star. At that point he decided to scramble an F-4 jet from Shahrokh AFB.

At 0130 hours, the F-4 took off and proceeded to a point 40 nautical miles north of Tehran. It was noted that the object was of such brilliance that it could be seen up to 70 miles away. When the F-4 came to within about 25 nautical miles of the object, the jet suddenly lost all instrumentation and communications. The pilot broke off the intercept and turned away. When the F-4 had turned back toward Sharokhi, the aircraft regained instrumentation and communication.

At 0140 hours, a second F-4 was scrambled and it acquired a radar lock on the object at 27 nautical miles range, closing on the object at 150 nautical miles per hour. At a range of 25 nautical miles, the object began to move, keeping a steady distance of 25 nautical miles from the F-4.

The size of the object was difficult to determine due to its intense brilliance, but the radar return was comparable to that of a 707 tanker. The lights of the object were alternating blue, green, red, and orange, and were arranged in a square pattern. The lights flashed in sequence, but the flashing was so rapid that they all could be seen at once.

As the object and the F-4 continued on a southerly path, a smaller second object detached itself from the first and advanced on the F-4 at a high rate of speed. Thinking himself to be under attack, the F-4 pilot attempted to launch an AIM-9 missile, but he suddenly lost all instrumentation, including weapons control, and all communication. The F-4 pilot then instituted a turn and a negative G

dive as evasive action. The object fell in behind him at about 3 to 4 nautical miles distance for a short time, then turned and rejoined the primary object.

Once again, as soon as the F-4 had turned away, instrumentation and communications were regained. The F-4 crew then saw another brightly lit object detach itself from the other side of the primary object and drop straight down at a high rate of speed. The F-4 crew expected it to impact the ground and explode, but it came to rest gently. The F-4 crew then overflew the site at a decreased altitude and marked the position of the light's touchdown. They then landed at Mehrabad, noting that each time they passed through a magnetic bearing of 150 degrees from Mehrabad, they experienced interference and experienced communications failure. A civilian airliner that was approaching Mehrabad experienced a loss of communications at the same position relative to Mehrabad. As the F-4 was on final approach, they sighted yet another object, cylinder-shaped, with bright, steady lights on each end and a flashing light in the middle. Mehrabad tower reported no other aircraft in the area, but tower personnel were able to see the object when given direction by the F-4 pilot.

The next day, the F-4 crew flew out in a helicopter to the site where they had seen the smaller object land. In the daylight, it was determined to be a dry lake bed, but no traces could be seen. They then circled the area to the west and picked up a noticeable "beeper" signal. The signal was loudest near a small house, so they landed and questioned the occupants of the house about any unusual events of the previous night. They reported a loud noise and a bright light like lightning.

Further investigation of the landing site, including radiation testing of the area was apparently done, but the results were never made public. Since this event occurred before the fall of the Shah, any records in Tehran itself may be lost.

The Defense Intelligence Agency itself called this report:

An outstanding report. This case is a classic which meets all the criteria necessary for a valid study of the UFO phenomenon...

One of the most interesting things about this event is that it was apparently detected by a military spy satellite. This satellite, the DSP-1, was launched to warn of ballistic missile launches by detecting infrared heat sources. It was used to detect SCUD missile launches during Desert Storm. An analysis of computer printouts from DSP-1 by researchers Lee Graham and Ron Reghr, of Aero-Jet in California, shows that it definitely detected an infrared anomaly over Tehran at the time of the UFO event reported above.

SOURCE: <http://ufos.about.com/library/weekly/aa030298.htm>

Members who wish to express any opinions, ideas or comments are invited to write to Pegasus at the address on page 2. We reserve the right to edit any submission for reasons of space. Ed.

NEWS IN BRIEF/ SIGHTINGS ROUNDUP

UFOs Watch ISS Space Walk

Jeff Chandler writes that he was closely following the ISS Space Walk on February 25, 2004, when the astronauts made the following comments. Cosmonaut Alexander 'Sasha' Kaleri (Crew Flight Engineer) states, "So, dinosaurs are needed here. You can't do...can't do anything without them." Korelyev - Say it again? Kaleri - I say when the dinosaur is here. Yes! I have them here! (Pause for several seconds) Uh...these are with me now! Korelyev - Yes. Let them be with you. Understood. (Several minutes later) Foale -(garbled)...Sasha is attaching the dinosaurs now.

