

THE A.P.R.O. BULLETIN

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UFO OVER LEBANON

Communications With Extraterrestrials Discussed

The January, 1973 issue of *Astronautics and Aeronautics* featured a two-page condensation of a panel discussion on "Life Beyond Earth and the Human Mind" which was held at Boston University on an unspecified date. The participants were anthropologist Ashley Montagu, Krister Stendahl, dean of the Harvard Divinity school, Carl Sagan, Cornell University astronomer, Harvard biologist George Wald and Massachusetts Institute of Technology physicist Philip Morrison.

In an interchange of ideas and thoughts, Montagu stated his opinion that when communication is made between earthlings and another civilization, one or the other of the parties will be the victim, and that man would attempt to exploit the extraterrestrials. He based his argument on man's past history of brutality and exploitation.

One quote of Sagan's is somewhat puzzling: "... those we contact will have to be more advanced. We are the dumbest communicating civilization in the Galaxy, so I can't get excited about the possibility of our destroying them... And there is a cosmic quarantine imposed by distance." If we take this quote literally, it suggests that Sagan is aware of other civilizations which have communicated or attempted to communicate with man.

Wald expressed his opinion that if man made contact with superior beings and was given the answers he has had to strive for in the past, human enterprise would fold up and that the communications beam would tie us to them like "an umbilical cord" or put us in the same relative position as a dog to its master. But Sagan could see no such danger in the communications and called it a "character-building experience."

Morrison said that communication with other civilizations would come only after many false starts, that the superior civilizations would probably communicate among themselves in a way unknown to us and that when they brought "another member" into their network they would use a

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Alien Space Probe Orbiting Earth?

The *National Enquirer*, under date of March 18, 1973, carries an article by Malcolm Balfour which alleges that Scottish astronomer Duncan Lunan has found evidence that an alien space probe is orbiting earth at about the distance of the moon.

Lunan, who is extensively quoted, said that unidentified echoes from space had been picked up in the 1920s by Dutch, French and Norwegian radio researchers. They claimed that after sending out a series of pulses they received two sets of echoes, the normal echoes bounced back from the ionosphere which returned in the usual 1/7th of a second and a second set which returned after various periods of delay from 3 to 15 seconds in duration. This suggested that the "echoes" were actually signals from an object far out in space - at least as far as the moon. Although Lunan did not amplify on this point, he said that from other evidence he deduced that the object must be circling the earth at about the same distance as the moon.

Lunan said that it occurred to him that the strange pulses might be some kind of intelligent signals, that it could not only reflect earth signals but send its own, and he recalled that the American astronomer Professor R.N. Bracewell of Stanford University in California had predicted that a probe attempting contact with earth might send a map of star constellations.

He then made a graph, he said, of the delayed echoes which showed the various periods of delay as dots in various positions on graph paper, and was surprised to find that the dots made up a map of Epsilon Bootis, a northern constellation.

Excited by that find, Lunan went on to plot long delay echoes that other researchers had picked up and in all, plotted six star maps. He said that all reference lines point to a star named Epsilon Bootis in that constellation- 103 light years from the earth. Lunan assumed that was the area where the probe originated.

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Mr. Walter Hamady, a professor of art, was one of several witnesses to the presence of an unidentified flying object over Baakline, Shuf Province, Lebanon, early in the evening of August 4, 1972. Mr. Hamady is a resident of the United States, but we will not pinpoint his location. At the time of his sighting he was visiting at his Uncle's summer home at Chemlan which overlooks the Beirut airport. At about dusk Mr. Hamady, his wife Mary and Mr. Hamady's aunt went to Baakline and as they pulled into the driveway of the house Hamady's cousins were very excited, exclaiming they had just seen a "flying saucer". The small company made their way onto the terrace and saw a bright red light moving "straight off into space". Two pairs of binoculars were on hand - a Bushnell 7x35 and a Trinovid 8 x 32.

The first sighting, which occurred prior to Mr. and Mrs. Hamady's arrival, is described by the cousin as follows (in Mr. Hamady's words):

He and his wife and brother were sitting out on the terrace enjoying the early evening when the power failed. They looked around, noting that the power at their uncle's home was still on, as was that of the village. Power outages are not unusual in Lebanon so there was no alarm felt. After a bit Mr. Hamady's cousin's wife exclaimed, "Look at that beautiful red star, it must be Mars!" They all looked directly overhead and observed a very bright red star. As they were admiring it it emitted a big puff of black smoke and began to move off into the southwest. They ran and got their binoculars and shortly after, Mr. Hamady and his wife and aunt arrived.

After the object moved off the power returned but Mr. Hamady did not keep track of the time so he does not know how soon after the object left. The group continued to sit on the terrace enjoying the cool evening and the usual mountain breeze.

The night was clear, no clouds and no wind other than the slight breeze.

Mr. Hamady, his wife, aunt, and two cousins walked across the yard to the railing and were admiring the town of Deir El Quamar where a celebration was taking place and the entire village was very brightly lit. Someone asked about

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Communications

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communications method suitable for man.

Wald raised the question of what contact with superior technology would do to man, pointing out that we can't control our present technology and could destroy ourselves with new more powerful ones. Sagan countered by citing the long time scale for learning a new technology from a message from outer space, and Morrison said he felt the most valuable piece of knowledge we could gain from an advanced civilization would be how they had managed to fashion a world in which they could survive with technology.

Sagan brought up the subject of the proposed Project Cyclops when he voiced a misconception that the purpose of Cyclops is eavesdropping on leakage from another civilization's internal communications. The Project, a 1971 summer study, led by B.M. Oliver of Hewlett-Packard at NASA Ames Research Center, proposed a phased array of 1000 or more 100-m-diameter antennas feeding into a sensitive signal-analysis system. The antennas would cover 20 km² or more and when completed could detect a 1000 Mw beacon 1000 light years away. It would take an estimated 40 years to complete the system and the search and it was pointed out that by that time, unless adequate steps are taken, world population would have reached infinity and disaster would have overtaken the human race.

The entire article and the thoughts of the participants are extremely interesting and apparently unknowingly the panel built a very logical motive for UFOnuts, if indeed the UFOs are real and from another planet. Sebastian van Hoerner, an astronomer at the National Radio Astronomy Observatory in Green Bank, West Virginia said that a civilization which had solved all its problems and had become stable would have removed all competition and all emotion from their lives, and would they be interested in communicating with other civilizations? It occurs to one that a study of other civilizations who have not learned to stabilize might be the motivation behind interplanetary or interstellar travel. A sort of record-keeping of a dying civilization, as it were.

Attention:

Scandinavian Members

Mrs. Lorenzen would like to enlist the aid of APRO members in Scandinavia in locating Mr. Barty Andersson who, in 1965, was a purser for Scandinavian Airways System, and working out of New York at the time. He had a rather spectacular sighting while at a hunting lodge in Alaska during which time he took a photo of the object. Because of his flying schedule we were not able to locate him at that time but since then we have located another photograph of a UFO taken in Arizona which bears some resemblance to the object photographed by Andersson.

It is very important for us to locate Mr. Andersson and obtain at least a copy of the photograph he took from a point on the Russian River on the Kenai Peninsula on July 5, 1965. Andersson said that he had set up his camera on a

tripod to take a self-portrait of himself in the boat. He had set the camera, and headed toward the boat when he saw an object which appeared to be floating about 12 feet above the ground across the river. He said it rose away from him and when it reached an altitude about level with the hill top it seemed to disappear. He described it as orange, round, flat on the bottom and raised like an upside down plate on the top, with a shadow of dark blue near the top. Andersson also said he thought he detected an odor similar to that of ammonia. The colored slide which was developed from the film showed a colored spiral which was also reflected in the water of the River.

ANY leads concerning Mr. Andersson's current address and whereabouts will be greatly appreciated.



ADDRESS CHANGES

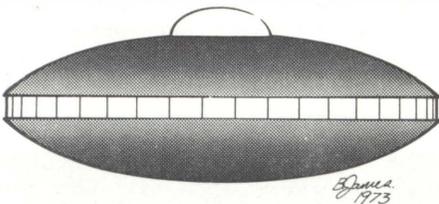
Always include old and new
Zip Codes.

Lebanon

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the location of the Big Dipper and Mrs. Hamady located the constellation and was surprised to see a bright red light moving in it. She brought it to the attention of the others and they trained their binoculars on it. Mr. and Mrs. Hamady passed their binoculars around and one of the cousins yelled for his wife to join the group and bring their binoculars.

Hamady described the object seen through the binoculars as two saucers placed on top of each other with a perpendicular plane of windows that went all the way around the craft. There was a light inside that was not strange, simply looking like house lights at night, warm and yellow in appearance. On top of the craft, he said, was a dome also lit up in the same way as the windows. In back of it or in the lee of the direction it was moving were two lights. Hamady can no longer recall what color these lights were but his wife recalls that one was red and the other was green. There was no exhaust, noise or visible means of propulsion, and the movement was steady. The object proceeded steadily into the southeast, at about the speed of a propeller-driven aircraft, and disappeared from view. See line drawing of the Lebanon object by artist Brian James.



The Lebanese Object.

Alien

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According to the *Enquirer*, they contacted Professor Bracewell who said that the map of Bootis could be interpreted as a method of communication from another civilization. Bracewell made one point which may be debatable, however; the *Enquirer* quoted him as saying that the probe couldn't be seen from Earth because we can't even see our own space vehicles circling the moon with our telescopes.

