

THE SEARCH FOR EXTRATERRESTRIAL INTELLIGENCE: WHAT IS FLYING ABOUT OVER THE MOON?

© By ALEXEI ARKHIPOV

Scientific staff member of the Radioastronomical Institute of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences, Kharkov

(Translated from Russian. G.C.)

(From newspaper *Vecherniy Khar'kov*, July 12, 1994)

Much is being written about "UFOs on the Moon". But almost all of it is compilation and re-narration of a fairly small number of ufological legends. The credulous reader is usually regaled with reports of flying saucers encountered by the first humans on the Moon; of a squadron of 31 saucers allegedly observed on the Moon in 1963; of a gigantic luminous cross-shaped UFO on the Moon; of a venerable sage who encountered and saved some astronauts, and so on and so on.

But, despite all this profanation of the subject, a problem nevertheless *does* exist. And, so far, very little indeed is known about it. Our enquiries, carried out at the Kharkov Scientific and Investigative Institute on Anomalous Phenomena, (1) can throw a certain amount of light upon the real state of affairs in this exotic realm

FROM THE FILES

Mysterious moving objects on the Moon had been noticed long before the "UFO Wave" of 1947. It may indeed well be that the first report of

this kind dates from as far back as 1715, when, in London, the well-known astronomer Edmund Halley and J.E. de Louville saw, on the occasion of a solar eclipse, "as it were a sort of flash or momentary vibrations of beams of light, as though someone were setting fire to gunpower trails as used in mining. These bright flashes were very brief in duration and appeared now here, now there, but always in the shade".

Since then, many other eminent astronomers, such as Charles Messier, J.H. Schroeter, W.R. Brooks, V. Shafarzhik, W.H. Pickering, and J. Classen, have reported movement on the Moon. The range of theories as to the nature of these unusual lunar phenomena has been very wide, from terrestrial meteorites to lunar lightning.

But in the scientific milieu of the first half of the 20th Century, the prevailing view was that the Moon was "dead" in both the biological and the geological sense.

So selenologists adopted a sceptical stance to all reports of any changes on the surface of the Moon. And in fact between 1941 and 1946, when L. LaPaz, E.K. White, and W.G. Haas were attempting to detect an atmosphere on the Moon, they sought - as they said - moving points of light on the night-side of the Moon — i.e.

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bers of the group or some other party.

6. It could be argued that the object might be an aircraft shown at an unusual angle to the camera. To make this possible, there would need to be an airport quite close to this location for an aircraft to be flying at this fairly low altitude.

7. My own impression is that the object is probably no more than 1 - 2 miles from the camera. I have enlarged a portion of the negative, and enclose a black and white print. Although colour negatives do not translate very well to black and white papers, this at least gives quite a good view of the object, as I have printed it a little darker than normal to increase the density of the sky and the object.

Also enclosed is a section showing the object on its own. This is the equivalent of enlarging the whole of the negative to size 36 X 24". The white marks on this print are general dust and scratch marks, and would nor-

mally be apparent at this kind of magnification.

I think you will agree that the shape of the object as shown bears no resemblance to any known commercial craft, and from my observations, I share your excitement that this is probably a genuine photograph.

I would suggest that the photographer did not see the object at the time due to the fact that:

a) The object was passing across the sky and was only in camera view for a brief time. The photographer concentrating on his picture may have been totally unaware of something intruding into his photograph.

b) The object may have been 'invisible' to most eyes, being captured only on film. Presumably, UFOs are often reported as having been seen by one person and not another who may have been in the same vicinity.

With kind regards

Yours sincerely

Robert W. Rudge, LBIPP ■

Extraterrestrial Vampires in the Amazon Region of Brazil: Part II

© By Dr. Daniel Rebisso Giese
(Précis Translation from Portuguese, G.C.)

[For our first instalment from this Brazilian book, published in 1991, see FSR 39/3, Autumn 1994, EDITOR]

CHAPTER IV: COLARES ISLAND: A NEW "UFO STRONGHOLD." A STRATEGIC ZONE

Probably due to its position, Colares Island rapidly became a key UFO area.

A report in the newspaper *O Estado do Pará* (November 2, 1977) ran as follows. (This was an exception, for few such reports ever reached the press):-

According to Sr. Olímpio Martins, of the Bureau for Internal Affairs, on the morning of November 1, 1977, in the town of Colares, various persons were attacked by a cylindrical object emitting a greenish light. Some of the victims were sent to the Legal Medical Institute (Instituto Médico Legal) in Belém for diagnosis.

The "thing" had first appeared on October 19, no victims being at that time reported. However, on the next day, three women were targeted, being wounded in the breast. All three were overcome by tremendous nervous tension and an unknown sort of *lassitude* "as though they were receiving constant electric shocks."

