

# EVEN MORE AMAZING . . .

*Further light on the A.V.B. case*

*By Gordon Creighton*

IN FLYING SAUCER REVIEW for January/February, March/April and July/August of 1965, we related all that we had learned up till then about Antônio Villas Boas<sup>1</sup> and the MOST AMAZING CASE OF ALL, and we ended our account by mentioning an important new series of six articles in the Brazilian magazine *O Cruzeiro* of Rio de Janeiro (but, oddly enough, in its Spanish edition only) which seemed to contain much further material about the case and which we therefore hoped to translate and publish in due course.

Soon after I had completed the quite lengthy job of translating the articles from *O Cruzeiro*, I was astonished to receive last autumn, from Dr. Buhler in Rio de Janeiro, a complete 13-page photostat of a remarkable document in Portuguese. This consisted of full typewritten transcripts of the original declaration made by Antônio Villas Boas before Dr. Olavo Fontes, M.D., and Senhor Joao Martins, and of Dr. Fontes' official signed report on his medical examination of Antônio.

These two documents are dated February 22nd, 1958, that is to say only a few weeks after Antônio's alleged encounter with the strange people who kidnapped him one night, and carried him aboard their craft for an extraordinary purpose—an act of procreation between beings of different worlds.

Owing to the enormous accumulation of work with which we are beset, my translation of these two documents had proceeded slowly, and, although now more or less complete, still required checking and polishing. Meanwhile the articles in *O Cruzeiro* had proved to contain extracts from the same documents, and we can therefore disregard them.

But now, to my great surprise, comes a letter dated April 25, 1966, from Dr. Fontes himself, and enclosed with it is a translation of the whole of the Declaration, and of the Medical Report, made by Miss Irene Granchi. This is most valuable, and Miss Granchi will see that a good deal of her work has gone into the complete English version which follows. (I have included one or two passages which were absent from her rendering, either because she had missed them or because, for the

sake of modesty she perhaps thought it better to omit them. But I offer no apologies to anybody for giving a translation of every word of Antônio's story and of Dr. Olavo's report, for if this "most amazing case" is true then it is of the utmost importance and must be set down in full for all who want to know the facts.)

The Declaration and Medical Report are preceded by Dr. Olavo Fontes' covering letter of April 25 to me. This letter is also of the greatest importance, inasmuch as it throws light on the early history of the case and explains certain discrepancies which readers will note between the version already given by me in FLYING SAUCER REVIEW last year and the version in the original Declaration now to hand.

For, I must repeat, this Declaration is dated February 22, 1958, whereas the one that I gave previously, had reached us, in a roundabout way, namely through the SBEDV, Sociedade Brasileira de Estudos sobre Discos Voadores (Brazilian Society for the Study of Flying Saucers), and was based on the account given by Antônio to Dr. Buhler and a companion (Dr. M.P.A.) when they both made the long journey into the hinterland of Minas Gerais State to interview him, in July, 1961, that is to say *more than three-and-a-half years after Antônio's trip to Rio.*

As I hope I have made clear long ago, Antônio Villas Boas is no sophisticated urban type. A handsome brown-skinned man, to judge by the photographs of him which I have, he is evidently a Caboclo (a man of partly Portuguese and partly Amerindian ancestry.) He has had very little education, as the Medical Report confirms, and is quite a typical small farmer of the vast Brazilian Interior. That Dr. Fontes and Senhor Martins should have found him so highly intelligent does not surprise me, for I have had plenty of contact with such farmers in my own travels in Brazil, and I know that everything in the account of this man sounds authentic, insofar as his own background is concerned.

That there should be some variations (but remarkably few and certainly not important) in two tellings of this story separated by an interval of more than 3½ years is surely no ground for sur-

prise. In fact they are just the sort of discrepancies which we could expect to creep in if Antônio's experiences were genuine. What *would* have looked highly suspicious would have been the discovery that there were no discrepancies at all!

And now, to cap it all, comes the fact that as Dr. Fontes says in his covering letter to me, the symptoms of the **illness suffered by Antônio after his cosmic dallings very strongly suggest radiation-sickness.**

It seems therefore that the lady in the case was "hot-stuff"—and in more than one sense of the term. So, if anybody still wants to prove that Antônio invented the whole story, it looks as though they are going to have to show us precisely how this simple half-breed farmer from the Great Brazilian Out-Back managed to get himself **radio-active.**

There is also another item of interest that I can include here. In his declaration, it will be seen that Antônio says he had endeavoured to memorise something of the appearance of the strange writing which stood in vivid red light over one of the doors inside the Visitors' craft, and that he had already sent Senhor Joao Martins his sketched attempt to show what the writing looked like, but that now, on February 22, 1958, he no longer recalled it very well. There is consequently no portrayal of this inscription in the Declaration now received, but here again we are most fortunate in the multiplicity of our contacts, for it so happens that last year Dr. Buhler sent me a copy of the writing and I therefore append it at the end of Antônio's Declaration. We do not yet know how Dr. Buhler got this sketch; and whether it is a reproduction of the original one given by Antônio to Joao Martins, or based on a rendering given on some other occasion, but no doubt we shall learn these details in due course.

