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# SPOTLIGHT ON ... WHAT THE UFO WATCHERS ARE UP TO

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One minute Jonathan Reed was hiking with his golden retriever in a forest in Seattle. The next, his dog was being torn apart by a "grey" - an alien being with an elongated head and smelling of rotting fruit.

Reed, a former child-developmental psychologist, said he took the alien home and lived with it for nine days, during which it communicated via telepathy and pulled thoughts from his mind.

Reed and others, including Rafael Ulloa, a Uruguayan who says aliens in spaceships spirited people away from New York's twin towers on September 11, 2001, are gathering in Lima, Peru, this week for a world extraterrestrial congress.

Peru has long been a magnet for mystics and there have been abundant reports of flying saucers, es-

pecially over the southern town of Chilca. Some locals say aliens have imbued mud springs there with curative and fertility powers.

The congress is organised by the Alfa y Omega group, which believes a fleet of UFOs will fly to Earth at the end of the world and Christ may use one for his second coming.

The congress will pore over photos and grainy films of flashes and spooky shapes which, believers say, point to alien life forms.

A retired US Air Force lieutenant-colonel, Donald Ware, 69, told journalists that his first contact with aliens was in 1953, when he saw seven UFOs over Washington.

He saw no signs of extraterrestrial life during his service but said he had seen alien craft eight times since retiring in 1982.

Wendelle Stevens, a retired US Air Force colonel, said he believed in aliens after investigating 100 cases, despite never having seen any himself. Stevens, thought to have the largest archive of photographs of UFOs in the world, says he worked in Alaska during 1947-49 with B-29 aircraft fitted with instruments to "detect the visitors".

His work there began the year the US military is believed by some to have hushed up two purported crashes of alien spacecraft within a month.

The air force denies the stories.

Stevens said he did not believe in aliens before his work, which was to debrief B-29 crews. He said "the radio frequency spectrum went completely haywire ... and the temperature in the airplane increased.

[The crew] looked out and there's a disc next door." He said the crew took photographs with four different types of camera but the military suppressed the pictures.

One of the most unusual testimonies is from Reed on his 1996 experience with the alien he came to call Freddie.

Reed, who said he has a bracelet belonging to the extraterrestrial, said Freddie had skin "almost like that of a pig". He breathed and had red blood, but did not speak. Reed said tests showed he had 46 chromosomes, like humans, but nine were different and resembled those of dolphins and sea turtles.

Reed says he was shot after his alien encounter and blames a "government faction which doesn't want this information out".

Reuters