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### **KRASPEDON CONTACT CLAIMS**

Traveling through the Brazilian state of São Paulo in November 1952, Aladino Felix and a friend climbed to the top of a mountain in the Angatuba range. No sooner had they reached the summit than they saw flying saucers hovering in the air. Because it was raining, the two did not stay long, but later Felix returned alone to the site and stayed three days and nights hoping to see a saucer. "On the last night, after a series of events which we will not go into here for fear of digression," he would write, "a saucer landed and we were given the chance of going inside it and meeting its crew." After an hour, during which Felix examined the ship's technology, the captain promised a return visit.

Several months later Felix's wife announced that a "parson" had come to see him. Going to the door of his São Paulo residence, Felix was pleasantly surprised to recognize his friend, the saucer captain. "Please excuse me for having presented myself as a parson," the extraterrestrial said, "but you must realize that your wife would be very disturbed if she knew the truth."

Lunch and conversation (in Portuguese, Hebrew, English, and Greek) followed. "I have no name in your sense of the word," Felix was told. "I come from a satellite of Jupiter. . . . Sometimes I live on Ganymede,

and sometimes on Io, just as you move around from one city to another."

In the course of five conversations (this, the one in the flying saucer, and three others in São Paulo), Felix's space friend spoke at length on extraterrestrial science, space and space travel, life on other worlds, and the failings of the human race. These conversations, consisting of short questions followed by long answers, comprise the bulk of a book Felix wrote under the pseudonym "Dino Kraspedon." First published in Brazil (in Portuguese) in 1957, it appeared in English translation two years later as *My Contact with Flying Saucers*.

Even by the standards of contactee literature, the book is tedious and unbelievable. Outside contactee circles it was little noticed, and Felix/Kraspedon soon dropped out of sight. He would have been forgotten entirely if it had not been for Felix's reappearance under lurid circumstances in August 1968.

Early in the month Felix told a São Paulo television audience that his contact claims were a pack of lies. To most observers the only surprise was that he had admitted it. More shocking was his arrest at the end of August. His legal troubles got headline treatment in the Brazilian press, which reported that he and fellow members of a terrorist gang had been apprehended. São Paulo's *Ultima Hora* devoted three pages to his testimony. A Brazil-based correspondent wrote England's *Flying Saucer Review*:

He has been "singing like the proverbial canary," but what he has said is so fantastic and so contradictory that there can be no doubt that the poor chap is extremely unbalanced. He has even gone so far as to say that his arrest will have serious consequences for humanity, as the Venusians will soon attack Earth in order to free him and his friends ["World Round-up," 1969].

Felix would not be sentenced, however, until March 30, 1971. Though he was supposed to serve five years, in January 1972 the sentence was reduced to eight months, provided that it be followed by institutionalization in a mental hospital. Nothing has been heard of him since.

To some observers, however, the notion that Felix may have been nothing more than a sociopathic

personality was an insufficient explanation for his curious career. According to occult writer John A. Keel, Felix possessed remarkable psychic powers which enabled him to predict natural disasters, political assassinations, and other tragedies. Ignoring Felix's public confession that his contact claims were fictitious, Keel argued that evil supernatural entities ("ultraterrestrials") had disguised themselves as friendly space people and led Felix to ruin—another victim subject to "convincing events with flying saucers and the UT's [ultraterrestrials]. Then they were smothered with promises or ideas which ruined them" (Keel, 1970). "In other words," Gordon Creighton wrote in his endorsement of Keel's view, "'The Others' were the hoaxers—not their tool 'Dino Kraspedon'" (Creighton, 1971).

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## KUWAIT SIGHTINGS

In January 1979 the American embassy in Kuwait City sent this message to the State Department in Washington, D.C.:

1. A series of UFO sightings on November 9 [1978] caused the GOK [Government of Kuwait] to appoint an investigatory committee of experts from the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR). The committee's report which was released January 20 described eight sightings from November to December 14. A number of

the early sightings took place near a Kuwait oil company gathering center north of Kuwait City. Release of the committee's report was something of a media event as it coincided with Jan. 21 front page stories of yet another UFO sighting over Kuwait City, which included photographs in local newspapers.

2. The KISR committee rejected the notion that the UFOs were espionage devices but remained equivocal about whether they were of extraterrestrial origin. The KISR committee representative, Ratib Abu Id, told Emboff [embassy official] that the scientists did not know enough about the phenomenon to say with certainty that they weren't spaceships. The report went on to recommend that the government take all measures to protect Kuwait's airspace and territory as well as the country's oil resources.

3. Some local wags have made light of the first UFO sightings which came near the end of the long and traditionally exuberant holiday celebrations of Id Al Adha. However, we have learned recently of an event coincident with one of the UFO sightings which has confounded some of our most level-headed Kuwaiti friends and may have been what persuaded the GOK to make a serious investigation of the matter. A senior Kuwaiti Oil Company (KOC) official told us the UFO which first appeared over the northern oil fields seemingly did strange things to KOC's automatic pumping equipment. This equipment is designed to shut itself down when there is some failure which may seriously damage the petroleum gathering and transmission system, and it can only be restarted manually. At the time of the UFO's appearance, the pumping system automatically shut itself down and when the UFO vanished, the system started itself up again. This event was not addressed by the KISR committee report.

4. Even those who are not inclined to believe in visitors from outer space do tend to think something strange has been going on in Kuwaiti airspace. There has been speculation, for example, about helicopters or hovercraft bringing refugees or money out of beleaguered Iran. At