The article also quotes Terence Nonweiler, professor of aerodynamics at the University of Glasgow in Scotland as saying that he is very impressed by Lunan's star maps and that it is difficult to call the results a coincidence.

The British Interplanetary Society, the equivalent of the prestigious American Rocket Society, has announced plans to

attempt direct contact with the probe.

Kenneth Gatland, vice present of the Society is quoted as saying that he has studied the Lunan maps and came to the same conclusions that Lunan did, and speculated that the probe may have started beaming messages to earth thousands of years ago and has been waiting for man to gain sufficient scientific knowledge to contact them.

This is a "Stop Press" item and we expect more information on this startling find presently. When and if such information is available we will present it in the *Bulletin*.

Condon Interviewed In Florida

The January 24 issue of the Fort Myers *News-Press* carried a lengthy article by Susan Taylor of the *News-Press* staff which featured many direct quotes from Dr. Edward U. Condon, the former chief of the University of Colorado UFO Project.

One of Dr. Condon's comments was that "It was like being head of a fire department that only answers false alarms", alluding to his experience with the Project, and insinuating that there was no substance to UFO reports. The occasion of the interview was the Thirteenth International Symposium on Quantum Biology which was held at the Sanibel Island Beach Club where Dr. Condon was honored by fellow scientists.

The article is especially interesting inasmuch as it quotes Condon extensively and demonstrates his inaccuracy in recounting UFO lore. He described the Kenneth Arnold sighting by saying that it happened in 1946 (it was 1947) and that Arnold saw "a strange light" (actually Arnold described nine definite objects). Condon admitted that "there were some things we were never able to explain" but unhesitatingly said that he does not believe in flying saucers. The term "flying saucer" was used interchangeably with "UFO" in Ms. Taylor's article and of course means little if anything.

One bit of information divulged by Condon concerning his early years as a newspaper reporter is quite revealing. At 16 years of age he worked for the *Oakland Daily Post*, the staff of which was comprised of Condon, a woman and an elderly man. The newspaper couldn't afford a photographer so when Condon needed a photograph of people celebrating the end of the war on Armistice Day, he simply sorted through some old photos, found some showing crowds celebrating, and used one of them. Thus, in at least one case, Dr. Condon is on record as having manipulated history in order to produce the desired results.

Strange Object Found on Moon

The February 19, 1973 issue of *Soviet Aerospace* carries an interesting article about a "monolith" found in the Sea of Serenity while Lunokhod 2, a remote-controlled, unmanned lunar expeditionary module, was operating in the foothills of the Taurus Mountains. Lunarkhod is guided by human controllers at Zvezdnoy Gorodok (Star City) outside Moscow.

The article stated that the "stone plate which has so puzzled scientists" has a smooth surface which is unlike the large stones in the area and that it withstood "the buggy's pressure of a hundred atmospheres" (1,407 lb. per square inch) which left only slight traces on the thin layer of dust which covered the plate. Also, the article said, scientists have determined that the plate "seems much younger" than other stone material in the area.

Because of the monolith's uniqueness, scientists decided to continue to investigate it to determine its chemical composition and magnetic properties, as well as transmit TV photos. The object was found on February 13 and plans were made to continue the investigation through the 16th. The bedrock in the immediate area was described as being different from the material observed and tested earlier and because the monolith is also so different from the surrounding bedrock the scientists were wondering if such a combination is accidental. If further information on this discovery is forthcoming it will be published in a future issue of the *Bulletin*.

Follow-Ups

On page 1, column 1 of the July-August 1972 bulletin, details of an occupant case near Kuraby, Queensland, Australia based on press reports were presented. APRO requested that Field Investigator Lindsay McKeon of Brisbane attempt to look into the matter via the local UFO research organization. The following information was obtained in a recent letter from Mr. McKeon:

"After a long delay I have finally been able to contact the local UFO group regarding the Kuraby sighting. Unfortunately the witness refuses to cooperate further, even with the local group..."

Mr. McKeon also said that the local group had very little information to add to the original story except that the Department of Civil Aviation and the RAFF reported no radar contact on the night in question. The Southern Electrical Authority of Queensland noticed no

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Follow-Ups

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abnormal power drain from the high tension lines.

The witness was hazy on the shape of the object due to the short duration of the sighting but estimates its length to be around 80 feet (twice the length of a nearby house). No marks were in evidence on the ground when the area was later examined. The "faceted" covering was clearly some kind of helmet but in the short time he saw the figures he wasn't able to determine if any facial features existed behind the facets.

There are only two changes to be made in the original report. The figures were a soft cream color and not grey, and the figure which stepped out toward the road did not raise its hand. As previously reported the object was solid and silvery and gave off no light.

The July-August 1972 issue of the *Bulletin* carried an article dealing with the sighting of a landed UFO in Kansas in the early hours of August 19th. Staff Artist Brian James of Canada entered into correspondence with officer Paul Carter in order to make an artistic rendering of the object while it was on the ground. The Carter drawing is presented on this page.

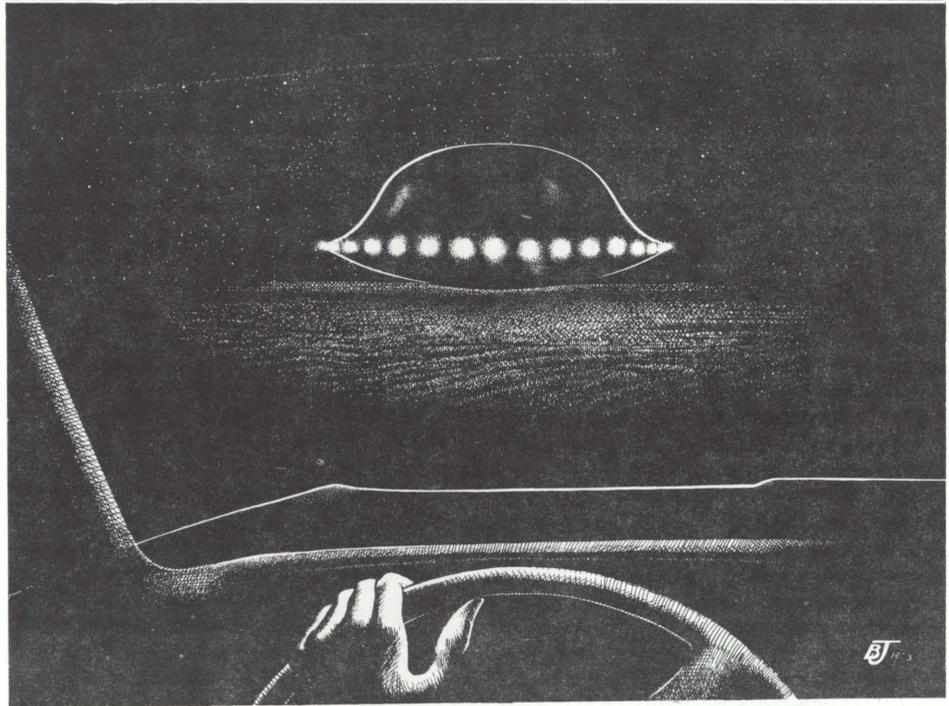
Also, the November-December 1972 issue of the *Bulletin* headlined the August 20, 1972 incident at Nogales, Arizona and presented a drawing off Marco Flores' sighting of a saturn-shaped object. Due to a mail mix-up Mr. James' rendering of Mrs. Sutherland's sighting was not available; therefore we are presenting it on this page also.

Both of these drawings were made to the specification of the witnesses and Mr. James is to be congratulated for his exceptional presentations.

Report From South Africa and Rhodesia

Mr. Frank G. Morton, APRO's Representative for South Africa, has forwarded a lengthy report of UFO activity in his country in the last nine months. Although there are many sightings included, some are doubtful as to authenticity and others are lacking in detail. The most detailed and interesting cases are presented here.

July 29, 1972, Umtata, South Africa. Many Umtata residents including Reverend Hamish Holman, an Anglican priest, watched a spherical-shaped object "as big as the full moon" which streaked across the sky, changing colors from white to blue to red and trailing a shower of sparks.



The Paul Carter Sighting

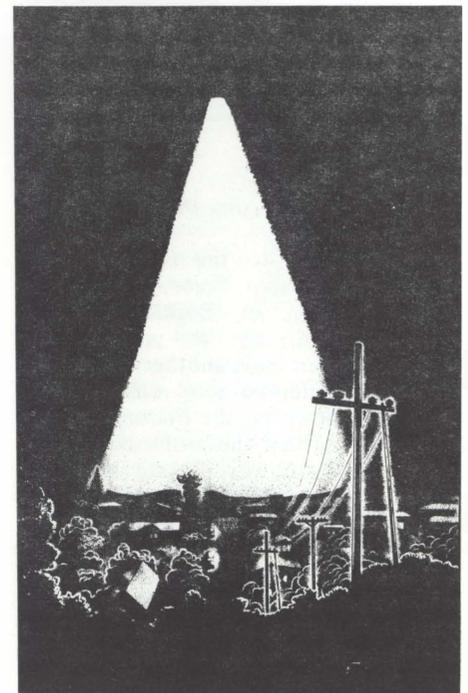
July 30, 1973, Durban, South Africa. A bowl-shaped indentation was found in the middle of ripe sugar cane fields at La Lucia. A Durban University student took his dog for a run through the cane fields, and suddenly the dog darted through the cane, the young man followed and they found themselves in a clearing which measured approximately 13 feet in diameter. There the cane had been smashed down, with a tuft of "unsquashed" cane in the center. The surrounding two-meter-high (6½ feet) cane had been pushed outwards and formed the shape of a bowl or saucer. Examination showed nothing out of the ordinary in the area except a small piece of cane that had been nibbled. A second such indentation which was slightly larger than the first was found a few meters away.