#### **Dr. Olavo Fontes' Letter**

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil  
April 25, 1966

Dear Mr. Creighton,

In a recent trip to the U.S.A. I had the opportunity to see a number of the *FLYING SAUCER REVIEW*, with your article *The Most Amazing Case of All—Part 1*.

I was very interested, because I am one of the three persons in Brazil possessing the complete report on that incident. In fact I made a personal investigation of the whole affair, together with the newspaperman Joao Martins, who was the man first contacted by the witness, Antônio Villas Boas.

Antônio Villas Boas wrote two letters to Joao Martins<sup>2</sup> shortly after the incident had occurred,

and we finally decided to send him the money for the trip to Rio de Janeiro.

He arrived here about four months after the happenings, with everything still fresh in his memory. He was subjected to an exhaustive cross-examination and interrogation and also to a medical examination including psychological tests.

We decided not to publish the results of our investigation because the case was too "wild", and also because of the possibility of another similar case occurring which could be compared with this one—a comparison that would have been most interesting if the first case were not generally known.

But no second case appeared<sup>3</sup> and now, eight years later, you have finally published the results of the investigation made by the Sociedade Brasileira de Estudos Sobre Discos Voadores.

Unfortunately, their report is not complete—not because of any failure in their investigation, but due simply to the fact that their interview with Villas Boas took place nearly four years after the incident. Obviously his recollection of the events wasn't as good as it was when we first interviewed him. There was a loss of detail, and he didn't remember many things that could be important for the evaluation of his experience.

To correct this situation, I enclose herewith the complete report about his amazing experience. I would like to see it published in the *Review*, together with any comments or conclusions you would like to make on the whole case.

Concerning his medical history, the symptoms described suggest radiation-poisoning or exposure to radiation, but unfortunately he came to me too late for the blood examinations that could have confirmed such a possibility beyond any doubt. I was then without the additional evidence necessary for making such a diagnosis, and decided not to talk about it.

Sincerely yours,

*Olavo T. Fontes, M.D.*

**Deposition by Antônio Villas Boas.** This deposition<sup>4</sup> was given in Dr. Fontes' consulting room on the afternoon of February 22, 1958, in the presence of a witness, the journalist Joao Martins.

"My name is Antônio Villas Boas. I am 23 years old and a farmer by profession. I live with my family on a farm which we own, near the town of Francisco de Sales, in the State of Minas Gerais, close to the border with the State of Sao Paulo.

"I have two brothers and three sisters, all of whom live in the same neighbourhood (there were two more, but they have died). I am the youngest son but one. We men all work on the farm, where

we have many fields and plantations under cultivation; we also own a petrol-driven tractor ("International") for ploughing. When the time comes round for cultivation we work the tractor in two shifts: during the day the work is done by two labourers whom we hire for the job. At night it is usually I who do it, working alone (so then I sleep during the day), or at times I work with one of my brothers. I am single, and in good health.

"I work hard, and I am also taking a correspondence course, studying whenever I can. It was a sacrifice for me to come to Rio, for I should not have left the farm where I am badly needed. But I felt it was my duty to come here and relate the strange happenings in which I have been involved, and I am ready to comply with whatever you gentlemen may deem best, including making a declaration before the civil or military authorities. I would however like to return home as speedily as possible, for I am very worried about the situation in which I left the farm.

"It all began on the night of October 5, 1957. There had been a party there at our house and we had gone to bed later than usual, at 11 o'clock. I was in my room with my brother Joao Villas Boas. Because of the heat, I decided to open the shutters of the window, which looked out on to the yard of the farm. Then I saw, right in the middle of the yard, a silvery fluorescent reflection, brighter than moonlight, lighting up the whole ground. It was a very white light, and I don't know where it came from. It was as though it came from high up above, like the light of a car head-lamp shining downwards spreading its light all around. But in the sky there was nothing to be seen from which the light could be coming. I decided to call my brother, and showed it to him, but he is a very unbelieving person, and said it was better that we go to sleep. Then I closed the shutters, and we both lay down to sleep. But some time later, being unable to overcome my curiosity, I opened the shutters again. The light was still there, in the same place. I continued to watch. Then, suddenly, it started to move slowly towards my window. Quickly I closed the shutters—so quickly indeed that it made a loud noise and awoke my brother who was already asleep. Together in the darkness of our room we watched the light penetrating through the little slats of the shutters and then moving towards the roof and shining down between the tiles.<sup>5</sup> There it finally went out, and did not return.