According also to Olímpio Martins, at Juçarateua, near Colares, two fifteen-year-old youths were struck by a mysterious beam of light that caused raised weals on their chests and left them talking wild balderdash.

[*O Estado do Pará* newspaper, Belém, Nov. 2, 1977, "Colares attacked: Victims in Belém".]

LUMINOUS SPHERES

The nights in October and November of 1977 were a time of fear throughout the Island of Colares, particularly in the main town, Colares, itself, due to the bold and persistent appearances of the alien craft. Some of the local residents fled elsewhere for safety. Those who remained managed to work out a system of survival and still recall their difficult moments with the "chupa-chupas".

A carpenter named João Dias Costa (aged 44) and a fisherman, João da Cruz Silva (aged 54), both of Colares town, saw the notorious "luminous spheres" so greatly feared on account of their "low skimming swoops".

Another man from Colares town, Sr. Zacarias dos Santos Barata (74) saw the glowing balls on two nights. The first time, the object came from the direction of the Bay of Marajó, and rapidly vanished towards the interior of Colares Island. On the second night another ball, blue in colour, flew over the local football pitch. "It lit up all the trees around the field and then vanished towards the



town centre", said Sr. Zacarias.

Near the beach, in a modest wooden house, we met Sr. Sebastião Vernek Miranda (nickname "Zizi") who calmly describes his experience as follows:-

"I was there with my wife, Palmira, in front of the church on the sea-front, when - at about 8.00pm - we saw an intensely vivid "orangish" light coming in from the sea towards the town. As it approached, it climbed, and then, moving rapidly, vanished towards the inner part of the Island."

The barber Carlos Cardoso de Paula (aged 49), living at Travessa Deodoro da Fonseca No. 231, had a still closer encounter with the "lights", as he himself relates:-

"Everybody else was asleep. I was just still having my last smoke when suddenly a ball of fire entered our house up near the ridgepole of the gable. It started shooting round and round the room and then finally came right close to my hammock. It ran up my right leg as far as the knee (without touching my skin). I watched with much curiosity as it then moved across to the other leg. Then I started to feel feeble and sleepy. My cigarette fell from my hand and I came to and let out a yell. The fireball quickly vanished and everybody woke up. I think

it had been searching for a vein in my body but didn't manage to do so. As its brightness grew I felt a sort of heat coming from it."

[Note by author Dr. D.R. Giese: These fireballs described by the people of Colares represent a special category of manifestation within the UFO phenomenon - namely probes]

Alfredo Bastos Filho, a former town mayor, confirmed this and said: "Yes, indeed I can tell you, there wasn't a moment of peace. The populace were terrified by that business of the *"chupa-chupa"*. I even managed to see one of the injured victims myself - Dona Mirota, a lady who was receiving medical treatment at the Health Clinic."

So massive was the UFO activity over Colares Island that the people began to think the *"chupa-chupas"* were trying to make some sort of contact with them. Such was the view expressed by Sr. Raimundo Ferreira Monteiro (nickname *"Mimi"*). He still believes the craft were coming up out of the sea or out of some "underwater base" located in the Bay of Marajó — maybe in the region of the Caldeirão.

Since nobody really had a clue as to where the craft were coming from, families (women and children) all avoided being out at night, and always trying to sleep in the homes of relatives or friends. As for the men, they mounted guard at night near bonfires which they kept going, at various places along the roads. Whenever a *"chupa-chupa"* was seen approaching the people would make as much din as possible by banging tins and letting off fireworks. It was mentioned later that the more din people made and the more bonfires and fireworks, the closer the craft came! This has a bearing on the phenomenon of sensitivity to the sources of the heat and light from the extraterrestrial probes.

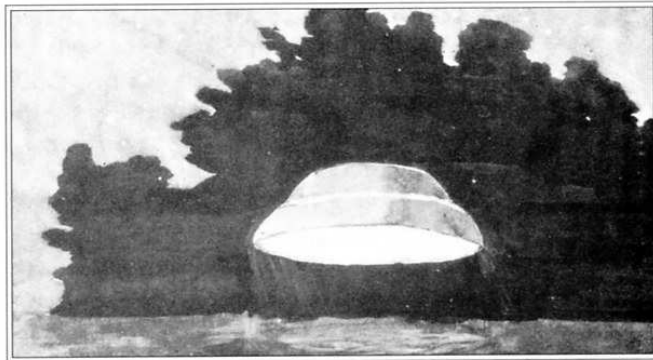
BEAMS OF LIGHT

In Colares town there are many folk who saw the unknown flying objects emitting powerful beams of light as though searching for something. These powerful beams, generally white, resembled the floodlights used at football games, so intense were they.

The fisherman Manoel João de Oliveira Filho, aged 44, married and residing at No. 64 rua Carneiro de Mendonça, was strolling towards the beach early one morning with some companions, to spend a day at sea fishing.