There had been no UFO report in the area except for an incident in which a Durban woman had reported seeing an object over her home.

August 18, 1972, Mayville, Durban, South Africa. Although this incident cannot be UFO-connected it is included because of its strange nature: An estimated 10 people have reported seeing a tall figure with a huge head like a box and a single flashing eye like a robot. Mrs. Thelma Hansen reported that her daughter Ingrid, 18, came rushing inside the house at about 7:30 p.m. screaming and crying that she had seen a ghost. Mrs. Hansen rushed outside and saw what she described as the "most terrifying thing I've ever seen in my life." She said it was tall and was standing with its arms in front of it. It swayed from side to side but the eye kept watching her, Mrs.

Hansen told reporters. The next night Mrs. Hansen was walking home from a neighbor's house at 11 p.m. when they all saw the figure standing in a vacant field at the bottom of Mrs. Hansen's garden. Mrs. Norman Duval, one of the ladies in the group, later described the figure they had seen and the description tallied with that of Mrs. Hansen. They later combed the brush in the field but could find nothing

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The Sutherland Object

Report

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to give them a clue as to what they had seen. Mrs. Hansen commented: "If it's a joke, who's doing it and why? It's frightening all of us to death."

August 20-24, 1972, Fort Beaufort, South Africa. A UFO was again reported from the farm of Bennie Smit, who had had an experience with a UFO in June which was widely publicized. The August sighting was made in daylight by Mr. R. Rudman, Smit's brother-in-law, along with an African laborer and four black farm hands. One of them, Mr. Bower de Klerk was with Smit when he sighted the object in June and says the August object is the same.

The object was watched for 10 minutes whereupon Mr. Rudman went for a camera and binoculars. When he returned the object was gone and the farm hands told him that the object, which was brilliant at first, had slowly dimmed, grew smaller and vanished.

Five hours earlier Mr. W.J. Vosloo, on an adjoining farm, said that he spotted the thing about 150 yards from him and behind the brilliant glow he could discern the outline of a barrel-like shape with small colored lights flickering on it. When he started walking toward it the object took off into the sky in the direction of Smit's farm. No exact date on this latter incident.

August 27, 1972, Kimberley, South Africa. Mr. Koos Harmse and Miss Daphne Vertue reported that they were followed by a UFO for almost 1½ hours. They described it as "four times the size of a star which constantly changed colors" and was first sighted at Monteville just before they reached the Schmidtsdrift bridge. They then crossed the bridge, they reported, and were stopped by a kudu (a large African antelope) in the middle of the road. They looked at the animal and then noticed that the veld on the left side of the road looked as if it was on fire. "Suddenly the flames disappeared and we saw two rows of lights", Harmse said. One row ran under the other and was level with their car and they claimed they could see each separate window and it seemed as if there was a big bright spotlight of a dull orange color on the front of the object.

Harmse accelerated the car but said that the faster they went, the faster the object went and kept up with them. When they stopped, the object appeared to stop also. The lights stayed with them, they said, until they reached the prison, and then they vanished.

November 17, 1973, Middelburg, South Africa. Mr. Gert Pretorius, a Middelburg postal employee, reported to the *Eastern Province Herald* that he and his family were driving toward

Middelburg on the Graaff-Reinet road at about 8 p.m. when his wife pointed out a ball of light in the sky. "It was about a half a kilometer away over Ouberg (Ouberg translated means Old Mountain - therefore it was either a hill or mountain) and descended before hovering about three meters above the ground. Then, Mr. Pretorius said, he had the "shock of my life". He said that two man-shaped beings about 1 meter (40 inches) tall alighted from the ball onto the ground. The object itself was about the size of the full moon from where he was observing it. The little "men" appeared to be carrying a flashlight and they were a glowing red color. The Ouberg was lit up by the object so that it was practically daylight in the area, Mr. Pretorius said.

Soon after the "men" landed, the ball disappeared, then showed up again in the sky, at which time Mr. Pretorius left the area and drove to Middelburg where he reported his experience to the police.

November 19 or 20, Graaf-Reinet, South Africa. Two unidentified flying objects were seen during daylight hours about 30 miles from Graaf-Reinet on the Richmond-Cape road by a family traveling to Port Elizabeth. P.C. Struwig of Richmond said that his son called his attention to two "Volkswagens" flying in the sky at what he estimated to be about a mile distant. He said the two grey colored objects were round on top and flat on the bottom and were flying at about the height of the telephone wires. Struwig said the object "hopped over the telephone wires" and disappeared over hills in an easterly direction.

November 21, 1972, Salisbury, Rhodesia. Two separate sightings of dull silver, saucer-shaped flying objects were reported by employees of the Willowvale factory. One man said that he and 15 other workmen watched "a strange object, dull silver in color" hover above the factory at about 10:15 a.m. The man, who refused to let his name be used, said the object remained over the factory for 30 minutes and then was joined by a similar object which suddenly appeared from the east. "They stayed together for about two minutes and then sped off in opposite directions, making no sound," he said.

An earlier sighting was made at 9:30 a.m. when other employees reported seeing four similar silver objects speed across the sky from south to north. A spokesman for the Salisbury Meteorological office said there were no weather balloons in the Willowvale area at the time the objects were seen, and according to a Department of Civil Aviation spokesman, the objects did not register on Air Traffic Control radar at Salisbury airport.

December 19, 1972, Salisbury, Rhodesia. Keith, 13, Christopher, 12 and

Kathleen, 8, Pullen, were walking with a friend David Dicker (11) when they saw a glowing light over the city which they described as looking like a very bright headlight. They called it to the attention of Mrs. Pullen who looked at it and then called her husband out. Mr. Pullen watched the object through binoculars for several minutes before it shot off at high speed and disappeared into the northwest. Mr. Pullen said: "It looked something like a parachute just hanging there, and in a circle around the top was a series of white lights." He also said that it had a glowing "sort of searchlight" in the front and at the tail end it had an orange red glow.

Photoanalysis Yields Interesting Information

by Dr. James A. Harder

Dr. Harder is APRO's Consultant in Civil Engineering and as an expert photographer has undertaken analysis of several UFO photographs.

The January 1973 issue of "Peterson's PHOTOGRAPHIC Magazine" carries an article by photoanalyst Adrian Vance which deals with a single photograph of a UFO taken on November 22, 1966 near the Willamette Pass in Oregon. The photographer, who retains anonymity, has a PhD in Biochemistry, and is a respected individual. He had been photographing Diamond Peak but an object appeared before him and he instinctively snapped the shutter. Afterward he was unsure that he had seen anything for when he lowered the camera the object was gone. When the film was developed he found three images—the top one light-colored and slightly domed and the bottom two darker and generally bar-shaped.

The camera used was an old Kodak 35, and shutter speed was set at 1/100 second. However, Vance employed a densitometer which indicated that the shutter speed was more like 1/30 second.

The Peterson's PHOTOGRAPHIC photograph shows three distinct images of the UFO; thus it provides additional evidence for the stop-and-go mode of operation of UFOs moving at high speed and/or under high accelerations. More direct evidence is supplied by the photograph taken near Sedona, Arizona in 1969.

APRO is in possession of a print of the photo but does not as yet have the negative and camera which will be necessary for a complete and accurate analysis. Neither does APRO have permission to use the photographer's name at this time so we will refer to him

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Photoanalysis

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only as D.G. The basic data, however, are as follows:

Mr. G. was proceeding north out of Sedona, Arizona bound for Flagstaff when he spotted what appeared to be a white Butane tank off on the side of the road. Being familiar with the area he knew there was no tank in that location, so he stopped his car, got out his camera and took a photograph. To his surprise, after he clicked the shutter, the object was gone.

Mr. G. said later that he was about convinced that he had been "seeing things" but when he received the developed film it showed a series of thin white images from the ground up to the cloud cover and a "hole" in the clouds where the object's trail led.

In the latter photograph there are at least 30 "slowed down" phases of the motion where the object momentarily paused between spurts of very high speed travel. On the basis that the camera shutter was open for 1/75 second (this will be verified when we have the camera to work with) the spurts lasted .0005 seconds or less, or on the order of 1/2 millisecond. A calculation for the Oregon photograph shows a spurt interval of .011 seconds, a much slower speed.

Before one is tempted to go to the extreme view that the object "disappeared" between appearances (into the fifth dimension?) it is surely worth while to attempt a somewhat more conventional explanation. After all, if it is to disappear into somebody's fifth, why would it have to reappear at intervals? However, the evidence does point to some very interesting interpretations that are fruitful in the sense that other lines of inquiry may be opened up.

Thus, it does not seem reasonable that air friction could be responsible for the implied deceleration that would have to occur along with the periods of acceleration, just on the basis of the amount of kinetic energy that would have to be destroyed (and dissipated as heat) in the conventional fashion. This suggests the very interesting interpretation that momentum is being added to and subtracted from the vehicle in pulses. This in turn has very interesting implications for the whole of the propulsion problem, for it rules out, at one grand sweep, the whole class of more-or-less conventional propulsion theories. Most of these are rather tedious attempts to show how some extrapolation of current technology could explain UFO propulsion, and in every instance that has come to my attention, have fallen far short of being convincing. The implausibility of such explanations is susceptible to analysis, but it is usually impossible to explain this

to their authors. Thus it is welcome to have the present evidence that UFO propulsion is really out of the realm of propulsion methods based on jet propulsion connected with magnetic bottles or interactive magnetic fields, etc., and placed squarely in the realm of inertia/gravitation phenomena.

