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**Dr Mack in Sydney:
Cross-cultural UFO abduction experiences**

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Developing UFOR(NSW)

Nineteen ninety-six is shaping up to be a big year for UFOR(NSW) with important changes in direction and significant opportunities for growth. The Executive has put into place an ambitious monthly meeting program, has adopted a higher media profile and will be escalating all of the group's activities.

The year is also providing Sydney members (at least) with the opportunity to see and hear a number of important speakers from overseas. Australia now appears to be well and truly back on the map for UFO personalities and members are advised to make use of such opportunities to hear these people wherever possible. For example, UFOR(NSW) was able to start the year with UK/Australian researcher Leonie Starr at its AGM. Leonie's talk indicates that crop circles will once again become an important part of the UFO investigation scene during 1996.

Elsewhere, Doctor John Mack from MIT was brought to Sydney by the Australian TransPersonal Association to give a talk in early February. His talk is described in some detail in this and the next issue of *UFO Reporter*. Doctor Mack covered most of the important issues concerning UFO abduction research in the United States and his talk attracted people from Queensland, Victoria, South Australia and New Zealand as well as New South Wales. He was able to provide a fascinating insight into the spiritual transmutation many abductees undergo as part of their experience. Part two of his talk (next issue) covers the internationality of the

abduction phenomenon (I hesitate to use the term 'universality').

Once again, such visits offer you an opportunity to hear the latest and very best information available and I encourage you to make the best of them.

As part of the process of keeping members better informed, the Committee, under the guidance of Mike Farrell and Hugh Mulgrew, has committed itself to monthly public meetings (and more, when the opportunity for obtaining exceptional speakers arises). It has acquired the use of a video projector to help keep members up to date with the large amounts of high-quality UFO visual material now becoming available. This represents a major investment of effort by the Committee, but it believes members will find these information sessions appropriate.

The *UFO Reporter* also represents a major flagship for the group, and takes up large amounts of time, energy and resources. This will continue, but a publication obviously lacks the immediacy of the latest video or world-class speaker. For many members, especially those outside the Sydney Metropolitan area, the *UFO Reporter* represents their main contact with this organisation and my delays in

getting issues out to you, pose a major problem when presenting this group as a 'professional' (rather than an amateur) organisation. It's a problem I still don't know how to fully resolve. However, as the wordsmithing powers of the group improve overall, the situation should improve.

Similar PC resource and people-power problems have been affecting the success of UFOR's sightings database project. Fortunately, Michael Duggan has recently taken on board the task of preparing sightings abstracts from report forms, and these can be used to allow researchers to access database material. It's still not easy to access the reams of data collected, but it's a tremendous improvement and can be expanded in future. Examples of material Michael has abstracted are included in this issue.

UFOR hopes to be able to create a similar database of UFO abduction accounts. The AARP (Australasian Abduction Research Project) is starting to creak into operation, and this promises to generate more data which will need to be analysed and presented.

Two important seminars will be held in Brisbane later this year:

Contributions to UFO Reporter (NSW)

We need articles, photographs and cartoons for forthcoming editions of *UFO Reporter*.

If you think you can help or have something to offer, please contact The Editors, UFOR(NSW), PO Box Q95 Queen Victoria Building, Sydney 2000.

Editorial

- One in August, organised by UFOR(QLD) to celebrate 40 years of operation. This will emphasise Australian investigations, and UFOR(NSW) researchers will be submitting papers for presentation. These papers will be reprinted in later editions of *UFO Reporter*.
- In October, MUFON(QLD) will be organising a symposium in Brisbane with mostly international, and a few Australian, speakers. We can expect an influx of personalities, some of whom could be potential visitors/speakers to Sydney afterwards. UFOR(NSW) hopes to be able to organise a Sydney meeting with one or more of these visitors (depending on the cost, and whether this can be ar-

ranged with MUFON).

UFOR's World Wide Web page on the Internet (courtesy of Scott Hall and Hugh Mulgrew) is developing nicely, but needs ongoing attention and new material. The overall response has been very good, but we still have not developed this facility to its full potential.

Another tactic the Committee has adopted has been to actively join up more people—non-members who regularly attend UFOR's public meetings now have the added incentive of a significantly reduced entry fee offered to members. A competition to draft more members was won by F. Sinclair (14 people, \$50 book/video voucher), second E Budek (12 members, \$20 voucher). This should also increase the commitment of

UFOR's membership overall (well, that's the theory)

UFO sightings, the 'stuff' that ultimately makes or breaks UFOR are still fairly slow in arriving. Our UFO Hotline, so very successful with the public when set up over four years ago, now has to compete with a number of copycat services, some of which are nationally based. UFOR now has investigator 'clearing houses' on the Central Coast (P.Turner), and south of Sydney (D.Moffett, Hill Top), as well as Sydney (G.Hegner)

This all creates a lot of pressure on the Committee to perform, and the UFOR Committee structure may need to be expanded in future.

On the whole, 1996 is developing very well for UFOR(NSW). □

Bryan Dickeson

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Exploring cross-cultural UFO abduction experiences

John Mack in Sydney, Part 1

Taken from a public address given by Dr John Mack at the Zenith Centre, Chatswood New South Wales, on Sunday evening, 4 February 1996 (organised by the Australian TransPersonal Association).

Whenever Dr Mack hears introductions that refer to his credibility, he worries about which is going to give way first — public scepticism on the subject of UFO abductions, or his credibility. He is frequently challenged by academics around him and unaware of everything that goes on behind his back. While he has many academic friends, when walking around, he gets a lot of interesting looks from people that indicate where their interests are.

Scepticism over alien abductions

Mack started his address by looking at what it was about the subject of alien abductions that created so much scepticism, so much nervousness, so much resistance. He asked the Zenith Centre audience how many thought the phenomenon was legitimate, indicating in some way something was going on that could not be dismissed psychiatrically. There was a strong response from the audience, so he asked how many people present thought the subject was total nonsense — a few intrepid souls raised their hands.