Before they had got to their boats, they saw - above the Rio Novo beach - an object shaped "like an umbrella" stationary at about 4m from the ground. From its underpart came a vivid white light. No sound was detectable from it at where they were standing. The object then moved away equally silently towards Machadinho, switching off the light as it went.

The lights emanating from these craft are always sharply defined, directed with perfect precision towards any target - houses, people, boats, trees, even the Brazilian Air Force's helicopters deployed over the Island dur-

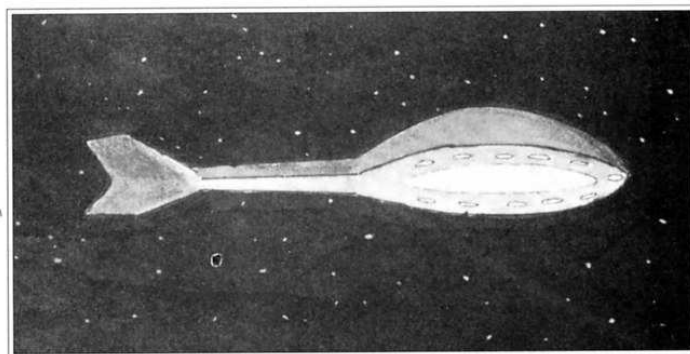


Artist's sketch of type of "umbrella" UFO reported over Colares (December 1977) by M. J. de Oliveira

ing the investigations of the UFO Wave.

Regarding the possible effects of the UFOs on the supply of electricity, Sr. Geraldo Aranha de Oliveira (aged 37) of the C.E.I.P.A. (Pará Electricity Plant) explained:-

"In 1977 the C.E.I.P.A. sub-station consisted of three Scania 125 kw, engines supplying light to the city from 6pm till midnight. I don't recall having ever seen a UFO over the plant. I merely remember that, at that period, lots of lightning conductor rods were burnt out and, at times, some fuses too."



Artist's sketch of type of UFO reported over shore at Cajueiro by Raimundo Leite (January 27, 1978)

Near Geraldo Aranha's residence we found the house of the worker Raimundo Costa Leite, very well known in the town of Colares for his skill in making and repairing fishing-nets. Sitting at home, with some of his friends around him, he described his own experience:-

"At about 4.00 in the early morning, I went with my pal "Baixinho" (Orivaldo Malaquias Pinheiro) to fish off the beach at Cajueiro. As I recall it, "Baixinho" shouted "Look! There it is!" and took to his heels, leaving me alone on the beach.

The craft was of the size and shape of a helicopter, made no noise, and was flying very high. I could have taken a pot-shot at it if I had had a gun with me. I was terrified when the machine shone a sort of searchlight down on the beach. That light was sweeping the ground, illuminating everything! It was a bluish light (sort of 'cold light'). It made it easier for me to see this because the craft had several small reddish lights beneath its front part.. The craft seemed to be seeking something on the ground. I was scared that it would touch me and, despite my poor physical condition I managed to run quite a distance, and then "Baixinho" returned and helped me.

FIRST CASES

The object had come from the direction of the sea and it headed off into the inner part of the Island."

[NOTE BY AUTHOR: When we visited Colares Island, "Baixinho" was absent, but his wife confirmed to us this account as given to us by Sr. Raimundo Costa Leite. D.R.G.]

AIR FORCE ALERTED

According to a statement by Sr. Sebastião V. Miranda, former resident of Colares, "the Brazilian Air Force spent more than 35 days in the town, and installed various devices near the Bacuri beach.

Sra. Alba Câmara Vilhena, a married lady living at 683 rua 15 de Novembro, added:-

"At the time of the "chupa-chupa" everybody was scared to sleep at night, and so almost every night we went away to be with relatives. On one occasion some people saw one of the craft. It was round, and all luminous. Just at that moment a helicopter of the F.A.B. (Brazilian Air Force) was flying quite near to our house. Then we saw the UFO direct a very powerful beam on to the helicopter, obliging it to land on the São Pedro Airfield. That happened at about 8.00 pm one evening."

Professor Raimundo Sebastião Aranha told us:-

"At that period I was closely connected with some of the Air Force's enquiries. They were seeking more information about the "chupa-chupa."

He said the Air Force had with them masses of equipment: cars, helicopters, radio transmitters, cameras, powerful glasses, etc., etc., He recalls that, in addition to the rank and file Air Force recruits, there was a whole group of officers and he had the impression that there was a foreigner among them.

He continued:-

"The helicopters that appeared from time to time, bringing materials and personnel, attempted to chase the UFOs but without much success. Indeed, on the contrary, it was the UFOs that chased them!"

