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Photo courtesy UNITED NATIONS/ Y. NAGATA

Dr. Jacques Vallée addresses the Assembly
Behind Dr. Vallée is Sir E. Gairy, and behind
him, Dr. J. Allen Hynek.

UFO DEBATE AT U.N.O

See page 5

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HOUSE OF LORDS DEBATE

THE first ever British parliamentary debate of UFOs took place at Westminster on 18 January 1979, in the noble precincts of the House of Lords. The debate, which was introduced by the Earl of Clancarty, had been arranged many weeks before, following questions which the Earl had put to the Government, so it was unfortunate that it took place in the midst of a period of industrial strife and severe wintry weather. One of the several strikes taking place that day resulted in a complete stoppage of Britain's railways, and a great crush of traffic on the roads, and it was for that reason that members of the *Flying Saucer Review* team who had been invited to hear the debate were unable to attend. Fortunately all debates — indeed, all matters — are officially reported, word for word, in Hansard.¹

Before his elevation to the peerage Lord Clancarty was well-known as the Honourable Brinsley le Poer Trench, and had written seven books on various aspects of ufology. From July 1956 to September 1959 he was editor of *Flying Saucer Review*. He therefore had considerable experience to draw upon when preparing his introductory speech.

At 7.07 p.m. he rose to "... call attention to the increasing number of sightings and landings on a world-wide scale of unidentified flying objects (UFOs), and to the need for an intra-governmental² study of UFOs." Looking forward to a stimulating discussion, he gave an outline of the subject which, although it came to the fore after World War II, may well have existed throughout history. He alluded here to a possible Egyptian UFO report from the time of Thutmose III c. 1504 - 1450 B.C., before passing to the Foo fighters seen by both Allied and German pilots during the war. Their lordships heard of Kenneth Arnold and his "saucer" sighting in 1947; of sightings by astronomers; of shapes and sizes of reported objects; of possible UFO-associated blackouts; of E.M. effects on the engines of motor vehicles and aircraft; of the sighting of Captain James Howard, the crew and many passengers of the B.O.A.C. *Stratocruiser* over the Atlantic on 29 June 1954; of the 1975 incidents at Strategic Air Command bases in Michigan, Montana, Maine and North Dakota, and about the Tehran incident in September 1976, when Iranian Air Force *Phantom* jets were scrambled and suffered communications and instrument systems malfunctions.

Suggesting he would like to see the establishment of a House of Lords UFO Study Group, he touched on the attitudes of Governments towards the subject; on the influence of the CIA with its directives that the U.S. Armed Services should debunk all UFO reports; on the position believed to exist in the Soviet Union, where a leading ufologist is Dr. Felix Zigel, and where the Academy of Sciences clamped down on the emerging UFO study group³, on the famous broadcast on 21 February 1974 by M. Robert Galley, French Minister of Defence at that time, and on the establishment of the scientific study unit GEPAN at the National Centre for Space Studies at Toulouse, under the French Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Artisans.⁴

In closing, Lord Clancarty assured their lordships that "...most

incidents have not been hostile, we have not been invaded from outer space," and requested that Her Majesty's Government should inform the people of what they knew about UFOs, and that Lord Strabolgi (who was to reply for the Government) should ask "...his right honourable friend the Minister of Defence about the possibility of giving a broadcast interview about UFOs, as his counterpart across the Channel did in 1974. That would go a long way to discredit the view...that there is a cover-up here..."

The Earl of Clancarty had put together a good case and, thankfully, had kept well clear of those "Holes at the Poles" which had created such an unfortunate impression in Hugh Burnett's BBC-TV documentary in 1977. When he sat down at 7.29 p.m. he was followed by **Lord Trefgarne** (Conservative) for the Opposition. He would not support the establishment of an intra-governmental study as he felt the matter did not warrant expenditure of public moneys. He did not believe in UFOs, for in the course of some 2500 hours flying as a pilot, including many crossings of the Atlantic Ocean, he had never seen one. He was also sure that radar could not be held as a valid supporting argument in the case of the recent New Zealand sightings, and he wished to ask the right reverend Prelate, the Bishop of Norwich — who was to speak in the debate — "whether the existence of another race, or races, outside our universe is compatible with our Christian principles."