Mack said he thought that resistance to the subject was due to the fact that people had developed a sense of false security: We are not entirely happy about being the sole, pre-eminent intelligence in a cold and somewhat frightening universe. However, this view of the universe is safer and more comfortable than one that contains beings who can come into our homes or cars, take

us on beams of light up into strange spacecraft and do strange things to us. There was something about this which was very disconcerting. The very notion there were other beings or intelligences about in the universe, who had the power to shatter our illusion of control was extremely confronting. All our technology and western science reinforces the idea that we can somehow control and master Nature.

The abduction phenomenon tells us that we do not have that kind of power, and that we need to surrender our illusion of control. We have to open ourselves to a wider notion of reality. Although this could be very exciting in some ways, it was also terrifying.

The phenomenology of abductions

Dr Mack then gave an overview of the subject. He asked the audience to look at the range of phenomena a proper 'abduction theory' would have to include. People who often heard about the phenomena tried to explain it as part of the psychology of the individual, by attributing it to 'womb fantasies', or seeing it as a displaced form of sexual abuse.

However, this view creates five major kinds of problems:

- Firstly, the experiences themselves are reported in great detail. They include descriptions of the insides of the spaceships, the form of transport onto them, the kinds of proce-

dures performed, and descriptions of the aliens themselves. These are highly- detailed accounts which, until very recently have not been widely publicised in the media. Most still do not get into the media. Accounts have come from people all over the World, who are not in contact with each other. Most of these abductees come forth reluctantly and talk about their experiences with great distress. As a psychiatrist, the only kind of phe-

As a psychiatrist, the only kind of phenomenon that does this is when 'something' really is happening to somebody.

nomenon that does this is when 'something' really is happening to somebody.

Dreams, fantasies and mental illness do not give this kind of result. This immediately raised the question of what that 'something' was. This 'reality' is one aspect of the phenomenon that has to be accounted for by a satisfactory abduction theory.

- Secondly, studies of the individuals themselves showed the vast majority were not suffering any form of mental illness. In fact, some were remarkably strong and healthy psychologically — more than average if you take into account the kind of stress the phenomenon created. Psychological testing, psychiatric examinations, and every psychological or psychiatric condition known cannot begin to account for this.
- Third are the physical effects. Associated with abductions are cuts and 'scoop' marks (sometimes these are a centimetre or more across) that appear after abduction experiences, and which are not self-inflicted. Also severe nose bleeds for which there are no other explanation, and burned earth patches left by UFOs. These are very clear physical findings for which no other explanation is apparent and they repeat their

character in case after case after case.

- Fourth is the association with UFOs. There are many cases where an individual describes their abduction experience, not having seen a UFO themselves. As one young woman in a workshop run by Mack (not related to abductions), came out in the workshop with abduction experiences. She had been woken up in the night by a bright light, a humming sound, and was paralysed. Under hypnotic regression she reported an abduction experience. The next day a neighbour had told the woman and her husband there had been a strange craft hovering over the house at the time she had described for her abduction experience.
- Fifthly, the phenomenon occurred in children as young as two years old. Mack had two cases in his case group of children under three, one of whom would point to the sky and say to his mother, "Don't let them take me again into the sky." He says this with a fear which is powerful and disturbing to the mother and describes many details of his abduction experiences.

Any explanation of the abduction phenomenon must take into account all of these dimensions.

Extent of the phenomenon

The experiencers themselves, and different polls suggest there may be several million abductees in the United States alone. Abductees do not seem to come from any particular part of society. At first it was thought they were predominantly people who had no prominent stake in society, or working people. It has turned out that prominent people often disguise their experience, not letting on they have been abducted. One man would write to Mack from a town which was not where he was from, leave a false name, and give a return number where Mack was sup-

posed to leave a note. They went on like this for several months before actually meeting and working together — he was a reasonably well-known musical personality in the Boston area and did not want his identity known.

Abduction investigators had learned there were some very prominent people, including leading political figures — people from all walks of life. There did not seem to be any particular cultural or socio-economic concentration, or occupations involved as far as could be told. This may not be random, but did not seem to follow any clear-cut profile for a particular individual type.

How Mack got involved

People always ask Mack about how a self-respecting, presumably rational Professor of Psychiatry got into a crazy business like alien abductions. Mack still has not entirely figured it out himself. Possibly at some deep level he always felt he was overdeveloped in the left-brain rationalist side. He is a New Yorker, and New Yorkers are generally extremely unwilling to be a sucker over anything. They have to know the answers about everything and don't take anything on faith. Mack had been a very analytically-oriented person. The notion there could be alien beings or God, or anything of that kind in the Universe was simply a projection of the human brain, or belonged in theology classes, or the psychology of religion. It certainly had no basis in terms of the universe that we were living in.

That certainly did not change for him in his training as a Freudian psychoanalyst, but gradually began to change when he began to study consciousness and work with non-ordinary states — particularly one Graff holotropic breathwork method. Graff breathwork is a method for opening consciousness to other dimensions of reality, to deeper dimensions of the psyche, such as memories of birth and to what Graff calls the 'transpersonal realms'. This is the capacity to separate our consciousness from our bodies and

move out of the body and identify with mythic beings, with animals and with animal spirits. Mack became open to the possibility that the brain and consciousness were not the same, and that our biographical story was not the whole story of our psyches.

In that context Mack was introduced to the Abduction phenomenon through a member of his Graff training group, who had referred a case to Budd Hopkins. Mack had met Hopkins on 10 January 1990. He considers Hopkins to be a true scientific pioneer in this culture. Budd Hopkins was not a trained psychologist or scientist, but an artist who had the integrity to see what he saw and call it the way he experienced it. For 17-18 years Budd had been a voice in the wilderness, saying 'this is happening, people are suffering, this is real and we need to pay attention to it'.