CHAPTER V: NIGHT-WATCHES AT BAIÁ DO SOL NEW AREA

During the "chupa-chupa" Wave many new "sighting zones" emerged, such as Pinheiro and São Bento in the State of Maranhão, and Viseu and Bragança in the State of Pará. Some areas indeed reached such a 'level of saturation' that rarely a single night passed without UFO sightings.

One of these "ufological epicentres" was over the bay called the Baía do Sol (Bay of the Sun) and had a direct effect upon the Island of Mosqueiro.

Mosqueiro is one of the most important of the islands, and it is the biggest, belonging to the municipality of Belém.

The first reports of the "vampire light" over Mosqueiro came from Tapiapanema, a small, isolated community on one of the arms of the Rio Pratiçara (river). The inhabitants, mostly fisherfolk, began to get terrified after the experiences of some of their members. Journalists from the newspaper *O Estado do Pará* (no longer in existence) reported:-

"It was late in the evening of last Saturday (October 29, 1977). At Tapiapanema, Benedito Campos (24) and his wife, Sílvia Mara (17), were reclining in their hammocks after the day's labours, and they were alone. The rest of the folk living in the house had gone to Mosqueiro, a little town 16 kms distant, and reachable by boat.

Shortly after 6.00 pm they spotted an oval, silvery object emitting a greenish beam like a searchlight towards the room where they were lying. Filled with curiosity, they approached a small window and, as they did so, the beam shot in through it and made straight for Sílvia, throwing her into a sort of benumbed trance-like state. Concerned for his wife (she was pregnant) Benedito at once tried to protect her and move her, but she fell down on the floor in a swoon.

But there was more to it than that. Benedito says two "people" then entered the house from outside, with a golden coloured object (like a battery torch) probing all the openings of the house, and once again the beam struck Sílvia, this time hitting her left arm at the level of the wrist. Her veins seemed to "rise up out of the body", so swollen were they by the beam striking them. Distressed and screaming loudly for help, Benedito picked her up and carried her into the sitting-room and hid her behind a partition.

At that point, his neighbour, José do Nascimento Sobral, had heard him shouting and had run in, with a shotgun, into the room where the two beings were and had evidently managed to drive them away. (His immediate pre-occupation was to see how Benedito and wife were, so he did not actually see the departure of the entities).

Benedito and Sílvia were taken over to Sobral's house, some 500 m. distant. The two men, Benedito and Sobral, tried to calm Sílvia, fearing she was about to suffer a miscarriage, and whilst they were thus engaged the UFO appeared again, this time flying very low. Benedito ran out of the front door to get a good view of it, and the beam struck him too, paralyzing him for a while, Sílvia was not molested by this second "strike", (See article, "Flying Saucer Attacks Woman: Terror on Mosqueiro Island," in newspaper *O Estado do Pará*, Nov. 1, 1977, page 7).

Benedito and wife were immediately taken by their relatives to the Mosqueiro Medical Clinic. They went there by boat, by night, and a UFO accompanied them on the entire journey. At one moment during the journey the UFO shone a vivid beam down onto the river. According to the newspaper *O Estado do Pará* this was

accompanied by a tremendous noise. Then the UFO vanished.

The couple remained at the clinic for three days receiving medical treatment. Sílvia was soothed and calmed down, and a miscarriage averted. As for Benedito, he was in a state of severe depression for some days, his motor functions disturbed and, as his mother reports, weeping frequently. The hospital staff maintained great reserve about this case and only members of the family were allowed in to see the couple. The newspaper *O Estado do Pará* commented:

"The doctors were unwilling to express an opinion about the affair. However, on the morning of October 31 (yesterday) **a very tall fair-haired man was at the clinic and requested that there should be no talk about the happenings.**"

The members of Sílvia's family, learning of this, asked the Mosqueiro Police authorities for assistance. The local official in charge, Orlando Pantoja, explained the difficulties that there would be in attempting to take any measures against the "vampire light" and the strange craft, and stated that he would of course send a "confidential" report on the matter to the Central Police Headquarters in Belém, asking for advice as to how to proceed in such cases.

SIGHTINGS OVER THE BAY (BAIA DO SOL)

The sightings over this region reached such an intensity that the Headquarters of the First Regional Air Zone (No.1 COMAR) sent a team there. And after a few weeks of investigation the Air Force were possessed of a documentation - quite without equal - together with photographs and films etc. of the mysterious luminous bodies.

Public concern was immense, all the men banding together at night to organize watches, with bonfires and fireworks, thinking these would deter the craft. But nothing seemed to stop the UFOs, not even the Air Force's film men and their cameras - and even less the journalists from the *Estado do Pará*!

There were frequent and regular sightings of mother-ships and probes and flying saucers, all performing incredible manoeuvres over the Bay.

