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BULLETIN



ARIEL SCHOOL REPORT (CONT.) Case N° 96
(UFO AFRINEWS N° 11)

The Ariel School case developed much further when an interview with the children was made by Dr John Mack. He spent two days speaking to them and was able to elicit a great deal more information. I am sure he will report this himself at a later date.

I have also found out that some of the children actually saw a 'cigar-like' object on the Thursday, September 15th, 1994, the day before the general sighting. One young boy said that as he was driving from school with his mother - in broad daylight - on the 15th September, they saw an object ahead of them.

This sighting was verified by three little girls who were sitting in the playground on the Thursday and observed the mysterious object, 'like a cigarette in the sky' very briefly, when it then disappeared. Had it been after the Friday event, I would have been wary of the report, as they could easily have been influenced by the big event. This report is being investigated and will be reported on in a later issue.

Fiona, aged 9, said that on the Friday she could see this strange object, very bright, over in the bush and something dark on the object. But she could not identify it as a 'little man'; she says: 'It could have been a branch or something like that.'

I was impressed by the honesty of the children. When they weren't sure, they were hesitant; when they were sure, they spoke out quickly and confidently.

It was a cross-section of Zimbabweans: black African children from several tribes, coloured children (a cross-breeding of black and white), Asian children (with parents born in Zimbabwe but whose grandparents had come from India) and white children, mostly Zimbabwean-born, but whose parents were either from South Africa or Britain.

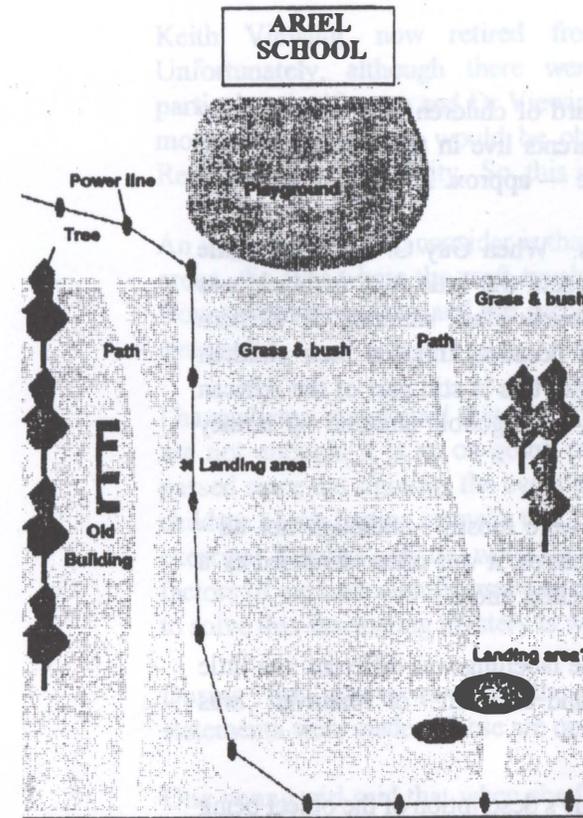


Figure 2: Map of Sightings

Ariel School is a privately-owned Primary School with classes from the smallest 5-6 year olds, to Grade 7 class with children of 11 and 12 years.

Emma C.: 'I saw the objects disappear. They went up about a metre and then they disappeared. The little men were wearing clothes which were very, very shiny black. Like a diving suit and tight-fitting. I saw a glimpse of his face; his eyes were big. I thought they were aliens from another planet.'

Lisa P.: 'I saw this silver thing lying on its side. A man dressed in black came out. He had big eyes. I thought it was an alien and then I thought it was the gardener.'

Earlier that day, Mrs Stevens, whose farm is close to the school, said that she had got up to go to the bathroom, in the early hours, when she saw a huge orange glow from her window, over her chicken house. It was like a big round ball. She had never seen anything like it before and rushed to call her husband; but when he came, it had gone!



Figure 3: Drawing from Ariel School — Note the two figures above the object, also lights and several 'square' portholes. It appears to be hovering.

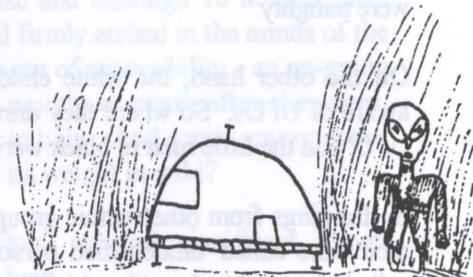


Figure 4: Drawing from Ariel School — No hair shown but eyes distinctive. Two tines or legs; only one window, but doorway seen.



Figure 5: Drawing from Ariel School — No facial features, but two figures seen.

The school is expensive and the standard of children is of a reasonably high intellectual level. Most of the parents live in the area but several come from Harare and do the long drive — approx. 20 Km — every day.