In a sense, Mack was trying to walk in Budd's shoes, covering ground already covered. Mack was struck by the consistency of the stories and the shock that an abductee experienced when they heard another person's story and realised how similar that story was to their own, often almost identical.

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Ontological shock

There was a moment Mack had come to recognise as what he called 'ontological shock' — a moment when it suddenly struck someone that their world was not the world they thought it was. When that which they had held to be fantasy or dreams, or even psychoses, was real. Mack knew a number of cases where people had preferred to be found mentally ill — they had come to him to be told they had a mental illness that could be fixed with drugs, rather than experience what was happening to them, that was in some way real. It was on first hearing about that moment of ontological shock in several of his cases,

Mack became open to the possibility that the brain and consciousness were not the same, and that our biographical story was not the whole story of our psyches.

that struck Mack as a psychiatrist as emotionally authentic, and without explanation in anything he knew about.

When trying to evolve discoveries or something new, Mack felt we kind of intuitively knew we'd found it at a very early stage, and then the rest of the time was spent filling in, learning more and pushing the edge. He'd had an intuitive

While the abduction phenomenon is a mental-emotional phenomenon in the sense that it impacts people's lives very, very powerfully, that is a consequence of the experience, not the source of the experience.

sense when he heard about these cases that something really incredible was going on he could not explain, something very serious.

When Budd had asked him if he wanted to have Boston cases referred, he had said 'Yes'. Mack had since seen and evaluated about 100 people for this 'abduction syndrome', but disliked the word 'syndrome' because it implied something 'in the head'. While the abduction phenomenon is a mental-emotional phenomenon in the sense that it impacts people's lives very, very powerfully, that is a consequence of the experience, not the source of the experience.

Of the 100 referrals, about 80 fulfilled strict criteria for an actual abduction case — to be taken forcefully by and perceive humanoid beings of a now-familiar description into a craft where various procedures are done to them.

Retrieving suppressed memories

A great number of abduction memories come back from interviewing people without using hypnosis. Mack has one 19-year old who remembers all the details of an abduction when aged four, completely consciously. He was taken onto a ship, given choices and shown around. He saw the beings and described images shown to him about the Earth without any sort of hypnosis.

Mack uses hypnosis as the principle tool for investigating abduction cases. It

unlocks the phenomenon, and seems to undo whatever repressing forces are at work.

The alien beings themselves seem to do something to switch people off or impose some kind of barrier to memory. The way memory works here is extraordinarily interesting, because memories may be triggered by, say, a walk along the beach. In one such case from Maine, this brought back an earlier abduction memory for which there had been no memory. If the person had been asked if they'd had experiences before the memory was triggered, they would have said "No". Investigators really don't know how many people have had experiences, who simply have not been able to recover them.

Incredibly powerful emotions are associated with the recovery of these experiences. Mack can lecture on the subject, can provide statistics and go over the data, but when someone is in his office — a psychiatrist or psychologist, with a client they have referred to him, they see the intensity of feeling, the terror, the sweating, the writhing of the body as different procedures are recalled and they become involved. The colleagues who refer cases to Mack tend to be those that have actually witnessed such hypnosis sessions.

The extremely powerful emotions recalled often trigger additional memories. One of the questions a therapist faces with a new person is 'Do you want to explore further?' Mack has to warn people who will often say they want to know what's happened to their life. Abductees know at some deep level that this is a major part of their experience. They have glimpses of a blue light at night, or presences around their bed, or symptoms in their body, or fears of hospitals. People want to know, even though they know the memories may be quite disturbing.

Differing levels of information

Looking at some of the more controversial aspects of the recalled memories,

there are three levels of information dealt with:

- The first level is those dimensions we can believe we can understand from the technologies that we know. These include UFOs you could take a picture of. These sort of look like space craft and can be followed on the radar screen. Similarly, the procedures that are done to people seem medical or surgical. A physician, John Miller, has studied the instruments reported — they are nothing like anything anybody has actually experienced in a real, or Earthly medical-surgical situation, but they *appear* to be sort of technological.
- Then there is information which could be technologically understood if we had the technology. For example, a UFO is tracked on radar travelling at 8000 kilometres an hour in one direction, suddenly makes a right angle turn with no slippage, overcoming any problems of gravity and inertia we know anything about. Or people who pass through walls. Some abductees describe a certain vibratory feeling as a beam of light takes them through a wall and Mack has spoken with optical physicists who say they can almost understand how wave-particle phenomena and shifts of energy could eventually be used to understand this, but its nothing we have any knowledge of technologically right now.
- Finally there are phenomena which simply don't operate in our physical paradigm of reality at all. This includes powerfully-felt phenomena like going into past-life experiences. Many abductees also have a sense that they have a double identity, and become the aliens themselves, perceiving the universe from the alien perspective as well as their human perspective. They have to struggle to reconcile this alien identity with their human identity. Or

the sense that the aliens themselves are intermediary characters between 'Home' (a term they often use), which is the Divine Source from which all creation arises. A common abduction experience, is the sense they have 'come Home again' and been brought closer to the Light Source or God or the Divine Consciousness, anima mundi, or whatever.

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The phenomenology of abductions occurs on all these levels.

The 'typical' abduction

A typical abduction case would occur where someone is driving along in their car. For example, in one case a young man recollected how, as a boy of nine he, a brother and sister were in the car. Their mother was driving and a huge craft came down over the car. Everybody saw this, the family was interviewed and everybody reports exactly the same object hovering over the car. The mother pulled over to the side of the road, she was not quite sure how. The young man was the only witness hypnotised for details of the experience. He was taken up into the craft where he was given all kinds of intense information about his future and what might happen to the Earth — he is now a major business figure and fanatically responsible about environmental sustainability, which he attributes to this experience when nine years old.

