

UFO POTPOURRI

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Brazilian air force pilot says he chased after lighted UFOs

Associated Press

BRASILIA, Brazil — An air force pilot confirmed Friday he had chased UFOs he described as pulsating, colored balls of light over the skies of southeastern Brazil early last week and said they "couldn't be anything now existing."

Lt. Kleber Caldas Marinho, 25, said he pursued but could not catch the flying objects first sighted in the southeastern city of Sao Jose dos Campos on Monday night.

"It was a pulsating light, red and white, mostly white," Marinho said at a press conference at air force headquarters in the capital.

"It was not a star. It couldn't have been another plane. It couldn't be anything now existing," he said.

The pilot said his U.S.-made F-5E fighter approached to within 12 miles of one of the objects, but had to turn back because he was running low on fuel.

Capt. Marcio Jordao, 29, another F-5E pilot, said he saw "a red light that didn't vary, but evidently was moving. I got to within 25 miles but I couldn't go any faster. Visibility was great. There were no clouds or other air traffic."

The objects were picked up on radar screens in three states in southeastern Brazil, the air force said.

Col. Ozires Silva, president of the state oil company, Petrobras, was flying in a private plane near Sao Jose dos Campos and said he also saw the UFOs.

"It wasn't like any of the classical flying objects seen in the mov-

ies," Silva said in a televised interview. "It wasn't in the form of a flying saucer or plate. Instead, what I saw were illuminated points."

Air Force Minister Gen. Octavio Moreira Lima said the chase planes were sent up because the UFOs were "saturating radar and interfering with air traffic."

TV Globo, the nation's biggest commercial TV network, showed film taken by a cameraman in the southern city of Maringa showing a silvery pulsating light in the sky, larger than any star appears from Earth.

Col. Sidney Obino Azambuja, 51, chief of staff of the Brazilian Aerospace Defense Command, said, "The radar blips persisted. We had phenomena, and they were seen."

Fighter pilot chases fast-moving UFOs

CR: LINDY WHITEHURST

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BRASILIA, Brazil (UPI) — Ozires Silva, head of the state oil company, was preparing to land his plane when he saw three colored lights darting like pingpong balls through the night sky and detected three objects on radar.

He canceled his landing, informed the Brazilian Defense Center and chased the fast-moving lights. The Defense Center went on alert and sent jet fighters in pursuit of the lights.

Air Force Minister Octavio Moreira Lima said Thursday six air force jet fighters chased more than a dozen UFOs and that, at one point, one plane was surrounded by the objects.

He said pilots of the planes dispatched to pursue the mysterious objects Monday night saw intense green, red and white lights that moved between 160 mph and 990 mph and picked up solid objects on the radar.

"It is not a question of believing or not," Lima said. "This requires technical information and we have

neither replies nor technical explanations for what happened," Lima said.

Silva first saw three colored lights in his path as he prepared to land his Brazilian-made Xingu aircraft Monday night at an air force base 66 miles from the industrial heartland of Sao Paulo.

He gave chase and notified the military, which dispatched three F-5E jet fighters after the lights. The fighters pursued the objects for 30 minutes toward the Sao Paulo coast before they ran out of fuel and had to give up the chase, the U GLOBO newspaper reported.

Lima said the three jet fighters came as close as 4 miles to the objects.

"At one point the chase was inverted and a F-5E fighter was surrounded by 13 colored lights, and chased with seven on one side and six on the other," Lima said.

After the F-5Es ran out of fuel,

three supersonic Mirage-3 fighters armed with Sidewinder and Matra 530 missiles were sent to continue the chase. They detected the objects on radar but they were unable to see the lights, Lima said.

President Jose Sarney was told late Monday night about the chase. Lima said Sarney was "interested and curious" about the event.

BY JOHN F. SCHUESSLER

P. O. BOX 58485

HOUSTON, TEXAS 77258-8485

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