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UFO UpDates Mailing List

Re: Philosophy of Science and UFOs

From: "Jerry Cohen" <rjcohen@li.net>
Date: Sun, 19 Jan 1997 22:17:40 -0500
Fwd Date: Mon, 20 Jan 1997 00:45:51 -0500
Subject: Re: Philosophy of Science and UFOs

John,
No apologies necessary, except perhaps mine to John, and I hope it's O.K. that I'm posting this to the list because I'd like other people to see it. I'm sure some of them probably had the same question.

You wrote:

>Hi Jerry.

>I haven't been keeping up with the mail on Errol's list and I think the >original question about the Catalina film 'UFO' analysis has got lost in >all the quote attributes.

>Are you and John Powell are referring to the UFO film that after computer >analysis was shown to be a Cessna aircraft? If so, this was documented in >a program made for the first series of the "Arthur C. Clarke Mysterious >World" series.

>If this isn't the Catalina UFO film you're discussing, apologies.

>Thanks,
> John

>--
>
> *-----*
..... legion@werple.net.au
>
>

JC: Errol's list has grown by leaps and bounds and a lot of the material coming in is excellent. Questions and answers like this one are partly the reason. (Errol is the other part.)

Looking at your question, I just realized that John and I may not have been talking about the same thing and it is my fault. I got Catalina and Trindade Island confused and it wasn't "motion picture film," it was "photos" of which I was thinking. (With a mistake like this, I should probably should take a two-week vacation to the first of those two places..to clarify the location, of course. <grin>)

The case to which I was referring was one that happened on or about January 16, 1958. A Brazilian IGY Navy Survey ship, the Almirante Saldanha, was "on station on an assignment to observe and track weather balloons launched from Trindade, a six mile square mountainous island... The ship carried both military and civilian personnel." 1 A UFO was claimed to have flown over the island and witnessed by crew members and personnel. A set of

pictures, showing a "Saturn-like" object, was taken by a Navy photographer while the ship was cruising off the island. The ship was full of scientists who had absolutely nothing to gain by hoaxing a flying saucer story except perhaps, permanently ruined scientific reputations.

Dr. Hynek presented the Blue Book version of the case ("The Hynek UFO Report" . paperback pp 246-251) He also displayed two of the photos therein. 2

However, after reviewing the above today, Blue Book indicated that the photos were taken by an individual who was known for "trick photography" (which he admitted) and therefore would cast a great deal of suspicion on the credibility of those photos even though the case was allegedly witnessed by crew members and personnel. Although other factors were described which would lend credulity to the event, this researcher could discern no possible definitive conclusion, unless there is other concrete information in existence of which I am presently not aware. Those wishing to review the Blue Book version for themselves will find useful information located in footnotes.

Coincidentally, most likely because they were taking the many cases that occurred in 1957/58 seriously (probably including this one), the Air Force revised its "Regulation No. 200-2" the following month telling intelligence officers and airline pilots to make full reports of UFO sightings. 3

"AF Regulation No. 200-2, first issued in August 1953, outlined the responsibilities and procedures for preparing and submitting UFO reports at Air Force bases, as well as releasing information to the public. This latest revision continued the practice of having the officers of the Air Intelligence Service Squadron (Air Defense Command) conduct all field investigations into sightings, while Aerospace Technical Intelligence Center (ATIC) performed the final analyses and evaluations."

Captain Gregory, then head of Project Blue Book, "wanted some changes made, including emphasis placed upon 'prompt reporting' and 'strict compliance with this regulation by all commanders.' " He also hoped to engender a new attitude among investigating personnel. "The attitude of all personnel," the regulation read in part, "should at all times, reflect courtesy, seriousness, and consideration..."

Respectfully,
Jerry Cohen

E-mail: rjcohen@li.net

Footnotes:

1) Look Magazine Special . FLYING SAUCERS . pub. by Editors of United Press International and Cowles Communications, Inc., Belleville, Lance . UPI Rio de Janeiro "Ola o disco!" : also, Hynek, Allen J.: "The Hynek UFO Report" . New York . Dell Publishing Co., Inc. 1977 . chapter 10 "The Brazilian UFO Photos"

2) Ibid. Hynek, Allen J.: "The Hynek UFO Report" : also see... Newsday, Long Island newspaper . February 26, 1958 : also, National Enquirer . May 25, 1969 . "Hundreds of Saucer Sightings in Brazil Force Govt. Probe"

3) International UFO Reporter (IUR) . Jan/Feb 1993 . p 4 . Webb, Walter N. "Allen Hynek as I Knew Him"

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