A 61-year-old widow, Elisa da Silva, residing on rua do Bacari, was one of the witnesses in that year (1977). One night, from her house, she saw a flying saucer appear. Vivid white light came from small windows or apertures on it. Seen from below, she said, it seemed quite dark and quite flat. It vanished towards the South, in total silence.

JOURNALISTS ON THE UFO TRAIL

Later, from May 1977 until June of the following year, 1978, came the Baía's *second* UFO wave. The *Jornal do Pará* sent a reporter, Biamir

Siqueira, and a photographer, José Ribamar, to cover the situation, and a summary of their findings was published in the newspaper over the days from June 25 to June 29, 1978

When we (Author speaking) started our own investigation in 1984, we were able to meet both the journalist and the photographer, and they gave us the following statement:

Q. (To Ribamar). What happened during your watches?

A. We remained in the inland districts of Pará, investigating, for 41 days, especially on the Island of Mosqueiro, and we saw several UFOs and managed to photograph them. At first nothing much happened, but from the moment that we put a red and black and white stripe on the bonnet of our car we had more luck in our sightings. This question of the coloured stripe was pointed out to us by an acquaintance of ours who was at the time working with the Air Force teams who were investigating the phenomenon. According to him, these colours had been seen on some UFOs. When we had our first encounter with a craft we were in a car belonging to the editor of the newspaper *O Estado do Pará*. I remember that Biamir and I were having a nap when we were suddenly awakened by an intense flash of bluish - verging towards greyish - light. We felt a powerful impact, as though it had a force behind it. We at once got out of the car and saw a craft flying overhead. It must have been at a height of 20m or so. Then it switched off its beam of light and vanished. On that occasion we didn't manage to photograph anything owing to our surprise and shock."

We would at this point mention that at no time during our own investigations did we ever secure any confirmation, from either the Military or from any of the other agencies involved in the investigations, that three-coloured beams of light had been seen. On June 25, 1978, the *Estado do Pará* published certain details which require correction. It said:

"On May 24, 1978, the unbelievable happened on the sloping waterfront at Baía do Sol township. The night was dark, with no stars visible in the sky. At 2.00am as they were sitting in their car sheltering from the heavy rain, the *Estado do Pará's* reporters were awakened by a powerful beam of light which - however unbelievable it may seem - passed through the metallic structure of the roof of the vehicle. Alarmed, they rapidly got out of the car. Then, when already a small distance from the car, they saw that a tube-shaped light beam, about ten inches in diameter, was coming down from above onto the roof of the car and passing through the metal panelling. All of this went on for about two minutes. When they started taking photographs, the craft, which was emitting the light beams and hanging silent and stationary in the air, at once lit up all the tree-tops all around."

[Ribamar has not confirmed that photographs were taken on this occasion. They got their first photos on a different occasion.]

In continuation of his story, Ribamar went on:

"We managed to photograph the UFOs on another night. I think that altogether during those night-watches

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we managed to take more than 200 photos. To begin with, we lost a lot of pictures. We were using very high sensitivity film, and a NIKON camera fitted with a telescopic lens. **I didn't keep any of the photos, and later on, on orders from the office of the newspaper, the entire collection of our photos was sold to a North-American group - I don't know for how much.**

Funny things happened during those watches. At first, the craft used to appear at night, after high tide. Their arrival was announced by means of repeated flashes, averaging from 7 to 9. At that moment, we would start to feel very drowsy, and I particularly began to feel unwell—a sort of nausea. Not long after that, the craft started appearing. We never heard the slightest sound from them during their manoeuvrings in the sky, which were usually very rapid."

[The testimony given by the journalist Biamir Siqueira is no different from Ribamar's. It merely confirms it.]

Siqueira:- "One of the features that at once aroused my curiosity was the luminous signals that foreshadowed the arrival of the craft. Those beams of light crossed the sky

horizontally and were repeated between 7 and 9 times, during an interval of 10 to 45 seconds. The UFOs always appeared from precisely *that* direction ie *North*).

In particular, *it is my belief that the purpose of the light beams is to prepare the route of the mother-craft*, in as much as the latter never produced any sound during its passage - such "flashes" being designed maybe to remove all matter existing along the intended trajectory of the craft.

We saw the mother-ships several times, and some of them had a row of lighted windows. The smaller craft were released from them via a sort of cockpit which would open up in the lower part of the larger craft.

In addition to the intense brightness of the machines, another interesting detail was the fact that it was impossible to use a 'flash' to photograph them - so we were informed by a colleague in the Air Force.

One night, when we were trying to get a photo with 'flash', the UFO emitted such a vivid beam of light that it smashed the windscreen of the *Opal* car (*Chevrolet*) in which we were.

Another curious event occurred with our camera, which during those night-watches operated itself automatically, without Ribamar having touched it...."