But why pulses? For one thing, it seems unlikely on the basis of metric theories of gravitation that ordinary local masses can interact directly with a cosmological field (which remains unknown), but only with the local metric field. However, there may be some intermediate coupling system that can alternately couple with a cosmological field and subsequently with a local metric field, bringing cosmological momentum to bear on a strictly local situation. (Readers who are interested in pursuing gravitation research will find a good recent survey article in *Science*, V 178, N 4066, pp 1157-1164 (by K.L. Nordtvedt, Jr.) (December 15, 1972.)

Another possibility is that momentum can be "stored" in some dynamic sense over a period on the order of 0.001 second; then in an emergency requiring a sudden spurt of speed the craft can move quickly, shunting momentum back and forth between storage and the craft proper until some slower acting means of effecting a change in the average momentum can be brought to bear, perhaps a means that involves a coupling with cosmological fields. There have been many instances reported in which UFOs have made what appear to be instantaneous changes in direction; the shunting of momentum into an internally stored form could be the mechanism that makes that sort of maneuver possible. We see, then, that the photographic evidence (multiple images) for stop-and-go motion during rapid acceleration can be used to explain other kinds of behavior.

(May I suggest that this sort of informed speculation is a bit more fruitful than ideas that the UFO disappeared and then reappeared?)

(Editor's Note: A conversation with Mr. G. just before we went to press with this issue, yielded permission for APRO to use the negative and camera for a complete analysis. Plans have been laid for a trip to Sedona to view and photograph the exact spot. It is felt that if the approximate height of cloud cover can be ascertained, a fairly accurate fix on the speed of the object can be determined. Also, because of the uniqueness of the terrain, there should be no problem determining the size of the object itself. More on this case will appear in a future issue.)

"Flying Christmas Trees" Over Pennsylvania

Residents of Saylor's Lake, Pennsylvania reported to State police in Stroudsburg that strange objects were flying over the area at intervals between 7:25 p.m. and 10:45 p.m. on the night of March 1st. Mrs. Howard Pfeiffer of Saylor's Lake said she and 11 other residents counted 39 objects which passed over the lake at 15 minute intervals. The objects were round, she said, and about the size of a child's wading pool and took about three minutes to pass over the lake.

Mrs. Pfeiffer said the objects came from the west at very low speed, "then picked up a tremendous speed and went like the dickens until they were out of sight."

After the initial call to State police, Trooper Jeffrey Hontz was sent to the area and reported that he had seen four of the objects pass over Saylor's Lake from west to east. "But don't ask me what they were," Hontz said, "it was like a Christmas tree flying in the air." He estimated the altitude of the objects at about 1,500 feet and said that most had white lights and other red or blue lights. He also said that he was assuming that the objects were airplanes but that there was no noise accompanying their flight.

When a reporter for the *Morning Call* at Allentown, Pennsylvania, called the Air Force at the Pentagon about the incidents, Public Information Officer Major Larry Brown said that the Air Force had not been conducting any operations in the Stroudsburg area and that the Air Force has been out of the unidentified flying object business for a long time. He also suggested that such sightings should be reported to someone in the scientific community. No radar confirmation was obtained because there are no radar facilities at the Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton Airport.

State police notified the New York Air Traffic Control Center and were reportedly told that they couldn't track the objects because they were flying too low.

The Case of the Damaged Tennis Court

November 12, Rosmead, South Africa. Hundreds of sightseers from the Middelburg area flocked to neighboring Rosmead on Monday to see a damaged tennis court believed to have been the landing place of a UFO the night before.

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Damaged

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At about 9:30 p.m. on Sunday policemen at Middelburg watched a strange glowing object through binoculars. It appeared to change color and its shape from circular to elliptical. The officers said the light hovered over "a hill" at Rosmead, then disappeared and reappeared. A while later the principal of Rosmead school, Mr. Harold Truter was just arriving home when he saw "a beam like a searchlight" in the sky and he and his wife and children watched it for some time. He then discovered that chunks of tar had been gouged from the school tennis court near his home. The next morning he made a closer inspection and found that there was no damage to the fencing around the court and that the gate was still firmly secured with wire as it had been before the object was seen. He thought it significant that lumps of tar were found caught high up in the tennis court fence. On the 13th, police who were searching the area found lumps of tar on a hill some distance away.

Lieutenant Colonel B.J. van Heerden, District Commandant of Police at Middelburg said that the reports from his men on the object tallied with those of the UFO seen at Fort Beaufort earlier in 1972.

As the investigation continued, it was found that a tree next to the tennis court at Rosmead High School had started to die. It is a large blue gum tree which shows signs of scorching, according to van Heerden. Theories had been advanced that the ten to twelve feet chunks of tar which had been ripped up from the court's surface were caused by a gas explosion or a whirlwind but were discounted because not a piece of tar had been overturned, and the other trees in the vicinity had not sustained any damage.

After the news about the mysterious damage was reported, four men who had been guarding the petrol dumps four hundred meters away on Sunday night made independent statements to the police that they had observed red lights on the courts.

"It looked as if someone in a car without headlights but with tail lights burning were riding around in circles on the tennis court", they told the police. The lights disappeared, they said, and then the whole petrol dump was illuminated with a "strange incandescent light". Riflemen P.K. Nel and S.J. Rosseau said that the lights were on the court and not next door.

A Mr. E. van Zyl, who holds a BSc in astronomy and lectures at the University of Witwatersrand, investigated the case and concluded that the damage was caused by a whirlwind. In a letter to Mr. T. Gear, Director of the Planetarium, he

argued that upon examining the surface of the tennis court "I saw no signs whatever of melting and no signs that could have been made by a rocket or jet blasting off" (here van Zyl makes the fatal error of assuming that whatever was over the court was using a mundane type of propulsion). He also made the flat statement that two holes pressed into the asphalt surface at each end of the court "definitely could not have been made by a leg or stay pressing down into the tar" without listing his reasons. Van Zyl further says, "The whirlwind does not explain the light which was seen on the Sunday night - some folks say they saw a red light, others yellow and some blue! So it must have been a piece of hardware left over from a satellite burning out."

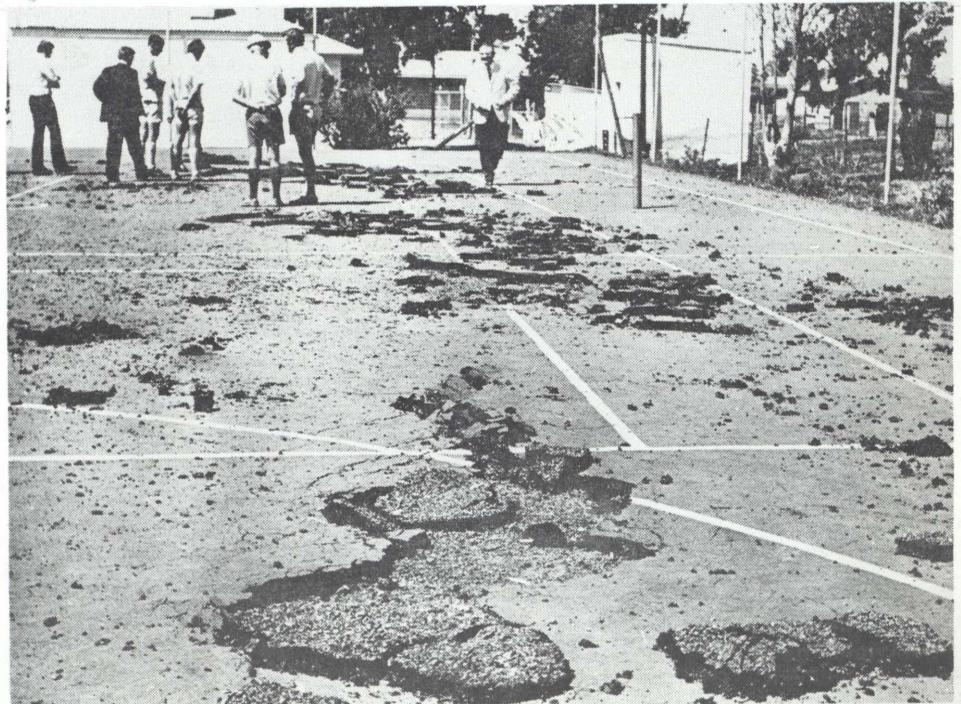
Mr. van Zyl's Menzelian explanation of the cause of the damage to the tennis court conveniently ignores some evidence or distorts it, whichever is the most effective to bolster his theory. Some editorial comments are in order in this case:

Although we do not have exact times for the sightings involved, we can reconstruct to some extent. The petrol dump guards saw two red lights going around in circles - not next to, but on the tennis court. Then the lights disappeared and the petrol dump was lit up. Meanwhile, Principal Truter, arriving home (which is located next to the school) saw a "beam like a searchlight" in the sky. Shortly thereafter he discovered the damage to the court. Now the question is: Did the guards first see a UFO with rotating lights over the court? When they disappeared and the dump was lit up, was Mr. Truter, at the same time looking at the "searchlight" which was

spotlighting the petrol dump? Where Mr. van Zyl's hypothesis is concerned, we must again ask some questions. Can a whirlwind pick up material as heavy as the material which was torn out of the tennis court? Why was asphalt found on a hill some distance away, but there was no evidence of the ravages of a whirlwind between the tennis court and the hill? Why were the green shoots at the base of the gum tree dying the next day? The tree was partially denuded and the remainder of the foliage is withered - it is doubtful that a whirlwind could do that.