Abductees are taken from their car (Mack has a case of a woman taken from a snowmobile in a field), or more frequently from a bedroom where they hear a humming sound or a beam of light, or see little beings around the bed. They find themselves paralysed and are taken against their will, often on a beam of blue light, through a wall of the house or through the window, outside. They

will often see the house and fields receding below them, and describe being taken into a craft where they see other little, identical beings.

There are several types of beings, but the most common type by far is the little greys. These are 1 to 1.3 metres tall, have huge black eyes, pear-shaped heads, no hair, no ears, a little slit mouth, nostrils but without the nose, a thin neck, and a head too big for the neck. They seem almost foetus-like in their appearance, with slim, thin bodies, and seem to glide when they move.

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They may be wearing nothing, or a kind of tunic which is a single-piece outfit. Abductees see several of these inside the aircraft, busy at com-

puter-like consoles and high-tech equipment which cannot really be identified. The craft interior has curved walls, often a cold atmosphere and a musty smell. Sometimes other kinds of beings are seen — reptilian types, luminous or transparent beings, and human beings sometimes working alongside humanoid alien beings. In the craft various procedures take place. A staring or gazing occurs, various tissue samples are taken, scrapings are made, forced sperm samples, eggs taken from women, eggs implanted into women, pregnancies taken. All this occurs in a dimension we know not exactly where. It looks like its happening in the physical world we know, and yet we don't know in what dimension it occurs.

Destroying the Earth

Abductees are provided with information. They are shown on-screen or communicated telepathically (the preferred form of communication by the beings), the state of the Earth, the destruction of the environment, the Earth being polluted, and images of nuclear destruction. These images affect abductees

profoundly. Many have a deep sense of horror at what they see and have been given this information since they were children. Often it has an inspiring impact as well as a very disturbing impact. The information may be inspiring in the sense that many abductees give up conventional jobs and go into work such as energy healing, or they take environmentally responsible jobs or become therapists in one way or another. This has been a very common phenomenon in Mack's case load.

One of the interesting things about this phenomenon is the variability in the kind of information that experiencers and investigators receive. Mack believes that he tends to attract people who have been provided environmental information, but most investigators report some of this kind of experience. Mack's environmental information about the Earth includes apocalyptic images of the Earth being destroyed, great dark clouds descending over it, and so on.

Other dimensions

In addition there are openings to other dimensions, and abductees often say 'this is not occurring in our space-time universe'. They may not have the words for it, but they say 'this happened in another dimension; time collapses, so that all times are present at once.' There is a sense of entering other dimensions of reality which are not ours. French investigator Jaques Vallee calls this a 'multiverse'. Sometimes abductees will also be brought close to the Light Source, to the Divine Centre of the universe, to some place of universal love where there is no jealousy or secrecy. They often report the aliens are mystified by how destructive we are. We have this divine planet, perhaps the highest creation of Divine Forces and yet we are destroying it. The aliens seem genuinely puzzled about this and try to intervene to dissuade us from this.

Physical changes

In addition Mack mentioned the physical changes that occur — the cuts and scoop marks and other symptoms. He is cautious about the physical evidence, because it can become the sole focus of discussion. Mack thinks the physical evidence is too subtle to stand alone as evidence for the phenomenon.

People ask why there are no artefacts from spaceships, but the phenomenon is not like that. It seems to be inviting us to stretch ourselves to appreciate what this is about, to open our consciousness to meet the phenomenon. It opens us to its possibilities but will not hand us a 'smoking gun'. It is good and important to look for the physical evidence, but it may be a philosophical error to think that something operating at this level is going to yield its secrets simply on the empirical level.

Trauma and transformation

The impact of these experiences on the abductees themselves is both traumatic and sometimes transformational. The trauma has four dimensions to it.

- To be taken against your will, helplessly, and have these disturbing procedures done to you is traumatic.
- A second dimension of the trauma is abductee isolation. They cannot talk about it because they fear ridicule, even within their families. And this is even in families where it is known the parents have also had experiences. They do not want to hear this from their children because they cannot protect them, so the children feel isolated. They cannot talk about it at work because of the lack of legitimacy of this phenomenon in our society so there is an increased sense of isolation. Part of the treatment process is to bring abductees in contact with one another so they have a shared community.
- Third is the ontological shock which can be the most disturbing part of

all. The world view of abductees is that this cannot be, this simply can't happen. They are disturbed to find they are being exposed to a reality that shows them the world they have lived in is not the world they are facing.

- Fourth, is that unlike other traumas, this can recur at any time. With Vietnam War trauma, most rape experiences, and certainly childhood abuse, that is over and the experiencer tries to integrate it. Here, it's not like you integrate it and its over. This can happen again, unpredictably. Parents will often come for help when they find they cannot protect their children.

Spiritual expansion

What makes the phenomenon so curious, is that beyond the traumatic aspect, there is a spiritually-expanding transformational dimension. When abductees come to acknowledge fully what is going on, their relationship with the aliens often changes. It becomes more reciprocal and becomes a project for protecting the continuity of human life. Many abductees feel they are part of some valuable process which is preserving the human dimension for a future that is different to this one, a future in which

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our lives will have changed. They experience an opening of their own spirituality, bringing them closer to the Divine Consciousness.

In Mack's view, this phenomenon appears to be occurring in the context of the world crisis, of the ecological crisis. There is simply too much material from hundreds or thousands of abductees being describing the destruction of the Earth. Many abductees experience what is occurring as a kind of cosmic correction. This is not something Mack would ever have believed from his upbringing.

ing. The very notion that any forces, beings or intelligence in the universe cared a damn about the Earth, appears to be utterly preposterous. But what seems to be occurring is that what mankind is doing to the Earth has not gone unnoticed.

