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Navigation

[UFOs](#)
[Paranormal](#)
[People](#)
[Places](#)
[Area 51](#)
[Random](#)
[Top 100](#)
[Catalog](#)
[What's New](#)

Search...

...for this word in:

Page Titles
 Page Contents
 Book
 Title/Author

[Help](#)

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[Mothership](#) -> [UFO](#) -> [Updates](#) -> [1997](#) -> [Jul](#) -> Here

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Ice in The Sky

From: **Dan Syes** <dsyes@micron.net>
Date: Thu, 24 Jul 1997 17:23:50 -0600
Fwd Date: Thu, 24 Jul 1997 04:14:34 -0400
Subject: Ice in The Sky

Blocks of ice crash down from sky in Brazil

22 July 1997 Web posted at: 22:47 ART, Buenos Aires time (01:47 GMT)

RIO DE JANEIRO (Reuter)

- Two large blocks of ice which crashed in Brazil's Sao Paulo state from clear skies are most likely part of a meteorite, a Brazilian researcher said Tuesday.

"It's very strange. In principle they look like normal ice, have no smell. But we are analyzing the two blocks and we should have something at the end of this week," said Jurandir Zullo, researcher at the Campinas State University.

"I think the most likely answer is that they are part of a meteorite," he added.

The first block of ice slammed through the tiled roof of a bus factory July 11 in Campinas, 62 miles north of the state capital of Sao Paulo.

"People who saw it just after it landed said that it was around eight inches by 31 inches," Zullo said.

"They then put it in the freezer but it still melted a little. When we got there, it weighed about 110 lbs," he added.

The second block plummeted down on July 15, causing a small crater in a rural area some 37 miles north of Campinas.

Officials at the local airport at Campinas have ruled out the possibility the ice may have fallen off a passing aircraft.

"The tower at the airport has said there were no airplanes passing when the ice blocks fell," Zullo said.

A meteorologist at the National Institute for Space Studies said there was no climatic feature on both days which could have accounted for the two ice blocks.

"I am also very curious," he said. Zullo said he had only heard of one other previous incident in Brazil when a crater was found in the Amazon and scientists suspected a block of ice which had subsequently melted.

In April 1995, Chinese experts, saying it could be a scientific first recovered what they believed to be chunks of meteoric ice that plummeted to earth in Zheijang province.

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