

UFO POTPOURRI

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Back in the days before the advent of MUFON, I was a member/consultant for the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization (APRO). It was a fine organization. The APRO investigators and consultants amassed an excellent database consisting of UFO reports from around the world. The results of their work clearly demonstrated the breadth and seriousness of the UFO problem. The pages of the APRO BULLETIN continually reported on real, solid unconventional flying objects. In this and future issues of UFO POTPOURRI I will cover some examples of APRO's work.

UFOs "Escort" Mexican Aircraft

From: The APRO Bulletin, August 1975

This incident took place on May 3, 1974 over Lake Tequesquitengo. The pilot, Carlos Antonio de Santo Montiel was flying a Piper Aztec 24. He had just passed from clear blue sky, down through a cloud layer and was flying under the cloud layer when he noticed something on his right and glanced that direction. He was shocked to see an object with the appearance of two plates joined together at the rim with a cupola that had what seemed to be a little window and an antenna on top. He glanced back to the left and saw another object of the same description just above his left wing.

"I was petrified," Carlos told officials later, "after I saw a third object which seemed about to collide head-on with the windshield. But it went beneath the aircraft and I heard a strange noise from below as though it had collided with the underside of the plane."

Carlos noted that his airspeed had decreased from 140 nautical hours per hour to 120. He tried to bank to the left, in an attempt to "bump" the object away from his plane but the controls were frozen and would not move. He then tried letting down the landing gear, hoping to get rid of the object under him, but with no results.

APRO's Field Investigator, Fernando J. Tellez Pareja, provided the following tape-recorded message between Carlos and the Mexico City International Airport Control Tower:

Carlos: Center Mexico from extra bravo extra alfa union. Mayday! Mayday!

Tower: Come in, extra bravo extra alfa union (Here the pilot repeated his call twice – apparently he did not hear Mexico City answer.) Center Mexico here, come in extra alfa union.

Carlos: Extra alfa union to Center Mexico. My aircraft is out of control – I have no control over it – I have three unidentified objects flying around me. I have three unidentified flying objects flying around me, one came under my aircraft and hit it. The landing gear is locked in and the controls won't release them. My position – I am on the Radial 004 from the VOR

Tequesquitengo – I am not controlling the plane – Center Mexico, can you hear me?
Tower: Take note extra alfa union, give me your position and your situation. We are contacting competent authorities and (here interrupted by Carlos again).
Carlos: The aircraft is out of control.

At that point, Mexico City International Airport closed its runways to traffic and prepared for the expected emergency landing. The objects continued maintaining position on XB-XAU, exerting complete control over the aircraft.

When Carlos had reached the Ajusco navigational fix, the UFOs had elevated the aircraft from 15,000 feet to 15,800 feet, and then, one by one, they left. First the object over his left wing elevated until it was over the cabin, then above the object on the right wing, and then these two flew off and were lost to view in the direction of Popocatepetl. The controls of the aircraft were immediately normal and Carlos regained control.

Carlos then attempted to lower the landing gear, circling the airport eight times, in radio contact to ascertain if he was successful. After 40 minutes of circling while he worked with a screwdriver, he managed to lower the wheels and landed on the grassy area where emergency vehicles were waiting.

Turin, Italy Case

From: The APRO Bulletin, June 1975

A weird, pulsating object was tracked on radar and observed by thousands of startled citizens at Turin, Italy on the night of November 30, 1973. Ricardo Marano, a professional pilot, reported he was piloting a small plane and returning from a flight when he was notified by the control tower that a UFO about the size of a DC-8 was hovering above the runway, and was asked to get a closer look. Marano said that at first he thought someone was playing a joke but suddenly when he was about 2½ miles out from the end of the runway he saw an enormous glowing globe which turned from violet to blue to red. When it moved away as if it had spotted his aircraft, he attempted to follow it. At that time it was moving at an approximate speed of 300 miles per hour.

Marano chased the thing for a short time but remembered that his fuel supply was low so he gave a burst of speed and tried to close on it at which point the object went straight up into the air and disappeared from sight. He estimated its getaway speed at about 3,500 miles per hour.

Another pilot in a DC-9 said that he was alerted by the control tower also and gave chase, following the object for about 1¼ miles but turned back when it disappeared at high speed. Meanwhile, thousands of local citizens watched the object hover over Turin and hundreds of people called Turin newspapers to describe the event.