A little thought concerning the physics of a whirlwind is very beneficial at this point. A whirlwind and a tornado are of the same family of physical phenomena, with the latter being tremendously more powerful. Tornadoes can uproot trees, carry houses off their foundations, etc., etc. But it is doubtful that there is any case of a tornado tearing up an asphalt or cement pavement. Why? Because the tornado depends on its vacuum to give it lifting power. It is the air in and around an object rushing up to fill the vacuum of the tornado that gives the "twister" its power. Similarly, the much weaker "whirlwind" depends on the vacuum principle for its power. There is little, if any air in asphalt so the odds against a whirlwind tearing up an asphalt pavement are astronomical. It is also difficult to conceive of a whirlwind "sucking" up two-inch-thick chunks of asphalt, dumping them next to the holes they were torn from, but carrying other chunks 1/4 mile away before dropping them. And with no disturbance to trees

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Tennis court where UFO allegedly landed.

Continued, see above

Damaged

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or other vegetation between the two points!

One last point concerning the whirlwind theory: Whirlwinds, depend upon the sharp temperature gradients offered by sunlight in order to form and thus (unless South Africa operates on a different set of physical laws than elsewhere) could not form at night.

Obviously, considerable more work must be done on this case. While the existing evidence does not confirm that a UFO did, indeed, do the damage, it has been established to the satisfaction of Lt. Col. B.J. van Heerden that the damage could not have been caused by humans. Further, he said that he could not explain the cause of the holes or the objects seen.

Celestial Events - April/May, 1973

Some 32% of the UFO cases analyzed by Dr. J. Allen Hynek, astrophysicist, for U.S. Air Force Project 10073 ("SIGN") in 1949 were attributed to astronomical causes. Since then, the percentage of UFO reports due to celestial light sources has changed very little.

In order to assist the Field Investigator in determining conventional explanations for such reports, a column devoted to celestial events will be published in each issue of the Bulletin.

The planet of principal concern in April and May (1973) is *Jupiter*. Reaching its apex in the sky between midnight and noon (morning star), *Jupiter* is the most prominent celestial body (except for the Sun and Moon), with a visual magnitude of -1.7 (on 1 April), gradually brightening to -2.1 by the end of May. (To locate *Jupiter*, see Table 1 below.)

Venus is almost directly behind the Sun (superior conjunction) on 9 April. Late in May, *Venus*, despite its magnitude of -3.5, is still hard to spot, let alone account for sightings of UFOs. *Mars* and *Saturn* are not particularly notable in April and May. *Mercury*, *Uranus*, *Neptune* and *Pluto* individually are always too dim to produce reports of UFOs.

The two brightest stars are *Sirius* (mag. -1.47) and *Canopus* (mag. -0.73), both of which attain their apexes in the evening. (To locate these stars, see Table 1.)

Apparent proximity of two or more celestial bodies (conjunction) may be misinterpreted as a "mother ship" with "satellite craft" or a "formation of UFOs," thus resulting in spurious Type II reports. At 1332 UT (Universal Time) on 6 April, *Mars* (mag. +1.0) passes 0.790

(1½ lunar diameters) South of the 12-times brighter *Jupiter*, the angular distance between the two planets increasing by about 0.7°/day thereafter.

Jupiter is 6 lunar diameters (30°) South of the 46%-illuminated *Moon* at 0515 UT on 26 April. *Jupiter* is again in conjunction with the *Moon* (66% illuminated) at 1616 UT on 23 May. In both instances, the angular separation between the two heavenly bodies is changing about ½°/hour, decreasing before conjunction, and increasing after.

Major meteor showers occur on about 19-24 April, 1-8, 13-25, and 30 May, though the 2-3 times more abundant sporadic meteors may come at any time and from any direction. Meteors may be observed for 2 minutes or longer and their luminous trains may persist for more than 30 minutes. The *Eta Aquarids* (1-8 May) are noted for their persistent trains.

The radiant is the common point of origin in the sky of a given meteor shower. The *Lyrids* (19-24 April), *Eta Aquarids*, *Omicron Cetids* (13-25 May), and *Eta Pegasids* (30 May) have their radiants in the constellations Hercules, Aquarius, Cetus and Pegasus, respectively. However, the moon is 67-98% illuminated (nearly full) during the *Lyrid* shower, and hence only the most brilliant meteors (fireballs, if brighter than mag. -5) will be visible. The *Eta Aquarid* shower will have no interference from moonlight during the new moon phase.

The *Omicron Cetids* and *Eta Pegasids* are daytime showers. Daytime meteors are especially deceptive since few observers expect to be able to see them under daylight conditions (vide the 1969 "Iowa Fireball" case; see next issue). It is unlikely that anyone will sight a daytime meteor and then, of course, report it as a UFO, but the FI should be alerted to the possibility. (To locate the radiants of all four showers, see Table 1.)

Astronomical Ephemeris. Frequently, the approximate locations of various astronomical objects are needed for quantitative correlation with sightings of UFOs. The tables below supply the necessary geocentric ephemeris data for conversion to topocentric (observer) altazimuth coordinates. In general, only the Sun and Moon and those planets and stars of magnitude -1 or brighter and more than 15° distant from the Sun during the time period covered (in addition to meteor showers) will be tabulated.

The latitude and longitude of the observer (at least to the nearest degree) and the Universal Time (sometimes termed GMT, Z, or Zulu) of observation is required. For accuracy better than +5°, the works by Duncombe et al. (cited below) should be consulted.

Altazimuth System. Altitude is the angular distance above the local horizon: +90° is at the zenith (directly overhead),

0° is on the horizon, and negative values are below the horizon. True North is 0° (or 360°) azimuth, East is 90°, South is 180°, and so on. Altitudes are never less than -90° or greater than +90° (or 90°; positive signs may be omitted). Azimuths should always be positive and should never be less than 0° or greater than 360°.

Use of Tables—Altitude. First, find the value of the declination in Table 1 for the appropriate celestial phenomenon. Use linear interpolation to find values between those listed, i.e., use simple proportions. For example: if the date of the observation is 16 April, and only 1 April and 1 May are listed, then the declination on 16 April is the sum of 1 April declination and 15 days/30 days = ½ of the difference between the 1 April and 1 May declinations. Multiples of 360° are subtracted from angles greater than 360°, so interpolate cautiously. E.g., if two adjacent entries are 8° and 357°, then 360° must be added to 8° before interpolating, after which multiples of 360° may be subtracted where possible.

Next, determine the Greenwich Hour Angle (GHA), interpolating if necessary: NOTE: The GHA found in the foregoing manner only represents the GHA at 0000 UT of the date interpolated for. Since the GHA increases approximately 360° each day, the actual GHA at the time of the observation can be determined by adding exactly 15° per hour (or ¼° per minute) of time* after 0000 UT to the first GHA found above. (*E.g.: if the sighting was at 1700 UT, add 17 x 15° = 225° to the first GHA.)

Obtain the Local Hour Angle (LHA) by means of the formula:

LHA = GHA - West longitude (of observer)

or:

LHA = GHA + East longitude (of observer).

Using Table 2, calculate the altitude angle by

$$\sin \text{alt.} = (\sin \text{decl.}) (\sin \text{lat.}) + (\cos \text{decl.}) (\cos \text{LHA}) (\cos \text{lat.})$$

where *sin* is the trigonometric sine, *alt.* is the altitude, *decl.* is the declination, *lat.* is the observer's latitude, and *cos* is the trigonometric cosine (multiplication signs are implied between adjacent parentheses). BE CAREFUL to note the signs of the trigonometric functions (see Table 3). Do not confuse with the signs of angles: North latitude is a positive (+) angle; South latitude is a negative (-) angle.

If the sine* of the altitude angle is negative (-), then the altitude angle is negative, i.e., below the horizon. (*Not sign.)

Azimuth. Once the altitude has been obtained, the azimuth (*az.*) may be found from:

$$(\sin \text{az.}) = -(\cos \text{decl.}) (\sin \text{LHA}) / (\cos \text{alt.})$$

The azimuth will have two values between 0° and 180° if its sine is positive

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Celestial

(Continued from Page Eight)

(+), or between 180° and 360° if its sine is negative (-). This ambiguity can be resolved by comparison of the declination of the heavenly body with the latitude of the observer. Inasmuch as *declination* is only the projection of terrestrial *latitude* onto the *celestial sphere*, if the observer's latitude is North of the object's declination, the object will be seen to the South, and vice versa. Keep in mind, too, that astronomical objects rise in the East and set in the West.

Inquiries. Questions or comments pertaining to the data presented herein may be directed to B.C. Sparks, c/o A.P.R.O., 3910 East Kleindale Rd., Tucson, Arizona 85712, USA.

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J.R. Percy (ed.), *the Observer's Handbook 1973* (Roy. Astr. Soc. of Canada, 252 College St., Toronto 130, Canada; 1972).

G.A. Wilkins (ed.), *Explanatory Supplement to the Ephemeris* (HMSO, London, 1962), \$7.50.

