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Major UFO Flap in Italy 02-23-99

From: **Maurizio Baiata** <mbalien@tin.it>
Date: Wed, 24 Feb 1999 16:42:39 +0100
Fwd Date: Wed, 24 Feb 1999 17:34:57 -0500
Subject: Major UFO Flap in Italy 02-23-99

Dear Sirs,

The magazine "Notiziario UFO" is the leading italian magazine of UFO research and investigation.

I'm submitting below information regarding the wave of UFO sightings occurring on the evening of 23 February in Italy.

Best regards,

Maurizio Baiata
Editor of "Notiziario UFO"

PRESS RELEASE

The objects were UFOs, not Venus and Jupiter

Further to the consistent wave of UFO sightings in several central northern Italian regions that were reported on 23 February to the editorial staff of "Notiziario UFO", the editor of the monthly magazine of UFO research and investigation states as follows:

The outbreak of sightings, which occurred around 7 PM in two different towns of the Venetian area and were noticed simultaneously in Bologna, Turin, San Giovanni Valdarno, Cuneo, Turin, Venice, Genoa, Ravenna, Novara, Pescara, Gualdo Tadino, Lucca and Rome, came to a halt just before 9 PM. It has been a significant and long lasting phenomenon.

Most of the eye-witnesses saw two very bright lights in the sky, at varying altitudes and different in size, stationary or slowly passing by, at times coupled together and intermitently lit up, while others described them as geometric formations totally different from a planetary phenomenon and mainly hovering at low altitude. In Novara, two lights headed towards Invorio, stopped for about 30 minutes and, right after, flew in the direction of Gozzano.

As the switchboards of police stations were jammed by thousands of alarmed phone calls, several astronomical observations explained the phenomenon as an unusual conjunction between Jupiter and Venus and some even mentioned Saturn.

Among the sightings reported to "Notiziario UFO", primarily contradicting the statement is Mr. Filippo Bigazzi's, from San

Giovanni Valdarno, who noticed and videoed, in the presence of his relatives, two stationary lights which intermittently appeared and disappeared. Meanwhile at 7.20 PM in Ravenna, Mr. Stefano Matteucci, observed by telescope a three lights formation, with atop a darker square shaped object. Another video was shot in Venice by Mr. Federico Provoleri who caught a bright moving object. Interestingly enough, the editorial staff here was informed that the military bases of Istrana and Tessera, Veneto, were kept on the alert.

Many reports were confirmed by video-tapes which will later be analyzed by the technical experts of our magazine. The UFO flap of 23 February takes its place within a context of a sudden intense series of sightings all over Italy, occurring first in October '98 and reported again and again through the month of February, characterized by constant weekly phone calls.

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