While we speak of the Earth as a living system with each part connected one to another, apparently the Earth itself has some meaning, place or value in a cosmic whole. We have torn that cosmic fabric in some way, and this has not gone unnoticed. Some kind of emissary, some kind of intelligence, is now reaching out to us.

Hybridisation project

To Mack this idea would previously have been too 'far out', but now it seems possible on the basis of the evidence he is getting. Mack still does not know how to reconcile the two very different views of what appears to be at work here:

- There appears to be an alien-earthling hybrid project, which reproductively brings together two species to create hybrid entities which abductees see on spaceships. The hybrids seem to be listless creatures which their Earth mothers are often asked to nurse, and the fathers to hold. This is one of the most poignant aspects of the phenomenon when a parent is brought to see their hybrid offspring. They are told this is their child and asked to hold it, knowing in some way it has been taken from their own seed, but they cannot set the terms by which they can ever see that offspring again. Mack does not know in what dimension this is occurring. It seems impossible, but most experiencers report some kind of experiment bringing species together to create a new life form is taking place.

- The second major dimension — the expansion of consciousness is opening us up to a different sense of who we are in the Universe. This is something we have not allowed and which has forced other intelligences to notice and intervene. Investigators discussed this once with the Dalai Lama who was very curious about it. The Dalai Lama said the beings were upset we had disturbed where they existed and were coming to us. This made sense because now we do not have any way to be open to the spirit world except in physical terms. One commentator has said 'the senses by which we might know the spirit world have atrophied'. If we are to be reached we would have to be reached using the language we know — the language of technology, of biology, or of the physical world.

Humankind respiritualised

Mankind is being re-spiritualised to reconnect itself to what it is in the Universe, opening itself up to experiencing the universe as a kind of spiritual playground. In some sense Mack sees this as an opening to the Divine and the Sacred. Whether this is an intentional aspect of the phenomenon or a by-product of it is one of the great debates. Mack believes it is an intrinsic aspect of the phenomenon itself but is still open to the possibility that it may be a by-product of what experiencers go through.

This is the sketchy overview of the phenomenon as Mack has experienced it. He thinks that some details would differ for different investigators, but this pattern has become familiar to investigators who work intensively in this field.

(Part two of Doctor Mack's address will appear in the next issue of *UFO Reporter*.) □

The 'Greys' as biological robots?

Hugh Mulgrew

This article develops the hypothesis that the 'classic' small, grey aliens with almond-shaped eyes most often reported by abductees are probably biological robots. Logical scenarios suggest that space exploration is possible using multi-staged sessions and such biological robots.

By viewing space exploration through the eyes of an alien civilisation, with a superior but different intellect to our own, and applying logical processes, we can form realistic scenarios. This process provides potent conclusions about self and purpose.

Efficiency and economy are two powerful driving forces we do not fully understand:

- *Efficiency* is that property which maximises the production of 'something' within a given set of parameters. That is, the expected results are delivered in the most timely manner using only those mechanisms required, no more and no less. If we can accurately define our expectations from a particular set of conditions, then we can create the processes to fulfill these expectations. Such processes will achieve a final result with nothing left over and no shortfall in the deliverables.
- *Economy* is the least cost (in resources) to deliver the 'something', using only the resources required.

Motive and method

Let's assume we are going to explore other planetary systems, for whatever reasons we can imagine. What is our motive?

Space exploration implies planned and unplanned visits to as many places as possible using the resources to hand. We would observe and analyse remote environments and report our findings back to a central repository for integration and refinement for future expeditions.

Logically, in the first instance and from a purely mechanical perspective,

we would attempt to move the smallest (that is, requiring the least amount of energy), most independent (this implies inherent intelligence) and adaptable (that is, able to make decisions based on the environment, and able to exploit local resources) probe possible, so as many probes can be sent to as many locations as possible.

Our scientists would spend considerable time creating a suitable 'probe' from the best available technology. This would utilise biological, electronic, mechanical and computing system.

The agenda would depend on the results obtained and be varied accordingly. The initial results would determine whether further detailed investigations, experiments and analysis was justified. A perceived success would provide the incentive to invest more in future expeditions — now we have a motive. If we look at this from a human perspective, we can see that our values tend to encourage material gains or wealth — a particularly selfish trait. If we look at possible alien gains these might fall into the realm of survival, species improvement, accelerated evolution and so on.

To summarise, space exploration would favour an ongoing series of expeditions, starting with small probes for primary investigations, and increasingly sophisticated probes being sent out to promising locations to provide returns from the investment expended.

Motives revisited

We could look at many possible motives, but let's use the KISS principle (keep it simple), and not read too much about present alien contacts such as UFO abductions, into the possibilities. The motives would vary depending on the results:

- Pure research with no expected outcomes — this minimalist approach is basically what we do now. The probes required are not to be very intelligent (save for sampling technology, some basic self preservation and systems redundancy) in the sense they do not need to be very adaptable — they only gather data.
- Research based on the outcomes and expectations of previous expeditions — where further assessment of a planetary system is warranted from the findings of an earlier expedition by a 'dumb' probe. The return probe would extensively sample the environment, spend time monitoring the system, and possibly link with the primary probe. These second-generation 'smart' probes would respond independently to local conditions to monitor items of most interest, and pre-process the data obtained for transmission back to base.
- Research based on interactive experimentation with significant benefits expected — this again involves an expansion in data collection with anticipated future benefits. The perceived benefits could be esoteric or material in nature — exotic materials, technology, methodologies, expertise, and so on.

This staged exploration and research program would take a long time, probably extending over many generations of the life forms on the instigating planet (this is starting to sound familiar).

Imagine if probes could be built to adapt to a planet's environment. They

could apply the positive attributes of the most successful local life form to themselves recreating and refining purpose-built probes as a unique response to the target planet, but still maintain the initial alien overlay, purpose or ethos. This would require genetic manipulation of local materials.