Please Note: Save the foregoing instructions for use of the tables, as well as the trigonometric functions tables which follow in the next two columns.

Table 1: Astronomical Ephemeris (April-May 1973)

Date (0000 UT)	Canopus GHA Dec	Jupiter GHA Dec	Sirius GHA Dec	Sun GHA Dec	Meteor Shower	Date of Maximum	Radiant ¹ GHA Dec
1 Apr	930 -53°	240° -19°	88° -17°	179° + 4°	Lyrid	22 Apr	298° +34°
1 May	123 -53	265 -18	118 -17	181 +15	Fta Aquarid	5 May	247 - 2
1 Jun	154 -53	295 -18	148 -17	181 +22	Omicron Cetid Eta Pegasid	19 May 30 May	209 - 4 267 +30

¹At 0000 UT on the date indicated.

Moon

Date (0000 UT)	GHA Dec	Date (0000 UT)	GHA Dec	Date (0000 UT)	GHA Dec	Date (0000 UT)	GHA Dec
1 Apr	210° - 4°	17 Apr	8° -12°	3 May	180° +20°	19 May	340° -25°
3	187 + 7	19	346 -20	5	150 +25	21	316 -23
5	162 +18	21	322 -24	7	120 +22	23	294 -17
7	133 +24	23	298 -24	9	93 +15	25	272 - 8
9	103 +24	25	275 -19	11	70 + 4	27	251 + 3
11	76 +18	27	253 -11	13	49 - 6	29	227 +14
13	52 + 9	29	231 - 1	15	27 -16	31	199 +22
15	30 - 2	1 May	207 +10	17	4 -22	2 Jun	168 +25

Table 2: Trigonometric Functions

³ Neg. angles (for sine)	Positive angles (for sine)				² sine					Neg. angles ³ (for cosine)
	IV	III	II	I		I	II	III	IV	
0°	360°	180°	180°	0°	0.000	90°	90°	270°	270°	-90°
- 5	355	185	175	5	.087	85	95	265	275	-85
-10	350	190	170	10	.174	80	100	260	280	-80
-15	345	195	165	15	.259	75	105	255	285	-75
-20	340	200	160	20	.342	70	110	250	290	-70
-25	335	205	155	25	.423	65	115	245	295	-65
-30	330	210	150	30	.500	60	120	240	300	-60
-35	325	215	145	35	.574	55	125	235	305	-55
-40	320	220	140	40	.643	50	130	230	310	-50
-45	315	225	135	45	.707	45	135	225	315	-45
-50	310	230	130	50	.766	40	140	220	320	-40
-55	305	235	125	55	.819	35	145	215	325	-35
-60	300	240	120	60	.866	30	150	210	330	-30
-65	295	245	115	65	.906	25	155	205	335	-25
-70	290	250	110	70	.940	20	160	200	340	-20
-75	285	255	105	75	.966	15	165	195	345	-15
-80	280	260	100	80	.985	10	170	190	350	-10
-85	275	265	95	85	.996	5	175	185	355	- 5
-90	270	270	90	90	1.000	0	180	180	360	0
					² cosine	I	II	III	IV	IV
							Positive angles (for cosine)			

²See Table 3 for the signs (+ or -).

³Negative angles less than -90° should not be encountered in these computations and, therefore, are omitted here.

Table 3: Signs of Trig. Functions

Quadrant	Positive angles	sine	cosine	4 Negative angles
I	0° to 90°	+	+	-360° to -270°
II	90 to 180	+	-	-270 to -180
III	180 to 270	-	-	-180 to - 90
IV	270 to 360	-	+	- 90 to 0

⁴Negative angles less than -90° should not be encountered in these calculations.

Aviation Pioneer Talks About UFOs

John Northrup, 80-year-old founder of the Northrup Aircraft Company and co-founder of Lockheed Corporation told an audience of faculty members and students at the California Institute of Technology (Caltech) that he gives credence to the existence of UFOs and believes they are flown by scientists from an advanced civilization. During his talk he related the details of a sighting by Max Stanley, Northrup's chief pilot and a close friend in the early days of the aviation firm and by Stanley's two companions on a 1950 flight from Texas to California.

The men told of flying at 20,000 feet and sighting a metallic-appearing translucent object which was at an estimated 80,000 feet altitude and which appeared at times to fly sideways.

Northrup noted that obviously many sightings are false, but said that "there is much wheat in all that chaff", and that the "wheat" is contained in hundreds of reports by reliable sources: scientists, radar engineers and police officials.

In referring to the negative report issued from the University of Colorado, based on the \$300,000 study headed by Dr. Edward U. Condon, Northrup said: "The 21st century will die laughing at the Condon Report. I feel it is one of the most deliberate cover-ups ever perpetrated on the public."



Brazilian UFO Congress

The Fifth Brazilian UFO Congress convened in Sao Paulo, Brazil, on the 21st of October and Mrs. Irene Granchi, APRO's Field Investigator in Rio de Janeiro, opened the sessions with a 45-minute talk about APRO, its history, accomplishments and goals.

The afternoon session included a joint work of Mrs. Granchi and Mr. Cleto Nunez concerning the 26th of July 1972 UFO sightings in the State of Rio as well as a presentation of five case histories which had been investigated by Mrs. Granchi.

Hulvio Brant Aleixo presented results of his investigations, including a colored slide of a huge UFO taken by an architect, which closely matches the descriptions given in other sightings, and which occurred on July 26th, 1972.

During the Symposium, Mrs. Granchi showed the Recommended Procedures for Field Investigators, which elicited much interest from the audience of 500 people and her available copies of the Eastern UFO Symposium transcript were purchased immediately after being shown. Mrs. Granchi has since purchased additional copies of the transcript to disseminate among interested UFO enthusiasts. In view of the number of inquiries coming out of Brazil concerning membership in APRO, it is obvious that Mrs. Granchi did an excellent job (as usual) and is to be commended for her efforts.

Delegates from Rio, Sao Paulo, Belo Horizonte, Minas Gerais, Mato Grosso, Porto Alegre, Rio Grande do Sul, Curitiba, Salvador, as well as Buenos Aires attended.

The meetings were held in the "Brasilia Machado Neto" auditorium. President of Honor was General Moacyr de Mendonca Uchoa and President Moderator was Flavio A. Pereira, APRO's Representative for Brazil.

Ivan Sanderson Dies

Ivan Sanderson, the noted naturalist and prolific writer, passed away on February 19, at the age of 62, of cancer.

Mr. Sanderson first gained national attention in 1937 when his book "Animal Treasure" was published.

A native of Edinburgh, Scotland, Mr. Sanderson made the first of his many expeditions at the age of 17 on behalf of the British Museum where he collected small animals during a period between studies at Eton and Cambridge Universities.

After he received his bachelor's degree in zoology, geology and botany, he led a



Mrs. Granchi addresses Brazilian UFO Congress. Seated, from left to right, are: General Moacyr Uchoa, Prof. Flavio A. Pereira, Mr. Guilherme Wirz (ABECE), and Mrs. Irene Granchi.

small expedition to the Cameroons in West Africa where he spent a year collecting small animals and observing them in their natural habitat. He was on assignment from the British Museum and Cambridge and London Universities.

In 1939 "Caribbean Treasure", his second book, was published, and "Living Treasure", dealing with Jamaica, British Honduras and Yucatan followed in 1941.

Mr. Sanderson served with British naval intelligence in World War II after which he settled in Columbia, New Jersey which was his home at the time of his death.

Among Mr. Sanderson's more recent books were "Elephants" (1959), "Abominable Snowmen: Legend Come to Life" (1961), "The Continent We Live On" (1961) and "Ivan Sanderson's Book of Great Jungles" (1966).

Bulletin readers will remember Mr. Sanderson for his excellent book, "Invisible Residents" published by World Publishing Company in 1970. "Uninvited Visitors" was another of his books which deals with UFOs, and "Things", and "More Things" were two of his books which dealt with unexplained things and happenings, generally known as Fortean.

Mr. Sanderson founded the Society For The Investigation of the Unexplained and published the Society's periodical, named "Pursuit".

Known and respected for his work in the UFO research field, Ivan Sanderson will be sorely missed by all.

Object Sighted In Uganda

United Press International carried a news item on the 5th of March, 1973 which told of the sighting of a UFO by President Idi Amin on the 3rd of the month. Radio Uganda allegedly broadcast the news and the object was described as falling into Lake Victoria and then taking off again like a "gentle rocket". The broadcast also said that Amin was among a number of people who saw "a spectacular object covered with something like smoke" descending into the lake at about noon. The observer were approximately 10 miles from the lake. The broadcast further said that "after some seven minutes, the object was seen lifting off like a rocket being fired but moving gently", and that as it disappeared into the sky "the last portion of it was seen like the tail of a big snake."

President Amin was quoted by Radio Uganda as saying that the object was "of great significance" and "a sign of good luck to Uganda" and urged all who had seen it to attend prayers.

The foregoing information was widely disseminated by the press wires and carried in newspapers throughout the United States. It is not likely that President Amin will be available to researchers for interviews but an attempt will be made to locate and interview other observers.

Members: Please give the date and source (name of magazine or newspaper) when forwarding clippings.

Primary Analysis Of 22 September 1972 Western Pacific AP¹

Until the conflicting details of this case² are resolved, only a tentative analysis can be attempted here.