"The second episode occurred on the night of October 14. It must have been between 9.30 and 10.00 p.m., though I cannot guarantee this as I had no watch on me. I was working the tractor, ploughing a field, along with my other brother. Suddenly

we saw a very bright light—so bright that it hurt the eyes—stationary at the northern end of the field. When we saw it, it was already there and was big and round, approximately the size of a cart wheel. It seemed to be at a height of about 100 metres and was of a light red colour, illuminating a large area of the ground. There must have been some object inside the light, but I cannot positively affirm this, since the light was much too strong for me to be able to see anything else. I called to my brother to go over there with me and see what it was. He did not want to, so I went alone. When I got near the thing, it suddenly moved and, with enormous speed, shifted to the southern end of the field, where it stopped again. I went after it again, and the same manœuvre was repeated; this time it went back to where it had been at the start. I went on trying, and the same manœuvre was repeated twenty times. By then I was tired, so I stopped following it and went back and joined my brother. The light remained stationary in the distance for a few minutes longer. From time to time it seemed to give out rays in all directions, with flashes like the setting sun. Then the light suddenly vanished, just as though it had been turned out. I am not certain if this is what actually happened, for I cannot recall whether I kept looking in that direction all the time. I may have looked away in another direction for a few moments, and it may have climbed rapidly and disappeared before I looked over there again.

"On the following day, which was October 15, I was alone, ploughing with the tractor at the same place. It was a cold night and the sky very clear, with many stars. At precisely 1 o'clock a.m., I suddenly saw a red star in the sky. It really looked like one of those big, brightly shining stars. But it wasn't, as I soon discovered, for it rapidly began to grow larger, as though coming in my direction. In a few moments it had grown into a very luminous, egg-shaped object, flying towards me at a terrific speed. It was moving so fast that it was above the tractor before I had had time to think what I should do. There this object then suddenly halted and it descended till it was perhaps 50 metres or so above my head, lighting up the tractor and all the ground around, as though it were daylight, with a pale red glare so powerful that my tractor lights, which were on, were completely swamped by it.

"I was terrified, for I had no idea what it was. I thought of making my escape on the tractor but I saw that with the low speed it could develop, my chances of success would be slight, given the high speed shown by the object which meanwhile was still stationary there in the air. I also thought of jumping down and escaping on foot. But the soft

earth, turned up by the plough-blades, would have been a difficult obstacle in the dark. It would have been difficult for me to run with my legs sinking knee-deep into that treacherous soil, and if I put a foot in a hole I might even break a leg. For perhaps about two minutes I remained in this agonised state, not knowing what to do. But then the luminous object moved forward, and stopped again at a distance of some ten or fifteen metres in front of the tractor. Then it began to drop towards the ground very slowly. It came nearer and nearer, and I was now able to see for the first time that it was a strange machine, rather rounded in shape, and surrounded by little purplish lights, and with an enormous red headlight in front from which all the light had been coming that I had seen when it was higher up in the sky, and that had prevented me from making out any other details.

"I could see the shape of the machine clearly, which was like a large elongated egg with three metal spurs in front (one in the middle and one on each side). They were three metal shafts, thick at the bases and pointed at the tips. I could not distinguish their colour, for they were enveloped by a powerful reddish phosphorescence (or fluorescent light, like that of a luminous sign) of the same shade as the front headlight. On the upper part of the machine there was something which was revolving at great speed and also giving off a powerful fluorescent reddish light. At the moment when the machine reduced speed to land, this light changed to a greenish colour, which corresponded—such was my impression—to a diminution in the speed of rotation of that revolving part, which at this point seemed to be taking on the shape of a round dish or a flattened cupola. (The shape of it could not be made out before). I cannot say whether this was the actual shape of that revolving part on top of the machine, or whether this was simply the impression given by its movement, for at no moment did it ever stop moving, not even later, when the craft was on the ground.

"Naturally the majority of the details that I am describing now were only observed by me later. In that first moment, I was too nervous and agitated to see much. So much so, that, when I saw three metal supports (forming a tripod) emerge beneath the machine when it was at only a few metres from the ground, I totally lost the little self-control that I had left. Those metal legs were obviously meant to take the weight of the craft when it touched the ground on landing. I did not manage to see this actually happen, for I started up the tractor (its engine had still been running all this time) and shifted it round to one side, trying to open out a route of escape. But I had only travelled a few metres when the engine suddenly

died and, simultaneously, the tractor lights went out. I am unable to explain how this happened, for the starting-key was in and the lights were on. I tried to get the engine to start again, but the starter was isolated and gave no sign of life. Then I opened the tractor door on the opposite side from where the machine was, and jumped down to the ground and started to run. But it seems I had lost precious time trying to get the tractor started, for I had only run a few steps when somebody grabbed one of my arms."