Results from this type of research would determine subsequent research phases and alien interactions, based on cultural assimilation and the nature of the host environment (or civilisation).

Each of the above research modes implies an increasing amount of investment and increasing returns as the level of interaction increases:

We could assume, for example, standard roles for visiting entities such as 'conquerors, seeking out worlds suitable for colonisation or exploitation'.

Or they could be simply 'benign but curious observers' with a thirst for knowledge. Or simply looking for an unspoilt 'theme' planet as a tourist destination. All these are possible scenarios.

Brain size versus intelligence

The 'greys' are frequently described as identical or 'clone-like'. Their large head size relative to the body suggests to us they must also possess higher intelligence, but this need not be the case.

If we assume the greys are purpose-designed biological entities, they are primarily tools or instruments. Their cranial volume would be sufficiently large to accommodate the size of brain required to fulfill their required functions, and enhanced attributes such as memory for complex data storage. They would not need an emotional component, as this could inhibit their prime research function.

If we consider that the human brain is divided into many functional areas arranged in a similar manner to a computer, we can use computer functions as a model. We have:

- The processing system itself. The instructions and instruction sets it

contains may be simple or complex, but some central processing unit will operate under a pre-assigned group of instructions or *program*.

- Memory for programming* — this area of the brain directs an entity's activities in terms of what has been pre-assigned.
- Memory used for storing information* — this is possibly used in a similar way as RAM in a computer system, to contain information required rapidly. An example may be the characteristics of certain biological life forms and how to invoke control of them.
- Transmitter/receiver areas* (with extensions for psychic interaction) The brain's peripherals if you will, as opposed to the limbs, body parts, and so on. A neural transceiver close to the brain for inter-clone communication, and possible control of nearby biological life forms.
- Interfaces to the limbs and other body peripherals or functional areas*, coordinated by a motor-control section. This motor controller coordinates body locomotion, fine movements of fingers, and so on.

Interaction with other life forms

With the appropriate technology and research, it would not be difficult to monitor and modify the brain patterns of local biological entities to reduce threatening behaviour. (We do some of this to each other already with behaviour-modifying drugs.)

We know that many strange and unexplained things occur when adrenalin is released into our bodies while under stress. Similarly, other chemicals are released into our brain to create yet other reactions during periods of extreme pleasure, such as sexual activity.

It should therefore be possible for alien visitors to 'mask', 'screen' or 'convert' what would otherwise be an unpleasant experience by stimulating our brain patterns in a certain way to release the appropriate chemicals. What would normally be a painful surgical opera-

tion could be masked as a sexual experience; what may be a particularly ugly alien could be masked to seem appealing.

Conversely, what we may be feeling in terms of revulsion, panic, terror could be detected, modified and then reflected back to create love, empathy and a friendly, conciliatory attitude towards an alien.

This explanation certainly fits some descriptions of human-alien interactions, where, over a period of time, various mental 'screens' are displaced to reveal other behaviours and motives. (Essentially revealing a selfish, emotionless alien, rather than a benevolent being.)

Fitting in — the biology

I believe a visiting alien scientist would assume that the predominant life form on a remote planet would have evolved as the 'best of breed' for local conditions. For example, oxygen-breathing, gravitational adjustment (muscle tone), a degree of intelligence, and so on. This need not be the 'familiar' humanoid (biped) form, but could be water breathing (piscine, mollusc-like), or limbless (piscine, snake, cetaceous), and so on.

How do the greys fit in?

From the above considerations, we can see the greys do fit the profile of a 'self-contained, adaptable, efficient and economical probe'. Cloning sufficient numbers would provide the necessary redundancy for such biological probes.

- They have no inherent reproductive capabilities, essential for evolved life forms, and consequently would 'biodegrade' into a planet's environment without meaningful interaction. They pose no evolutionary threat to their creators.
- They have the resident intelligence needed to perform their programmed tasks, with some capability of modifying their behaviour, according to environmental changes to maximize survival. Such

a robot would require minimal emotions and would be primarily responsible for acquiring information to fulfill ongoing research requirements, or for conditioning the target planet in preparation for the next research stage.

- They would be the smallest unit size appropriate to do the job (to fit the *efficiency and economy* requirement). They would be durable, have a long life span to maximize their 'development investment', and be high-utility.
- They would be able to control 'primitive' life forms by modifying their motor control systems (via that life form's central nervous system, or brain). They would be engineered to be 'self-repairing' to minimize maintenance, wear and tear.
- During large projects or experiments they would use a hierarchical organisational structure. More competent superiors with higher skill sets, more agenda knowledge, would manage teams organised to pursue specific goals.
- Finally, they would be guided in terms of performing DNA manipulation or genetic engineering using components from local life forms combined with their own biochemical material, not to procreate, but to create new, more suitable.

Housing would be on the target planet or close to it (a satellite such as our Moon would do nicely), they would set themselves up to be in a controlling position (stealth, concealment, alliances) to carry out their program.

The abduction scenario — a possible explanation

By noting the above scenarios, we can readily appreciate why and how alien abductions take place. We have motives, methods and expected results which fit the model of most abduction cases.

I suggest that we, as humans, are essentially predictable. Our movements, reactions, even our thoughts can be predicted and controlled. Imagine if we were to establish mental contact with an alien, they would be able to 'read' our minds.

They would be able to respond rapidly to what we were thinking to counter any negative (to them) actions we were planning.

And imagine if we could 'create' a novel situation they were unable to assess rapidly. They might be momentarily rendered ineffectual until they could adapt to what was happening. We often hear of 'new age' responses such as 'love and light', 'bathed in blue light', and so on, being invoked as a response to the aliens. This often seems to catch them off guard and makes them back off.