There followed a debate on a high level, with erudite participants. **The Earl of Kimberley** (Liberal) was next, and gave support to Lord Clancarty with further briefing, including the United States interest which manifested in Project Blue Book, and that became a public relations exercise not to inform the public on the subject. Lord Kimberley listed governments which, he said, acknowledge the existence of UFOs, and some prominent people who, through evidence, acknowledged that existence.

In a maiden speech the **Viscount of Oxfuird** (Conservative) discussed the advance in cosmology, suggested that it was unlikely that UFOs came from some "secret effort" on this earth, and that to understand the UFO question we should have to understand something beyond cosmology today.

Lord Davies of Leek (Labour) stated there was a case for the existence of flying saucers, and that "...if one human being out of the tens of thousands who allege to have seen these phenomena is telling the truth, then there is a dire need for us to look into the matter...we know that poltergeists exist; we know about their activities. Therefore do not be so ready to scoff at UFOs..."

The Lord Bishop of Norwich expressed his fear that UFOs and their study seemed "to link with a certain religious subculture which...offers a substitute for the true catholic [*in the sense of 'universal, all embracing'*] religion," drawing young people into a sub-Christian, sometimes non-Christian cult, controlled by a dominant leader.⁵ About Lord Trefgarne's question, he said he did not know, but that he believed there was a place for reverent Christian agnosticism concerning what is *not* revealed in the scriptures, and that God may have other plans

for other worlds — the plan for this world being Jesus.

Lord Gladwyn (Liberal) spoke of the over-population of our planet and the consequent increase of violence and appalling wars, and of a human wish to "trust in other-worldly intervention." He agreed with the Bishop of Norwich who had said we should not put our trust in saucers for salvation, but rather learn to live in charity with our neighbours. He concluded that if the UFOs contain sentient beings, then leave them to get in touch with us when, and if, they will. He saw no need to set up intra-governmental machinery to investigate them.

Lord Kings Norton was puzzled by the use of the prefix "intra" instead of "inter," but would support the idea of a Government-supported open investigation by a carefully chosen group of scientists and technologists with some funds at their disposal.

Lord Rankeillour said the discussion regarding the nature and origin of UFOs is increasing throughout the world. He told of a recent incident at Farmington, New Mexico, where "a display of flying saucers literally filled the sky" watched as they manoeuvred and gyrated by almost the whole township of 5000 souls. "That was hardly a weather balloon convention." He observed that we had reached the point where Government explanations must be forthcoming. "A greater measure of open government is long overdue, and bringing the UFO saga into the realm of respectability would be one way of achieving this."

Lord Gainford, who spoke of a personal sighting when he was in Scotland for the New Year [*laughter*] said that provided there was no risk of a security breach, the public should have a right to know about UFOs.

The Earl of Halsbury, a scientist philosopher, gave an interesting dissertation on, among other things, mis-identifications of his guardian angel; of lenticular clouds illuminated by searchlights and "identified" (by him) as Zeppelins; of sundogs. He spoke also of the "green flash" (the last glim of the setting sun in certain conditions), and of ball lightning. He stated that he does not get vertigo when faced with unknown phenomena he cannot explain (a reply to an observation by Lord Kimberley).

Lord Hewlett (Conservative) stated he had been briefed by Sir Bernard Lovell and cast scorn on the existence of UFOs and supported his case by claiming that Jodrell Bank had been on watch 24 hours a day for 30 years yet had never *seen or observed* a UFO, although they had contrived to locate and track the tiny *Sputnik* when the Russians lost it.

The Earl of Cork and Orrery (Conservative) expressed disquiet at the views of his noble friend Lord Trefgarne, who had not spoken as a private Back Bencher but, instead, from the Dispatch Box, which indicated presumably that he represented the views of the Conservative Party. As a member of that Party he wished to disown entirely the views expressed by Lord Trefgarne on what is a serious subject; indeed he was ashamed of those views. And this descendant of Robert Boyle, the XVIIth Century

scientist who founded the Royal Society, was caustic in his comments on what was meant by UFOs (non-belief in them as objects? or as flying? or as unidentified?), and stated that it was unreasonable to say out-of-hand that they do not exist. When closing, Lord Cork and Orrery congratulated Lord Clancarty for doing a great service, and "initiating ripples which ...will spread over the surface of the mill pond."