Obviously there are cultural differences. When Guy G. asked two little boys why they were crying, they both said the little man in black was 'coming to eat' them. They were obviously black children, as Western parents no longer (certainly for several decades) threaten their children with demons who come and eat you. But this is still part of the African culture where 'the *Tokolosh* could very well gobble children up if they were naughty.'

On the other hand, the white children were mostly - although not all - aware of UFOs. So where they drew pictures, it was often identified as 'a UFO' and the little men in black were labelled 'aliens'.

In drawings from other ethnic groups the labelling was different: the little men were called 'unidentified persons' and the craft - or whatever - was called 'the machine', or 'the object'.

Farai M., aged about 11, agreed with Guy's description of the object being striped with green, black and silver.

One of the boys told me that he thought at first that the little man in black might have been Mrs Stevens' gardener, but then he saw the figure had long, straight black hair¹, 'not really like African hair', so he realised he had made a mistake!

Shortly after the event (certainly within 7 days), Gunter Hofer drove out to Ariel School and, using a map of the area - see drawing - took samples of the soil from several different areas. These were subsequently analysed by the Chemistry & Soil Research Institute, Department of Research and Specialist Services, free of charge, and the readings simplified for us by Dr

See UFO AFRINEWS N° 11 for similarities of the 'long black hair' description.

Keith Viewing, now retired from the University of Zimbabwe. Unfortunately, although there were some anomalies, none were of particular significance and Dr Viewing suggested that a better and perhaps more relevant reading would be obtained from the Institute of Mining Research at the University. So, this is our next step.

An important issue to consider is that the children pointed out two landing areas, the first where the craft touched down - at the third electricity pole from their viewpoint - and the second landing point, where the little men emerged.

I have always maintained that one or two visits to any important UFO case are not enough; it is an on-going exercise and although 10 months have passed since the sighting, the event is still firmly etched in the minds of the children. I am hoping to make this - because of accessibility - an on-going exercise. I realise only too well that even months or years after the event, factors of extreme significance can come to light. And surely any evidence to solve this fascinating mystery is worth its weight in gold?

During the interviews with the children, several significant, direct statements were made. These are quoted here.

One young girl said that when she first looked, she saw three figures: one in red, one in white and one in black. The one in black was sitting on the 'spaceship'. This was the first time the word 'spaceship' had been used. She admitted that she had presumed that what she saw was a UFO.

Guy G: said that the objects were disc-shaped and were glinting among the trees before landing. He pointed out the landing place as at the third pole from the school grounds and the objects had come in along the electricity wires towards this area.

Of the little man, Guy said: 'He was quite lightish in colour, not black. His clothes were black. But there was no noise. And they disappeared into the valley down there' (Below the landing site).

Oriana: 'I saw this black stick, a very thin, long thing on top of the silver thing.'

Colin Mackie, Headmaster: 'I feel sure the children saw something. I don't believe or disbelieve, but they definitely saw SOMETHING. I agree that it could be something natural with which we are not familiar, but it was certainly seen by the children.'

Nathaniel said he saw 'a ship' land on the ground. It had an elongated hull with a platform around the side, and a small man in black was running around. He was about one-metre-plus tall.

Luke N.: 'I saw the little man. He had long black hair and was all in black. He looked like a shadow of something.'

Trevor: 'I was walking towards the school as the bell had rung, and I saw flashes of light from the corner of my eye.'

Daniel M.: 'I saw this silver thing among the trees, with one thing sitting on the side and another on top. Then they were running back and forth. It looked like a real person but it was quite plump.² At first I thought it was someone from the compound (labourers' quarters) playing around, but his hair was not like the usual African hair - very curly and close to the head - it was almost like a hippy's hair, long and black.'

Emily B.: 'I saw the little men with longish black hair and big black eyes. They turned round and stared at me and went back into a kind of ship. There was only one ship and some little ones scattered around it. I could see their big eyes and long hair. I definitely saw them!'

Charity S.: 'I saw this silver thing and a person in black alongside it. It looked like a saucer.' When asked by Tim Leach of the BBC if she had heard of UFOs, Charity replied: 'I've not heard of UFOs before.'

² Only mention of the little figure being 'plump'.

How does one assess a sighting like this? Were the children highly imaginative or were they dreaming? Is the whole UFO experience a mental aberration with which we are not familiar? Were the children - as has been suggested by one friend - in a state of hysteria, as has happened recently in some girls' schools in Zimbabwe? But in checking out the latter, the hysterical girls were at the age of puberty (14/15/16 year olds) and were only girls. Here, as many - if not more - boys were involved and the ages of the witnesses ranged from 7 to 12 years.

None of this proves anything, one way or another, but one cannot help feeling that a statement is being made. What it is, well, as John Mack says, that's the question!

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