Our own research (ie the author's) yielded no confirmation of that incident with the *Opal* car, nor did we get confirmation of the "coloured light beams" from the saucers. These areas of uncertainty in our own experiences do not however invalidate the overall testimony given by Biamir and Ribamar.

Incidentally, some of the photos taken by the *Estado do Pará's* two reporters were incorporated into some of the Secret Files of the 1st COMAR (Air Force Region).

Likewise, some of the information published in that newspaper of June 25 and June 29, 1978, had come from Brazilian military sources.

With the onset of the "*chupa-chupa*" phenomenon, the Baía do Sol region had become a prime place for UFO sightings, and the main observation area for the Ufological study groups from Belém. Among the residents of the township of Baía do Sol there are still rumours of luminous spheres seen flying near the banks of the river Tuariê and the river Tauá-jeju.

In the opinion of some of the members of the GUA (Amazonian Ufological Group) based in Belém, there exists, or there did exist for a considerable time, at some point beneath the Baía do Sol ("Bay of the Sun") a concealed base for extraterrestrial probe craft. Such an idea would account for the constant appearances, in recent years, of unidentified flying objects over the region.

NOTE BY EDITOR, FSR Readers might like to consult, in this connection, the following article which I wrote twenty years ago and which we published originally in FSR 21/1 (1975).

As our second map shows, Brazil's immediate principal neighbour to the north is Venezuela, and this article demonstrates some of the powerful evidence for alien underwater bases in those coastal re-



lunar "meteorites", they did indeed observe a few such phenomena, although the Moon — as we know — possesses no atmosphere.

There was a marked new growth of interest in the problems in the 1950s with the wave of interest in unidentified flying objects. A whole series of books appeared, produced by authors (Desmond Leslie, H.T. Wilkins, M.K. Jessup) who gave résumés of reports of flying saucers on the Moon that subsequently became the basic canon of "ufological folklore".

Then, finally, in the 1960s, specialists started to take an interest in moving objects observed on the Moon. A number of items of this sort were included in the Catalogues of Transient Lunar Phenomena - particularly NASA's catalogues (1968, 1978).

In the astronomical literature six photographs (a couple of them coloured) were published, relating to events where *movement* on the Moon had been documentarily established. But — sad to say — no further mention has been made; no further descriptions of individual cases have followed.

In view of this state of affairs, we ourselves at RIAP (The Ukrainian Institute for Research on Anomalous Phenomena) started to assemble and analyze data about moving phenomena observed against the background of the Moon's surface.

As a result of our collaboration with foreign and with other Soviet investigators, we have managed to assemble what appears to be the fullest collection of phenomena of this kind — but of course it is by no means all-embracing. And as it transpired, phenomena involving *movement* proved to be the rarest of all.

AN EXHIBITION-PARK OF PHENOMENA

Modest as our statistics were (150 or so cases) we managed to isolate three different types of "movement-phenomena" on the Moon. ⁽²⁾

Thus, the observers have described (A) some exceptionally slow movements of a number of permanent spots on the Lunar surface. For example, in 1970, movement of one of the spots at the base of the Circle of Plato was noticed.

But, most frequently, what was reported was (B) the periodic movements of spots — at the rate of two metres per 24 hours in time with the progressive illumination by the sunlight.

Having made a detailed study of the phenomena during the 1920s, W.G. Pickering proceeded to explain the observed situation as being due to the movement of lunar living creatures in search of the sunlight. Others wrote of the possibilities of lunar vegetation. However, most selenologists do not accept that the phenomenon is real. Evidently - so it would seem to them - illusion is produced by the complex photometrical effects and peculiarities of the Moon's surface.

Somewhere around the 1940s there began to be references in the reports to certain spots or patches of considerable size, and lasting for periods of from one minute to as much as three hours. They travelled at speeds of from 2 kms per hour up to 7 kms. per second. These formations appeared most frequently on one determined area of the Moon's surface, namely the *Mare Tranquillitatis*, the *Mare Crisium*, and the *Mare Kraeove*.

The reports mention not only the observations of spots on the Moon's surface, but also of gradual "resolutions" and "vanishings" against the Moon's background.

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gions. Indeed Venezuelan eyewitnesses were frequently quoted as saying that they had seen them coming up out of the sea regularly at around 6.00 or 7.00 pm!

In fact we had already noted, as much as thirty years ago, that the Argentinian farmers and ranchers of Patagonia, away down south and just to the west of the Falkland Islands, were constantly referring to "Los Marcianos" ("The Martians") who - as everyone down there seemed to know, also had their underwater bases in the relatively shallow coastal waters above the "continental shelf" running the whole length of the northern and eastern rim of South America. They claimed to have repeatedly seen the craft slipping in and out of the sea there, and took it all very much for granted as an everyday fact of life.