One source says the reported TWA sighting took place at "11 a.m. (Greenwich time)" (1100 Universal Time), another says "about 11 p.m." (or 1300 UT, if Guam time). A supposedly simultaneous observation from Okinawa-jima places the time at 11:30 UT.

It would seem that the "TWA spokesman" quoted by UPI was mistaken when he said that TWA Flight 745 was "flying from Okinawa to Bangkok." Flight 745 stops at Honolulu, Guam and Hong Kong en route to Bangkok; the TWA official apparently confused the morning (Pacific Standard Time) Flight 745 with the evening Flight 743 that has additional stops at Okinawa-jima and Taipei.³ The pilot, Capt. David Shifflet, stated that "we were flying from Guam to Hong Kong." And the rather dubious reported times (above) appear to agree with the schedule for the morning flight (745).

But what is a plane that is travelling from Guam to Hong Kong doing just 560 kilometers southeast of Okinawa-jima, unless it is actually flying from Guam to Okinawa-jima?

The description of the AP⁴ and the circumstances surrounding its observation⁵ suggest a space object decay ("re-entry"). On 22 September 1972 (assuming this sighting date to be correct) there were two decays⁶:

Kosmos 518-associated object (COSPAR 1972 70B,⁷ NORAD 6187)⁸

Explorer 44-associated object (COSPAR 1971 58C, NORAD 5319).

If we accept Capt. Shifflet's estimate of the AP's heading as SSE (azimuth = $157.50 \pm 11.25^\circ$) and assume the airliner was 560 kilometers SE of Okinawa-jima (so its latitude would be between 21°N and 24°N), then upper and lower limits for the AP's orbital inclination can be found, and we can perhaps determine which object could have been involved in the sighting.

From the airliner's altitude of 10 kilometers an object at 50 kilometers altitude (i.e., a decaying space object) is within line-of-sight from a distance of about 10.4° of arc (geocentric angle), maximum. Thus, the AP might have been at a latitude between 10.6°N and 34.4°N .

With the equation

$$i = \cos^{-1}(\cos L \sin H)$$

where i is the inclination, L is the latitude, and H is the heading, the AP's

inclination is found to be between 56.9° and 80.7° (optimum value: 69.30°).⁹

Object 1972 70B/6187 (inclination: 72.9°)¹⁰ may have been responsible for this AP sighting as it appears that 1971 58C/5319 (inclination: 51.2°)¹¹ can probably be eliminated. I will await further data on this case before obtaining the location of the decay of 1972 70B/6187.

Brad Sparks

APRO member

18 December 1972; revised 17 February 1973.

Notes and References

1. Atmospheric Phenomenon; see proposed Standard Anomalous Phenomena (AnP) Nomenclature (in preparation).

2. *The A.P.R.O. Bulletin*, vol. 21, no. 2, pp. 5-6 (September-October 1972); *Flying Saucer Review*, vol. 18, no. 6, pp. 31-32 (November-December 1972); *National Enquirer*, vol. 47, no. 25, p. 28 (18 February 1973).

3. Trans World Airlines, Inc., San Francisco information (10 December 1972, 9 February 1973, 17 February 1973).

4. For example, fragmentation of the main body in "...big pieces ... great, hot flakes ..."

5. E.g., the duration was about 75 seconds - quite long for a meteor - but not unusual for a satellite decay; the speed, estimated to be "much too slow" for a meteor, is in accord with earth-orbital velocities.

6. NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, *Satellite Situation Report*, vol. 12, no. 9, p. 39 (30 September 1972); vol. 12, no. 12, pp. 114, 124 (31 December 1972).

7. United Nations Committee On Space Research (COSPAR) International Designation.

8. North American Air Defense Command (NORAD) Space Detection And Tracking System (SPADATS) Object Number.

9. If we assume that Flight 745 was flying from Guam to Hong Kong, i.e., that the airliner was at a latitude between that of Agana Naval Air Station ($13^\circ 29'\text{N}$) and Kai Tak Airfield ($22^\circ 18'\text{N}$) assuming a great-circle route, then the AP's latitude must be between 3.1°N and 32.7°N . The orbital inclination of the AP is then between 56.3° and 80.5° (optimum value: 68.6°).

10. *Satellite Situation Report*, vol. 12, no. 9, p. 38 (30 September 1972).

11. *Ibid.*, vol. 12, no. 8, p. 31 (31 August 1972).

Flap in Alabama

Beginning on December 27, there was a concentration of sightings of unidentified flying objects in the vicinity of Lexington, Alabama. Field Investigator Bill Rogers has forwarded a total of 17 reports which he investigated, but we will present only six, which give the best detail.

On the 30th of January four days had passed since Mr. Rogers began looking into the sightings which took place around Lexington. At 6:30 p.m. on that evening he arrived in Lexington and proceeded to set up communications. He and three other individuals in three other cars went in different directions and kept in touch via radio. By 9 p.m. Mr. Rogers had received three different calls but each time was too late reaching the site to observe anything.

Mr. Rogers then decided to "call it a night" and he and two others headed up Highway 101 to Elgin Cross Roads. While on Highway 101 Rogers decided to take a look at the new garbage dump from which prior reports had emanated. At about a mile from the dump he spotted a yellowish-orange-white light traveling at a very slow speed just above the tree tops and approximately one mile to his right. He got out of the car with his companion and with two pairs of binoculars they observed the object for 2 to $2\frac{1}{2}$ minutes. While watching it seemed to be observing something below it. After about a minute the object, which had a shape between that of a sphere and an egg, moved up about 40 feet and then slowly started moving down as if it was going to land. The trio piled into the car and headed in the direction where the object apparently was located; meantime Rogers checked the geiger counter and other equipment to be sure they were ready for use. When rounding the sharp curve where the dump starts one of the men shouted: "Look at that thing". Rogers skidded the car to a halt and got out. The object appeared just above a hill with only about $1/3$ of it showing. By the time all had gotten out of the car the object had gone down behind the hill but the glow was still visible. A second later it came up just above the hill again and Rogers noticed that the geiger counter began clicking wildly, and the dial showed a reading of 400 volts and 250 milliroentgens. A second later the object sank down behind the hill again and the geiger counter reading went back to normal. A few seconds later the object came back up again and this time Rogers shone a spotlight at it and the object fluttered a little and sank down behind the hill again. This maneuver was repeated two more times and each time the object made its

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Alabama

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appearance the geiger counter would show the same reading, Rogers would shine a light at the object and it would sink below the crest of the hill. The fifth time the object went down its glow went out as if a light had been switched off. All of the up and down maneuvers took not more than 12 seconds.

After the object's glow was completely diminished the men attempted to drive to the area where it had been but no roads led to that area so they quit for the night.

Weather conditions during the sighting were the following: Clear, no precipitation, light and variable wind from the east, temperature 26°.

The next sighting we will deal with took place on a night between the 1st and 3rd of February, and the witness, Philip Nix, 18, does not recall the exact date. He claimed he was coming home from his girl friend's home and where the road intersects with Highway 64, he stopped and looked both ways before pulling onto the highway. He could see for 200-300 yards both ways. "All of a sudden there was light all over the road and at first I thought I had pulled out in front of a car, so I sped up," Nix said. His rear view mirror was on "night" reflection but it still looked like daylight behind him. He then looked above the car and saw an egg-shaped, shiny object about 40 feet above his car.

At this time Nix was going 70 miles per hour and the object stayed the same distance above the car and maintained the same speed. Just as he arrived at the crest of the hill leading into Lexington the object seemed to hesitate, then was gone at tremendous speed, and appeared to have gone down behind the trailer factory.

Approximately two weeks later (he doesn't recall exact time or date) Nix was again coming home in his car and just before he turned into the driveway of his home he noticed a bright glow behind the house. He hurried to the garage, thinking the field was on fire. He said he watched it for perhaps 3 or 4 minutes before he realized there was no fire. The bright glow was moving up and down and across under the high voltage wires in the field. Nix ran into the house and got his brother Mike and the two watched it for about a minute before they went back in to get their mother, father and sister. At this time it seemed to be right on the ground or not more than a few feet above it. When the family got back outside they all got a good look before the light which looked like a large fire faded out "as if someone had flipped a switch" and it appeared to have the same egg shape as the object he had seen two weeks before. The family then went to bed and didn't attempt to observe further; Nix assumes

the object was still out in the field.

Weather conditions accompanying this sighting were: Clear sky, no precipitation, no wind, temperature approximately 35°, and the moon was out and very bright.

Mrs. Wylodean Nix, the mother of Philip, Mike and Gayla Nix (18, 20 and 16, respectively) reported approximately what Philip described, except that she was able to establish that the second of Philip's sightings took place on a Sunday which would place the sighting on the 18th of February and she established the time as 12:20 a.m. (duration five minutes from the time she sighted it).

The last two reports in this case pertain to the sighting of the Nix family, with Gayla and son Mike describing their version of the incident. The description is generally the same as that of Philip and Mrs. Nix although Gayla and Mike set the date of the sighting at the 10th. Weather conditions, time and sequence of events all tally with those of the other witnesses.

On the 4th of February Field Investigator Bill Rogers made his second sighting of a UFO in the Lexington area. The sky was clear with no precipitation, wind light and variable from the south from 3 to 5 miles per hour and the temperature was 42°. At 7:35 Rogers received a call from an individual whom he deemed reliable, to the effect that he and several others had followed a UFO to Rogersville, Alabama. Rogers asked him to keep observing it and call again if there seemed to be a justification for another trip (Rogers had gone out in response to several calls that week, most of which were worthless cases).