Lord Strabolgi rose to reply for the Government at 10.10 p.m. Not unexpectedly he spoke of the great distances, and the problems they would pose for visitors to this planet. If they did get here in the numbers stated would our radar screens not show them? Why have they not tried to communicate with us? He listed types of misidentifications, spoke of the work of Dr. Condon's Colorado University Commission, and said Lord Gainford's sighting was of a satellite launcher re-entry, and that the New Zealand events were probably due to natural phenomena. He disagreed with Lord Clancarty that M. Galley had said the phenomenon was real, but rather that the phenomena were genuine and reported by responsible people, and that aspects were difficult to explain. Lord Strabolgi insisted there was no cover-up and no security ban. As for telling the people the truth, the truth is simple: the phenomena can usually be explained in terms of natural phenomena, and there is nothing to suggest that UFO phenomena are alien space craft.

The Earl of Clancarty sought leave to withdraw his motion at about 10.40 p.m., as no vote is taken in a debate of this kind.

* * * * *

It will be the view of seasoned ufologists (Lord Cork and Orrery may rest assured we do not like that word any more than he does!) that most of what was said in the House of Lords on the evening of 18 January 1979 was predictable. That is not to say that the debate was not enjoyable; much of it was like a breath of fresh air. The point is that it took place in what is probably the oldest surviving parliamentary institution in the world, and that it may well cause "ripples on the mill pond" — provided there isn't too much pushing and scrambling for advantage by the over-enthusiasts and the cultists.

That something like this could happen is exemplified in a "press release" issued by the Aetherius Society, which claims exultantly that it had briefed Lord Kimberley two days before the debate. It will not be forgotten, however, that this is the group which chanted, cavorted and capered on a West Country hilltop while recharging their magic box with power from the UFOs. This was an item unfortunately added, at the expense of other seriously presented material, to the BBC-TV documentary *Out of this World* (May 1977, and, to the dismay of serious researchers repeated in December 1977 and again in January 1979); an item which had thousands of viewers rolling from their chairs with uncontrollable laughter; an item described by interviewer/producer Hugh Burnett during the course of the

programme as a "load of rubbish." Fortunately the nonsense did not show through in Lord Kimberley's speech; again fortunately, the Bishop of Norwich had taken note of the nonsense, we presume, and, other similar manifestations elsewhere, and gave due warning of the alarming effect it could have on our society. (Readers should note too that Dr. Jacques Vallée sounded a similar alarm in his address to the United Nations. We are at one with these warnings.)

Press reaction to the debate was on the whole favourable; it was for them a welcome relief from the hideous strike situation afflicting the country. It is perhaps noteworthy that the *Daily Mail* of Saturday 20 January 1979 included a ridiculous "mickey-take" of an Editorial yet, on another page, published a very serious report concerning a United States court-enforced disclosure by the authorities of details of UFO events near missile sites in 1975 (see World Round-up on page 11 of this issue).

As for the rest of it, we note that Lord Trefgarne pulled out a hoary old chestnut by implying that there are no UFOs because he had never seen one in 2500 hours of flying as a pilot. Why is he not aware that hundreds of other airmen have seen them? Dozens of airmen of our acquaintance have told us of their experiences, many of them privately because they feared to incur the displeasure of their employers and the Ministry.

Then there is the matter of Jodrell Bank. We confess to not knowing the exact set-up there — do they have, in addition to the giant radio telescope, an optical telescope through which things can be seen? — but we consider it pointless to imply that there is no phenomenon because the great electronic sky listener has only *observed* possible UFOs, identified as natural phenomena. We suspect the world's largest radio-telescope is largely geared to plumbing the vast depths of the expanding universe, to detecting signals from quasars and the like, and from distant galaxies, indeed from the edge of that remoteness where outer galaxies seem to be travelling away from ours at so great a speed that they are no longer visible — or audible (if that is the word). Agreed the Jodrell Bank dish will also seek signals from sources comfortably more close at hand, say to the order of millions of miles rather than billions of light years. Even so, how could we expect operators of the great sky searcher to locate UFOs (assuming all the time that they are out there) in all that vastness (in the case of the lost *Sputnik* they must have had some data as to its expected orbit).