(On the Pacific side of South America there is such "continental shelving" only off Colombia and Ecuador in the North and off the southern part of Chile. Elsewhere the deep water starts immediately at the shore-line. And, incidentally, we have never seen a single report of any UFO seen to be entering or leaving those waters on the Pacific side of South America.)

As for the coastal arc running all the way from Venezuela in the North round past Brazil and down past Argentina to Patagonia, I think we can say that the evidence for underwater alien bases there is hardly contestable. This might very well indicate that the Brazilian peasants are right when they assert that the terrible "*chupa-chupas*" come out of the sea. ■

Most probably what we are concerned with in such cases are clouds of electrically charged dust moving around in the heterogeneous electrical field of the Moon. The layer of dust in suspense over the Moon has been seen from the Earth as well as by means of instruments in Space. (The *Surveyors* and the *Apollo 17*.)

About 60% of the reports mention fleeting glimpses of both dark-coloured and light-coloured objects observed for less than one minute and moving at visible speeds of up to one degree per second. In order to eliminate terrestrial birds, insects, meteors, etc. being projected against the background of the Moon, then only those reports were analyzed which stated specifically that the point of commencement and the point of termination of the movement were both on the disc of the Moon. Any such terrestrial images projected against the background of the Moon would be distributed at random, but the actual distribution on the Moon turned out to be patently *not* at random. They were concentrated in the centre, and on the western edge of the lunar disc, and avoiding the mountainous regions to the south of the centre. Such distribution is difficult to explain away as due to "selection of sightings". Seemingly a proportion of the fast-moving objects truly were in circumlunar space.

AMAZING ASPECTS

Sometimes we encounter descriptions of totally unusual sorts of phenomena. And the uniformity and likeness of the data furnished by the eye witnesses, coming as they do from various countries, testify to the reality of the phenomena. Here are just a few examples:-

1. "On May 24, 1955, on the southern horn of the 'sickle'-moon, two bright points were seen where the sunlight touched the peaks of the Leibnitz region. Between these two bright points there was a third light, fainter than them, and it (and *only* it) was jumping about and sparkling. Finally, a fainter shaft of light came out of it and shot up vertically into the sky above the Moon's surface, flaring in intensity as it climbed while simultaneously dying away at the base. Then it vanished. The total length of the shaft of light, exclusive of its projection, would have been some 100 miles, and its upward movement lasted for two seconds or possibly somewhat longer. I tried to check to see whether it could be illusory, maybe due to the telescope, but without success, and it does seem that the phenomenon was real".

Now, this piece of testimony came from the British astronomer V.I. Firsoff, ⁽³⁾ and could not possibly have been known to the Moscow astronomer V.I. Timkov, who, from the outskirts of the town of Ordzhonikidze in the Caucasus, and at approximately the very same time, observed the upward movement of a similar shaft of light. II. Mid-August, 1955.

Observations with home-built telescope by Astronomer V.V. Yeremenko:-

"Above the surface of the Moon, parallel to its rim and

at a distance of approximately 0.2 of a lunar radius, there was flying a shining body resembling a star of the third magnitude. Flying one-third of the circumference (this took 4 - 5 seconds) the body then plunged downwards at a sharp angle and landed on the surface of the Moon". ⁽⁴⁾ III. On July 30, 1968, M. Beres ⁽⁵⁾ (Romania) observed a shining body, similar to a star, located slightly to the east of the rim of the New Moon.

Then, with a jumping motion, the object performed a movement in the shape of a *quadrangle* - most of this movement being on the lunar disc. As it did so, the "star" *lingered* for 2 - 3 seconds at the four corners of the quadrangle. After hanging for a while near the rim of the lunar disc, the object moved down towards the Moon and suddenly vanished, seemingly passing behind the western edge".

IV. Extremely unusual too was the report of an experienced watcher, the enthusiastic Moscow astronomer E.V. Arsyukhin, who, on March 15, 1992, observed movement on the Moon.

"At 1645 hrs, and lasting for 2 1/2 seconds, I observed the rapid flight, over a zig-zag course, of a square black body. This body appeared literally "out of nowhere". It flew at first towards the east, and then towards the west, and then it vanished in the bowels of the Crater Alphons. The length of its flight was about 500 kms, and its speed was in the neighbourhood of 200 kms per second. The length of the body was about 5kms. Its speed was uniform. I am totally confident of this. The quality of the viewing at the time was excellent."

V. It is difficult, too, to exclude the observation of a Kharkov resident, Yu A. Lutsenko, who, on October 7, 1992, also saw something mysterious.

"At 23.14 and 40 seconds, against the background of the Sea of Rain, I saw an extremely bright patch, with an asymmetrical outline, which was moving. It was seen slightly to the South of Plato and it travelled almost along the meridian for 4 1/2 minutes. When it vanished, it was not instantaneous, but lasted some 2 - 3 seconds, dying out as it were."

