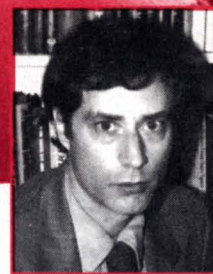


UFO CHRONICLE

by J. Antonio Huneus



Dialog With the Universe in Germany

Last October I attended the Dialog with the Universe international UFO conference in Kaarst, Germany, sponsored by Ingrid Schlotterbeck and Michael Hesemann, publishers of *Magazin 2000*. About 500 people came to hear more than 30 speakers from a dozen countries during a four-day period. It was similar to the American Whole Life Expos, with media in attendance and ongoing lectures running from 9:00 A.M. to midnight or beyond.

The biggest news of the conference was Giorgio Bongiovanni's top-secret videotape showing a crashed disk inside a hangar. It runs for a couple of minutes and shows a large disk hanging vertically from the roof. The disk has dented sections, suggesting an accident. The original is black and white 16 mm film transferred to video, like Santilli's alien autopsy. After a scene of the disk in the hangar, one can see several buildings of a military base, presumably Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio, with its legendary Hangar 18.

The main weakness of the footage is that at no time can one see soldiers or any other people walking around the artifact. There is little information about this new film. It was given to Bongiovanni, a controversial Italian who is a contactee and a stigmatic, who shows permanent wounds on his hands, feet, and forehead, originally received in 1989 at Fatima, Portugal. Bongiovanni is well-versed in the ufological culture as a protégé of Sicilian contactee Eugenio Siragusa. Although little-known in the U.S., Siragusa's apocalyptic message spread in Europe and

Latin America. Bongiovanni claims the film was given to him by a U.S. intelligence operative in Los Angeles.

Ray Santilli's alien autopsy footage was also hyped at the conference, with a screening narrated in German by Hesemann. Santilli was to participate in the panel discussion, but he didn't show. While the panel favored the film, I later saw a French TV program in which Santilli did not come off well. He doesn't have control of the original footage, which is in the hands of shady German businessman Volker Spielberg.

The first conference speakers were United Nations employees Michael Geoghegan and Mohammad Ramadan, who spoke on behalf of the Society for Enlightenment and Transformation (SEAT). This United Nations-employee club has organized several lectures and two UFO conferences in recent years.

Other conference speakers included A. J. Gevaerd, director of the UFO group CBPDV in Brazil; ufologist Jorge Martin, from Puerto Rico; bestselling German author Johannes von Buttlar; English crop-circle experts Colin Andrews, George Wingfield, and Busty Taylor (the pilot who has flown and photographed the formations from the very start); Wendelle Stevens and J. J. Hurtak from the U.S.; Stan Friedman, who had just participated in a UFO debate at Oxford University; Luc Bürgin from Basel, author of a book in German about Swiss Air Force UFO investigations; and, on the other side of the Swiss spectrum, Guido Moosbrugger and other followers of the famous contactee Billy Meier. Finally, Dr. Roberto Pinotti from Italy spoke.

Pinotti was the man behind three conferences officially sponsored by the Republic of San Marino, located in northern Italy.

Big Mack Rebound

September's "UFO Chronicle" discussed Dr. John Mack's problems with a Harvard Medical School internal investigation of his methodology in the study and treatment of alien abductions. The prominent psychiatrist and Pulitzer Prize-winning author kept a relatively low profile while the ordeal unfolded. Now, with the Harvard inquiry over, Mack seems to be enjoying a rebound. A critical letter of reprimand from Dean Daniel Tosteson was leaked to *The Boston Globe* in September, but no further action to censure Mack was taken. On the contrary, a brief statement by Tosteson "reaffirmed Dr. Mack's academic freedom" and pronounced him a "member in good standing" of the faculty. Mack's book, *Abduction*, was recently published in French and German, and he has been busy touring Germany for various TV interviews.

While I was in Germany at the conference, I saw Mack speak to a packed auditorium. "As a clinician," he said, "we are talking about real experiences, we are talking about something that has happened to these people. Psychiatric illness, dreams, fantasies, reporting of individual abuse traumas of various kinds—all those experiences are highly individual; you have very different individual elements in the stories, the reports would not be the same from one person to another," as they are in the case of abductions. Mack talked, as

he often does, about the potentially transformative element of these traumatic experiences, about how "we are learning from it that we have become separated from our divine source, and that in that way we have become dangerous to ourselves and to the planet."

Mack's presentation included two video clips of his interviews with a Zulu medicine man, and children in Zimbabwe who had a close encounter of the third kind (a UFO sighting where liens are spotted). This material was excellent and added to the conference's international flavor. "The South African medicine man, Credo Mutwa, is perhaps the leading witch doctor of the Zulu people of South Africa," said Mack. "He's now in his mid-70s, but the [close encounter] experience happened when he was training to be a shaman or a witch doctor and he was in his 30s. He was in the bush when he found himself on an enclosed space. He was on the table, several of these humanoid beings were around him with these large

eyes—like in the U.S. and in Germany—again they put an instrument on his penis for a sperm sample; he remembered this consciously and told me about it with great shame."

In the video, Credo Mutwa described his experience with an alien female, which the Zulus call mandindas, as being like "making love to a dead body, as cold as if you made love to a machine." Suddenly he found himself back in the bush with his body covered with dust, his clothes torn apart, and smelling horribly. "I was smelling like nobody's business, I smelled like rotten fish, I really smelled awful," said Mutwa. He eventually reached a village, only to be attacked by a dog pack. After the villagers chased the dogs away, one man recognized him and said, "Look, this is the man who has been lost."

"Lost?" Mutwa asked.

The man said, "Yes, the tribal police were looking for you, you have been missing for three days."

The second video showed Mack's

interviews with three 11-year-old girls at the Ariel Primary School in Ruwa, near Zimbabwe's capital of Harare. On September 14, 1994, about 60 nine-to-12-year-old children were on break when they saw UFOs landing near the school and aliens walking around. None of the teachers saw the phenomenon, because they were attending a meeting inside the building. The girls shown on the tape were wonderful—clear and convincing while describing their feelings of awe when they looked at the creature's huge eyes. When Mack prodded one girl, she responded: "I had the feeling they have no love, and they were trying to copy us." This CE-III was originally investigated by well-known African researcher Cynthia Hind of Zimbabwe. Mack's Program for Extraordinary Experience Research (PEER) will soon be releasing a videotape of the case. I highly recommend it. For information, write to PEER at 1493 Cambridge St., Cambridge, MA 02139. ■

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