### Comment by Dr. Olavo Fontes

This description of the first moments after the appearance of the craft above the tractor is different from the one given by Villas Boas in one of his letters to Joao Martins last November. In that letter, he said that on seeing the "object" stationary above the tractor, and being unable to escape on the tractor owing to its low speed or on foot because of the danger and the handicap presented by the freshly turned soil, he had decided to turn off the engine and wait and see what happened. He had then seen the object land, a short distance from him, on its metal tripod, and had seen its door open, a ladder come down, and two men in strange clothing appear. One of them had begun to descend the ladder, while the other one had signed to Villas Boas inviting him to come nearer and to enter the machine. It was only then that panic had seized him, and he had tried to start up the tractor. Not succeeding in this, the starter being isolated (there is no reference made to his lights), and seeing one of the men already down on the ground and the other man half way down the ladder, he had quickly abandoned the tractor via the door on the other side, and had been seized, after a few steps, by the first of his pursuers. From here on, the two versions agree.

This contradiction was the only one that we were able to discover during our interrogation of Villas Boas. We do not demand an explanation for it and merely note it for future evaluation. The existence of this contradiction was one of the reasons for Joao Martins' unbelief regarding the case.

[The Antônio Villas Boas account will be continued in our next issue—EDITOR]

### NOTES (By G. Creighton)

<sup>1</sup> In October 1964, when Part I of *The Most Amazing Case of All* was being written, the witness was known to us only as "A.V.B.", his full name having not been divulged. The Editor suggested that to help the story 'flow' we should give the mysterious A.V.B. a normal Portuguese name. That is how A.V.B. came to be known as "Adhemar".

<sup>2</sup> By 1957 many people throughout Brazil had heard of Joao Martins, and had seen his articles on UFOs in magazines and newspapers.

<sup>3</sup> Let us not be too sure that no further case has yet appeared! There are features in the Valensole affair which have not yet been clarified, and it is a fact that one of the symptoms suffered by the French farmer was identical with one of those experienced by the Brazilian farmer, Antônio (overwhelming sleepiness).

<sup>4</sup> A man to whom I recently read out part of my translation of Antônio's story remarked that it sounded altogether too "literary" and too technical for a statement by a Brazilian farmer of the Interior. On analysing his objections, it dawned on me that this was not at all due to my translation, which is a very close one, but simply to the fact that Portuguese is a *Latin* language. It is a fact that quite frequently in English we have a Saxon word and a Latin word for the same concept, and that of the two the Latin one is more "literary". This is natural, given the Germanic basis

of our language. Seen from this angle, it often happens that the languages of the Latin family strike Anglo-Saxon hearers as unnaturally "literary". But in fact the vocabulary of Antônio is entirely right and in keeping with what one would expect in a man in his position in life. Although he has only had primary school education. Antônio belongs entirely to the white, European civilization of Brazil. From his photograph it is obvious that he is a "Caboclo" and has some Indian blood in his veins, like so many Brazilians. But his pattern of thinking and cultural background are totally European.

<sup>5</sup> For the benefit of British or other readers who may find it peculiar that the light should have penetrated the roof in this way, I should explain that in Brazil (as in many other hot countries) rural houses never have "ceilings". For better ventilation, the space is open right up from floor to roof, and indeed it very frequently happens in Brazil that thieves make their entry by stripping off a few tiles and jumping down into the house.

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established thereby that the UFO must be a large object at some distance from the camera and not a small artifact tossed into the air close to the camera? The answers to these questions will be eagerly awaited.

One other incidental matter arises. RAAF investigators have been relatively quiet during the recent Victorian flap, but are known to have investigated at least one of the sightings. However, despite the considerable national publicity accorded to the Brown photograph in both press and television media, it is a surprising fact that official circles have so far completely ignored this vital (perhaps definitive) evidence of UFO ex-

istence. One can only guess at the reasons, but could it be that officialdom is now only interested in the explainable sightings, those which keep down to a negligible figure the percentage of "unknown" cases? Only time will tell.

#### NOTE

CAPIO was formed under the distinguished patronage of Air Marshal Sir George Jones, K.B.E., C.B., D.F.C., on February 28, 1965, at the close of the first Convention of Australian UFO groups at Ballarat, Victoria. The function of the Organisation is to correlate the work of reliable UFO groups. In representations to official organisations Australian UFO groups now speak with a unified voice through CAPIO, whose address is P.O. Box 43, Moorabbin, Victoria, Australia.

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