FOOTNOTES

1. See article in FSR 38/3 (1993)
2. See A.V. Arkhipov. *Moving Effects on the Moon* (in Russian), in: *Zemlya i Vselennaya (Earth and Universe)*, 1994, No.1.
3. V.A. Firsoff. *Strange World of the Moon*, pub. by Basic Books, N.Y. USA, 1960, pp 131-132
4. A.V. Arkhipov. *The Problem of the Search for Intelligent Life on the Moon*, RIAB, Kharkov, 1994 (in Russian).
5. Mihai Beres (Romania) ■

REINCARNATION INTERNATIONAL

Editor: Roy Stemman

published quarterly

UK £12. Europe £15, rest of world £18

Cheques payable to Reincarnation International Ltd ,

PO Box 26, London, WC2H 9 LP

Fax 0171 379 0620

UNDERWATER UFO BASE OFF VENEZUELA?

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During the course of 1972 we received a great number of reports of a concentration of UFO sightings in the Caribbean islands of Santo Domingo and Puerto Rico in the months of August, September, and October, and we have given a first instalment in Salvador Freixedo's *UFOs over the Caribbean* (FSR Case Histories, Supplement 14, April 1973).

We are now much indebted to FSR's representative in Venezuela, Señor Victor Gesua, for a sheaf of valuable press-reports which show clearly that in the last ten days of March, and first few days of April, a similar sort of wave was occurring in his country, which is located on the southern shores of the Caribbean. As will be seen from the digest which I give below of these Venezuelan reports, all the indications seem to point, as so many Venezuelans now believe, to the existence of an underwater UFO base somewhere off their coast.

As the accompanying map shows, the present centre of activities is the coastal area of Venezuela known as El Litoral Central, which is the northward-facing coastline having the Capital Caracas, and its port, La Guaira, roughly in the centre, and located a little to the north of Latitude 10° North.

LA GUAIRA

Great alarm was produced in the population of La Guaira at 4.00 o'clock in the afternoon of March 22, 1973 when two flying objects were seen approaching at tremendous speed from the sea. The objects veered sharply and passed over the area between Naiguata and Carenero. Then, when over La Sabana, in the parish of Caruao, the objects halted, at a height of some 200 metres or so. They were observed with the utmost clarity by more than 3,000 people during the course of their incursion. Press representatives interviewed many, finding not a few who were too terrified to venture out of their homes. All agreed that the objects looked "...very much like what we have seen in science-fiction programmes on the TV".

At first the local Police told the many scared telephone-callers that they were crazy, but once the affair had been reported to the Prefecture, orders were issued for Police to proceed to the area in question, and then policemen were able to see the UFOs for themselves, and to observe the two saucers hanging

there, stationary in the sky.

When the craft had first made their appearance they left bluish trails, clearly visible against the deep blue cloudless afternoon sky. After hanging motionless for between five and ten minutes, they began to emit jets of orange flames, and a distinct whistling sound was heard coming from them. They then separated, one moving off eastwards at a fantastic speed, while the other headed westwards towards Venezuela's great International Airport at Maiquetia.

MAIQUETIA

Maiquetia residents had already reported that for many nights past they had been seeing "lights hanging in the air" and "lights that are not stars". After remaining stationary awhile, these would move off and vanish. Furthermore there have been, as was now recalled in the press, previous occasions on which the people of Maiquetia have seen unknown objects passing at great height over the nation's leading airport. The local populace being thus thoroughly conversant with many types of conventional aircraft, the journalists found that everyone interviewed by them was adamant that, whatever it was that they had seen, it was certainly no aircraft.

When the "flap" broke in the press it so happened that two Argentine investigators, Professor Fabio Zerpa and the actress Thelma Stefani — members of the investigation group ONIFE — were in Venezuela on a visit. Interviewed by the local press, they said that, on the basis of telepathic information received by them and their associates in Argentina from extraterrestrial beings via parapsychological channels, they already knew that 1973 was to be another year of massive visitations over both Argentina and Venezuela, comparable to the "bumper years" of 1965 and 1968. In lectures and television appearances they spoke of their parapsychological researches, and said they were about to depart for the mountains, together with a group of Venezuelan doctors, parapsychologists, and university and student elements, in the hope of making contact there with the UFO entities. (Miss Stefani told of having visited Trancas soon after the famous experiences of the Moreno family, and said she saw a deep hole at the spot above which the nearest UFO had been hovering. She said the ground there was dry and parched, and that for long afterwards nothing would grow there, and animals all shunned the spot).

Professor Zerpa told the press that there were already in Caracas many people who had made contact with extraterrestrial beings by means of parapsychology.

On the night of March 23/24, 1973, many people in the streets of La Guaira saw a UFO zigzagging from North to