Furthermore some chemical releases initiated during alien interactions may become permanent, creating within an abductee the ability to become psychically aware, to acquire certain facilities or enhance, amplify existing abilities. In the final analysis, this characteristic of psychic control may well determine the survival of the human species, once subject to alien influence.

UFOR(NSW) database excerpts

Michael Duggan

UFOR(NSW) is developing an electronic database of UFO sightings. The following abstracts summarise some of the material that has been accumulated.

The database includes a range of records, from fragments to highly detailed UFO accounts. Each summary presented here includes a UFOR database reference as a suffix.

c. 1950 Narrabeen NSW 1200hrs

Glowing white, star-sized object seen about midday by Ms H. and friend while lying on beach and looking at sky. Object was observed for about a half hour manoeuvring slowly at high altitude at an angle of about 45 degrees from horizon. Witnesses lost sight of object eventually due to the glare of the sun. (UFOR [NSW] NA930001)

c. 1958 Concord West NSW 1800hrs

Mrs E. (then girl of 16 or so) was sitting in a car, talking to an elderly couple at about dusk, when she noticed a light hovering close to a nearby radio broadcast tower. The witness got out of her car to better observe the light which was moving up and down the length of the tower. The object was then seen to move behind the tower and repeat the same manoeuvre. (UFOR[NSW] NA920034)

Jan/Feb 1965 Carlton NSW 2000hrs

Mr W. and his father were sitting on their front verandah talking at about 5pm, when they noticed a star-like object in the sky moving in a south-easterly direction. When they looked more closely, they saw more objects, and counted nine in all. The objects appeared to be flying in a 'football-shaped' formation. Several neighbours

were called to watch the objects which were seen for 3 to 4 minutes, until they eventually disappeared from view. (UFOR [NSW] NA930061)

c. 1965 Coal and Candle Creek NSW

Mr H. (then a boy of 11 or 12) was fishing with his father and uncle in a boat on a tributary of the Hawkesbury River at night, when they heard a humming noise, and saw a glowing yellow-gold, saucer-shaped craft appear from over some hills to the north. The craft descended and began to follow the watercourse till it was directly over them. The witnesses reported seeing port holes and a large 'windscreen' or observation view screen, from where, they had the feeling they were being observed. The object remained stationary for about 30 to 40 seconds before disappearing at great speed to the north-west. (UFOR [NSW] NA920035)

5 or 6 Apr 1966 Coventry (UK) 1600hrs

Mr B. (then 16) was a passenger in his father's car, when he noticed a 'blimp', or cigar-shaped object, in the sky. The father stopped the car to get a better look. The object was hovering stationary, despite there being a slight breeze. It was metallic grey, and the witness estimated its size to be about 25 car lengths (125 metres?), and the height to be about 1000 feet. After watching the object for about 5 minutes, it moved off at great speed and was lost to view. (UFOR [NSW] NA930002)

c. 1970 Minto NSW 1500/1600hrs
 Mrs A., while sitting in her backyard with her son and daughter, saw what she first took to be scraps of paper blowing over her side gate. They were whitish in colour, and despite the day being windy, they appeared to be suspended in the air. When she looked more closely, she observed that they were small discs, about 22 cm (9 inches) in diameter. There were two formations or rows each of 5 silvery discs. The objects hovered about a metre (3 feet) above the ground for a while before one formation, moving in a sideways direction, shot up into the sky. Mrs A's son tried to grab one of the remaining discs, but they also flew up into the sky. (UFOR [NSW])

May 1973 Tongatapu Island (Cook Islands).

Mrs M. and companion were sitting on a beach, in the evening, at Nukualofa on Tongatapu Island, when the attention of both was attracted to a saucer shaped craft hovering nearby. They estimated the craft to be at a height of 50-75 feet (17-24 metres) and could see a row of windows in the lower section. Beneath the craft was a rounded protrusion or dome. Both witnesses looked at each other in amazement and a second or so later the craft shot straight up into the night sky and disappeared. (UFOR [NSW] NA930031)

22 Mar 1977 East Gosford NSW 0200hrs

Ms B., while driving back to Matcham, near Gosford, from Sydney, saw a triangular, neon pink object flying slightly ahead of them, on their right. When they reached the turnoff to Terrigal, the object stopped and hovered over Terrigal Drive. Ms B. and Mr S. were curious, but felt too terrified to go any closer to investigate. They drove on without the object following. (UFOR [NSW])

1977/78 Matcham NSW 1900-2000hrs

Ms B. and Mr S. watched an orange coloured, half-moon shaped object for

10 minutes from their backyard. Object slowly faded from view. (UFOR [NSW])

1978 Matcham NSW 1930hrs

Ms B., while driving east past Matcham hall, noticed a strong blue light through some trees. When she was able to look more closely, she could see a flattish, blue ball, half hidden behind trees on a nearby ridge. She was too frightened to stop and investigate. (UFOR [NSW])

1978 Allawah NSW 0510hrs

Mrs C., while getting ready for work, looked out her window to check the weather. After noting the clear and cloudless conditions, her attention was drawn to four golden coloured spheres hovering in the south-western sky. She watched them for about 10 minutes before going off to have a shower. When she returned the objects had gone. (UFOR [NSW] NA930063)

1979 Matcham NSW 0100-0300hrs

Ms B. was woken to the sound of some large object outside, like a turbine or fan displacing air. Conditions were not windy, as no tree branches were moving. Witness did not investigate any further. (UFOR [NSW])