Jeff comments, "What is going on here? What are "Dinosaurs" in the context of this long planned space walk (EVA) from the PIRS airlock module of ISS?" I have done an extensive search of both the NASA and Russian web resources concerning the space station, and specifically this EVA. There is no mention of anything resembling this term. The NASA ISS acronyms list turns up nothing, as did a similar search on the Russian side. Historically, the term doesn't exist. In seven years of listening to Cosmonaut and Astronaut chatter during EVAs from Mir, and ISS, I've never ever heard this term before. I have never heard this term used on any Shuttle flight in over 20 years of observation. I never heard the term during the Mercury, Gemini, Apollo, or Sky Lab programs for that matter. In well over 40 years of watching and listening to the space programs of the United States and Russia, I've NEVER EVER heard the term "Dinosaurs" used in ANY context. When Cosmonaut Kaleri made his remarks on 25 February, my ears pricked up. Several minutes later, ISS Commander Astronaut Michael Foale made a remark which seemed to indicate that "Dinosaurs" were some sort of common part which Cosmonaut Kaleri was installing on the exterior of the station. But what part, and what sort?

What makes Commander Foale's statement that Sasha was installing the "Dinosaurs" fall flat was the fact that the Cosmonaut's conversation about these "Dinosaurs" with the

Russian Mission Control Center in Korelyev indicated complete surprise on his part. The two crewmen of ISS Expedition 8 had been preparing, and training, for this EVA event literally for YEARS. NO aspect of the mission to be performed, no piece of equipment, no part to be installed should come as any surprise. Yet, in his own words, to Cosmonaut Kaleri these "Dinosaurs" came as a great AND unwelcome, surprise. Why? As stated earlier in this examination, all aspects of the EVA should have been extremely familiar. Yet, Kaleri expresses surprise and dismay that "Dinosaurs" should be present. Mission control advises him to accept them, and Commander Foale seems to feel obligated to make up some cover story. High strangeness indeed, especially when one takes into account that there were a number of mysterious objects flitting about during much of the space walk. In addition, space-suit to ground communications were interrupted for extensive periods by a terrible screeching racket. My observation is that this interference with communications between the space walkers and the ground seemed to manifest itself during times when the mystery objects were present. Another unusual occurrence was that at one point in the middle of all these strange happenings, Houston Mission Control announced that the ISS was "Out of Range" of the space communication network. This announcement made when ISS was flying DIRECTLY above the Hawaiian ground station, part of that worldwide network. Houston also indicated that the ISS was "Out of Range" of the TDRS satellite stationed in geosynchronous orbit high above. Neither of these facilities was actually out of range, being in "line of sight" at Hawaiian ground station when NASA announced it was "Out of Range".

In closing, it appears to me that the unknown, and unaccounted for, objects seen during the live TV coverage of the space walk were probably associated with the communication losses. It appears very possible that when the ISS was "Out of Range" from the usual communication facilities both on the ground in Hawaii, and high above in the form of a satellite, this opportunity was taken to speak with the station crew about what they'd seen whilst keeping the public "In The Dàrk". I also strongly suspect that "Dinosaurs" was a code word Sasha Kaleri used in reference to UFOs. Taken in that context, the word actually makes sense. Thanks to Jeff Challender - Director Project P.R.O.V.E.

CANADIAN PM IN UFO SCARE - OTTAWA (CP) - What fate the stars hold for Paul Martin may be unclear. But one thing's certain: Canada's prime minister recently had a high-flying close encounter with a UFO. Martin and his entourage were cruising above Alberta when their Challenger jet came within another worldly whisker of a luminous object streaking through the night sky. In a report to Edmonton air traffic controllers, the pilot of Martin's plane noted seeing a "very bright light falling" through the air, with smoke trailing, while the aircraft passed over Suffield, Alta., on Sunday, March 21.

People aboard at least two other planes also saw the plummeting object, which was travelling "at a very fast rate of speed" from a high altitude, says the report. A copy of the one-page form, titled "UFO Procedures," was provided to the Canadian Press by Chris Rutkowski of the Winnipeg-based group Ufology Research of Manitoba. Rutkowski, a long-time tracker of UFO sightings, obtained the report from the federal Transport Department, which routinely forwards him data on unidentified flying objects. Martin travelled to a farm near Picture Butte, Alta., to announce an aid package for farmers last Monday. So was an extraterrestrial envoy trying to convey a message to Canada's new leader? Unlikely, says Rutkowski. What the prime minister's plane and many others saw that night was almost certainly a chunk of a comet or an asteroid that entered Earth's atmosphere and burned up into fragments. An amateur astronomer in Calgary captured the blazing streak on videotape. And it appears one or more such fireballs were seen by people across the Prairies and as far east as Quebec. In any event, it's unclear if Martin or his aides even glimpsed the object that crossed the plane's path. The group's recently released 2003 survey found that a record 673 reports of unidentified objects were made to various organizations and investigators in Canada. Thanks to CNews and Jim Bronskill.

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The views expressed in Pegasus are those of the articles' authors and are not necessarily those of the editor, or of SIGAP.

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