At 8 p.m. the man called again, saying that he was at Wheeler Dam (which is part of the Tennessee Valley Authority). While on the phone Rogers also talked to the lock attendant who also said that he had seen something out of the ordinary. He then called the State Police, asking them to contact a unit in the area of Rogersville to see if he had seen it, but the patrolman on duty was not in his car at the time. Rogers then obtained clearance to speed out to Wheeler. Driving at 85 to 90 miles per hour he arrived there in about 10 to 15 minutes and talked to the witnesses for a short period. They said they had lost sight of it on the other side of the Tennessee River in some trees. Rogers was about to give up when one of the fellows pointed out a ball of light moving over the tree tops to the southeast of their position at the dam. It looked like a fog light, they said, but a little different shade of color. It was traveling just above the treetops heading toward the river. When it reached the end of the tree line or where the shore of the river starts, it started heading toward the river as if it was going to crash. Just before it was in a position to make contact with the water, the lock of the dam blocked Rogers' view. Rogers ran to

the end of the lock and searched for the object using binoculars, but could see nothing. He and his companions kept a close watch for about 9 or 10 minutes and were about to leave when they noticed an object or the same object rising up from the surface of the water on the Lauderdale County side of the river, going in the general direction of Huntsville, Alabama or Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant about 15 miles distant, at treetop level. It had the same appearance as before except that it was going at high speed and it was shortly out of sight.

After the object had left, a security policeman drove up and Rogers asked if he had seen the object. The officer said he hadn't but that it was a helicopter from Huntsville heading toward TVA. Rogers pointed out that the object made no noise, had no running lights and left him with the question: "Why would it be skimming the tree tops and heading toward Huntsville?"

After arriving at home, Rogers called the Federal Aviation Administration in Muscle Shoals and asked if a helicopter had come in from Huntsville and was told that there were no flights charted from Huntsville. He then called the control tower at the Huntsville airport and asked if they had picked up any "unknowns" on radar to which the spokesman replied that they had not. He then asked if they had had a call from a TVA guard about the helicopter. The spokesman said that he had been on duty for three hours and no helicopter was charted to TVA for the past two days and none for the night of the 4th.

Press Reports

September 16, 1972, Saint Loup (20 kilometers from Montpellier, France). M.N.: Towards 9:30 a.m. he was taking pictures of the countryside when his attention was attracted by an object having the form of a metallic disc and the size of a Caravelle Jet. The object crossed the sky in a western direction at a height of 800 meters. Mr. N. had the time to take several photos. This information was sent by Representative Richard Niemtzw, and included a clipping from Midi LIBRE, including one of the photos.

September 29, 1972, Shawano, Wisconsin, U.S.A. R.W. Pedersen, 50, a Shawano City engineer said that he and his wife had been bowling in Vonduel and were driving north to nearby Cecil at about 9 p.m. when they saw a "piercing white light" about 10 times the size of an airport beacon, which appeared to tumble and blink on and off about 200 feet in the air. Pedersen said: "It was not marsh gas and not a balloon. I spent three years in the Air Force and saw perhaps 8,000

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Press Reports

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aircraft landings. I never saw a light like that. A helicopter could travel 55 m.p.h. but not with the acceleration or that speed. That's not even the right term, because acceleration implies a buildup of speed, and this was instantaneous." In the same article in the Milwaukee Journal sightings dating back to July were cited. One woman claimed she had a UFO land in her back yard and had talked to the occupants. No credence seemed to be given her report.

December 7, 1972, Couva, W.I. "A ball of fire as big as Port-of-Spain" was reported by Yogi Bholasingh and two companions. While the trio watched the object split into three separate balls and proceeded across the sky and "merged with the horizon disappearing like if the sun was setting." The whole incident allegedly lasted for 15 minutes.

December 22, 1972, Kauhajoki, Finland. Veikko Kivioja and Seppo Oja reported that on Friday morning at between 2 and 2:30 a.m. they saw three "very shiny beings" walking in single file on the side of the road. They made no sound, the pair claimed, but projected a shiny light which curved upwards. The beings appeared to be tall and slim, their upper body angular and "finned". No footprints were found. A few hours and some distance from the original sighting, another man observed what seemed to be the same three beings. Veikko said that he nearly drove into the ditch when he spotted the three beings off to the left of the road, and had to swerve to avoid them.

December 29, 1972, Florence, Alabama, U.S. For the third night in a row UFOs were reported in the area. A musical group from Florence who were driving along U.S. Highway 72 said they saw two brightly lit hovering objects in the vicinity of the Jetport turnoff. Other sightings allegedly took place northwest of Athens.

January 6, 1973, Kalmar District, Sweden. Undertaker Hilding Wennberg of Borgholm, while on a hunting trip with two companions, spotted what appeared to be a very bright star which shortly began to move and disappeared into the sky leaving a smoke trail behind. A few minutes later it reappeared and the three watched as it slowly sank down toward the sea and out of sight.

January 6 and 7, 1973, Oskarshamn, Sweden. Mr. and Mrs. Bo Rudberg and their daughter of Hogsby wondered if the object they saw on these dates could have been a UFO. They were just outside of town when they saw a round body with an outer circle. It hovered not far from the ground at various locations and sometimes stopped still for several

minutes. It was described as brightly shining in yellow, red, blue and green.

January 13, 1973, Marion, Wisconsin, U.S. At between 5 and 6 p.m. Witness (unidentified) was proceeding east on Highway G when he saw a red light in the sky which was too slow and too low for an airplane. It was just ahead and to his left and he could see two big red lights, one on each side of the saucer-shaped thing with an "after-burner" coming out of the back. It crossed the road ahead of the car, then swung toward Marion. As he turned onto Highway 110 the object started back to its original position, then disappeared behind a hill.

January 17, 1973, between Charlotte, North Carolina and Harrisburg, Pa. News photographer Tommy Franklin of the *Charlotte News*, Charlotte, North Carolina, along with reporter Edith Low, followed trucker Gerald Sumney in his semi-trailer truck on the 500-mile route between Charlotte and Harrisburg. Sumney had reported that he had been followed at various times by an unidentified flying object which he described as oval-shaped with a fluorescent-like glow. Franklin obtained one photo of the object with a Nikon F camera with 300 mm lens, 1/125th at 4.5, focused on infinity. The photo shows merely a round, glowing mass. A photo taken by Gerald Sumney on a previous occasion shows an oval-shaped glowing mass at about telephone-pole height.

January 23, 1973, Chicago, Illinois, U.S. A bar of light appeared over Chicago on the evening of the 23rd and glowed brightly for more than an hour according to hundreds of residents who reported the phenomenon to news agencies and the police department. Dr. J. Allen Hynek, Director of the Lindheimer Observatory at Northwestern University said that the phenomenon appeared to resemble an aurora borealis which, he said, in rare instances has been sighted in directions other than north. However, the conflicting directions reported seemed to preclude this explanation, he said. Witnesses on the near north side of Chicago reported seeing it in the north, but others said they observed the bar of light in the southeast. One witness said he first thought it was the beam of a searchlight but discarded that explanation because it did not reach the ground. An astronomy student at Northwestern U. saw the phenomenon and said that it appeared as three streamers of light, one of which glowed more brightly than the others.

The Federal Aviation Administration and the Weather Service both reported that their radar did not register anything unusual at the time.

No exact date, mid-February, 1973, Monterrey of Asseri, Costa Rica. Carlos Quesada, 16, and Elias Cordoba, 15, spotted a cigar-shaped bluish-green object

which they estimated to be about the size of a Volkswagon while on a hiking trip. The two were left behind the main group when Quesada sprained his ankle. When they reported the incident at San Jose, they said the object had landed near the mountain peak after they watched it flying high over the Pacific. They said it landed soundlessly about 15 kilometers from their location.

On The South American Scene

Jorge E. Parra O., APRO's Representative for Colombia, has forwarded translations of three news clippings pertaining to UFO reports on the South American Continent:

February 5, 1973, Huila, Colombia. Night was turned into day when a light source from a nearby hill lit up Palmarito. Some thought that the end of the world had come, but 50 men armed with guns and machetes decided to find the source of the light and climbed the hill only to find that it had gone out. They did, however, find where something had been sitting on the ground for they located a circular hole of about 50 centimeters in diameter (about 20 inches) and two meters (about 6½ feet) in depth. The walls of the hole resembled black volcanic rock. Samples of this substance were sent to the laboratories of Instituto Agustin Codazzi and Instituto Geofisico de los Andes for examination.

Although the clipping is somewhat garbled, it appears that several people saw the light source and also saw it disappear into the sky.

February 9, 1973, San Andres Island, (Colombia). Several people including a reporter claimed to have watched strange flying objects at 3 a.m. The reporter, Ben Levi Pechthalt Mesa, and his wife, were near the principal beach and the airport when they sighted three cone-shaped objects with an opaque yellow light on the top and a green light on the bottom. The lower part of the objects rotated while the top did not. The objects hovered, then flew off in different directions, disappearing from sight. The reporter and his wife drove to the airport and noted that others had watched the objects also, among whom were several tourists including the owner of a bar, an employee of a local hotel and a lawyer.

February 21, 1973, Lima, Peru. Numerous individuals reported observing a round, brilliant object at about 1,000 meters (about 3,000 feet) altitude. When it stopped in midair it displayed red, yellow and green lights, they said, and then flew out to sea, disappearing in a flash of light as though exploding.