1980 Centennial Park, SYDNEY NSW 2400hrs

Ms M. was watching television about midnight when a voice in her head told her to go to nearby Centennial Park, where she would see a UFO. After walking to the park and waiting for about an hour, she saw five lights in the sky. One of the lights came closer and appeared to be some sort of craft, which hovered about six metres above her. A woman's voice from the craft told her to sit under a nearby tree, which she did. She then saw a human male figure, dressed in white T-shirt and shorts, standing looking at her. She was holding a flower in her hand, which she had picked, intending to give them. The woman's voice told her to give the

flower to the stranger. At this point she blanked out and does not remember anything else, or even how she got home. Several days later, she walked back to the park and saw a circle burnt into the grass, which was visible for about three years. (UFOR [NSW] NA920039)

c.1984 Matcham NSW 1830hrs

Ms B. noticed what she first took to be the moon in the half-moon phase, from her back door. The object, which was orange coloured and motionless, was visible above the tree line and seemed to be over the dam on her property. Later that same night, after she had gone to nearby Terrigal Haven, she saw there was a new moon in the sky and in a different direction to the first object. (UFOR [NSW])

c. 1987 The Entrance NSW 2230hrs

Ms B., while driving south on the Entrance Road, with four others in the car, saw what seemed to be another car, travelling noiselessly on their right hand side. The mystery object, which appeared to have three round headlights, stayed with them for about a minute. The object seemed to be above them, when in actual fact the road slopes off to a valley on their right hand side. (UFOR [NSW])

20 May 1988() Holbrook NSW 1900hrs**

Mr B, aged 10, was standing next to his father's utility, on the family farm, 14 km south-west of Holbrook, when he heard a noise "like an owl flying" coming from above him. Looking up, he saw a "shiny grey object flying at tree top height and looking like a flying steam iron". The object was about the size of an average car and was estimated to be flying at about 300 kph. The object was also seen by B's brother. Both boys thought they saw a door of some sort on the side of the craft. (UFOR [NSW])

2 Aug 1992() Narara NSW 0230hrs**

Mrs M., while up feeding her baby during the night, saw a glowing, oval-shaped object through her open window. After watching it for a while, the object 'just vanished', despite there being no clouds in the sky. (UFOR [NSW])

30 Oct 1993 Singleton NSW 2040hrs

A grazier, Mr R., living in an isolated, rural area, on a property between Singleton and Muswellbrook NSW, was watching television in the evening, when he became aware of a very bright light moving around outside near the house. Mr R. opened the curtains to see what it was. On doing so, he saw a brilliantly lit 'circular' or spherical object flying over the property at a height of about 120 metres and at about a similar distance. The object had a white circumference with a light blue middle, and was giving off a blue halo. Mr R. watched the object for about seven seconds till it disappeared behind a hill, heading in a north-westerly direction. Mr R. had been a UFO sceptic up to this point, despite some of his friends having seen similar sightings. (UFOR [NSW] NA930060)

Date unknown. Location unknown. 2200-2400hrs

Mrs F. recalls incident while driving at night on a country road as a country organiser for the Miss Australia Quest, she saw a round or disc-shaped, very bright flying object through her car windscreen. Stopping the car, she got out for a better look. The object was gunmetal grey with a row of brilliantly-lit lights around its edges. It remained stationary for 5-6 minutes, then took off at tremendous speed, vanishing in seconds. Mrs F. had to let her eyes adjust to the darkness again before driving off. (UFOR [NSW])

** Incident date unknown — date sighting reported.

Chinese satellite falls into Atlantic

L. Groenemann

COLORADO SPRINGS, 12 March 1996 – On 12 March 1996 the United States Space Command in Colorado reported that parts of a Chinese spy satellite had re-entered the Earth's atmosphere earlier that day and were believed to have fallen into the southern Atlantic Ocean near South Africa. When in space, the satellite had been travelling at speeds ranging from 27,200 km/hr to 28,160 km/hr and orbited the earth every 88 minutes.

Reuter

The satellite's impending return had been mentioned by newspapers on a number of occasions during the preceding months, but there was a notable lack of comment from official Chinese news agencies throughout the entire period.

A number of earlier reports world-wide about the satellite included conflicting information, and the event was played down or played up from time to time in the media.

For example, the 'spy' satellite had initially been described as a Chinese earth resources satellite which had been launched to map the geological and mineral features of China from space some six years previously. The mapping project was meant to

last for only a few weeks, before the satellite was due to parachute back to Central China where film on-board and electronic data would be recovered.

However, on its scheduled return to China, the satellite had come back into the atmosphere at the wrong angle and bounced off the irregular atmosphere into a higher orbit. Space agencies in several countries had been monitoring it ever since, as a potentially hazardous piece of space junk.

Other less public reports indicated that authorities and civil emergency services in Australia, New Zealand, Canada, the United States (and presumably elsewhere) had been alerted to the impending return of the unstable satellite at least four months before its actual return. Authorities in Australia (Air Force, Police and State Emergency Services), had been advised to take whatever steps were necessary to recover the satellite if it landed here. In the United States, the Authorities had apparently been authorised to use 'deadly force', if required.

One 'semi-official' account (usually reliable) indicated that the satellite was powered by a stainless steel nuclear reactor containing two kilograms of Plutonium. Concern that this might fall into the hands of terrorist groups in the United States and be used to blackmail the Authorities there had necessi-

tated the 'deadly force' authorisation.

Plutonium is an extremely toxic man-made element, as well as being very radioactive. It is very highly regulated, and background levels in the environment are very carefully monitored. (For example, there is an important Antarctic project to monitor the very low levels of Plutonium that eventually find their way there from nuclear power and military establishments — all of them in the Northern hemisphere). Plutonium is very highly attracted, chemically, to calcium (as in bone tissue), and a few tens of atoms in your body will surely cause cancer. Two kilograms released into the Earth environment would have increased the monitored levels several times over and posed a very real public health threat, world-wide.

The Chinese are known to still use such 'dirty' on-board nuclear reactors to power equipment on their satellites. The United States gave up some years ago, because they were considered too dangerous, and the Soviets have recently stopped using on-board reactors for Earth satellites.

Hopefully, the US and South African authorities have retrieved the satellite pieces from the South Atlantic, and the Chinese have modified their satellite power sources. □