What is to the point is that we are concerned with identifying a widely-reported phenomenon that occurs within the inner reaches of Earth's atmosphere, and our abiding interest lies in those close encounters reported within, say 500 yards of the observer, and particularly those reported on or near the ground, sometimes allegedly with occupants. And because some of the observers — or percipients — claim that these occupants have implied in some way or the other that they come from nearby "star systems" or from "distant galaxies" or whatever, and have come to "help mankind solve his problems," it does not mean that these statements

are true. As like as not, whatever it is that controls the phenomenon also enjoys a good belly laugh — and that is a serious thought, a ripple which should cause more than a few to stop and think.

Lord Strabolgi, speaking for the Government, assumed — as did most of the others — that their lordships were talking about an extraterrestrial phenomenon. But this has not been proved to be the case, and he was well aware of that. However, he asked why radar screens do not show UFOs, and our reply to that is that they do: witness the radio declarations by M. Robert Galley on 21 February 1974, and for example, the statement of the commanding officer of the Italian Air Force Base close to Caselle Airport, Turin, in October 1973 (an incident alluded to by the French Minister of Defence). Again, he asked why they have never tried to communicate with us, and to that we reply that we cannot know that they haven't done so, particularly if the means of communication should be a subtle form of control by something that, while it *may* be extraterrestrial, may also be meta-terrestrial or even intra-terrestrial. One can well understand the anxieties of the churchmen; we have long advocated that the study of this phenomenon lies within the disciplines not only of

physicists, but also of theologians, historians, anthropologists, classicists and archaeologists.⁶

References

1. *Parliamentary Debates (Hansard)* Vol. 397, No. 23, Thursday 18 Jan. 1979. Available only from Her Majesty's Stationary Office, Kingsway, London WC2, price 40 pence net.
2. According to *The Concise Oxford Dictionary*: intra — in combination = Latin *intra*, on the inside, within. (This led to a little confusion, being "within government" instead of inter governmental.)
3. That was probably so in 1968, but there could be a change of attitude there now (see the article *UFOs debated at the United Nations* in this issue: item on page 10).
4. Turn again to the article *UFOs debated in the United Nations*, in the section relating to Dr. J. Allen Hynek's address to the Committee, for further information on GEPAN.
5. Dr. Jacques Vallée expressed similar concern when speaking at the United Nations. See *UFOs debated at the United Nations*, page 00.
6. See the chapter "Beliefs" in *Encounter Cases from Flying Saucer Review*, which was taken from the Editorial article in the November-December 1974 issue of FSR.

THE INSTITUTE FOR UFO STUDIES

As was announced in FSR Vol. 24, No. 5, the Institute for UFO Studies has now been formed.

The Constitution of the Institute has been formally agreed, and trustees and officers are being appointed. Steps will be taken to register the Institute as a charity.

Applications for membership are invited from those who consider they have made a useful or significant contribution to the investigation, research or study of the UFO phenomenon. Letters should be addressed to the Secretary, Jonathan M. Caplan, 67 Dorset House, Gloucester Place, London NW. 1, England.

F. W. HOLIDAY

It was with dismay, and great regret, that I learned of the death, on February 23, 1979, of F.W. "Ted" Holiday. Ted, who lived near Haverfordwest in that part of Dyfed known formerly as Pembrokeshire, was a journalist; a regular columnist and angling correspondent for a Welsh provincial newspaper. He was also widely known for his investigations of the Loch Ness phenomenon, and was author of an excellent book *The Great Orm of Loch Ness*. About ten years ago Ted Holiday came to the conclusion that there might be a psychic link between monster phenomena and UFOs, and he became a frequent contributor to *Flying Saucer Review*. He also produced another fine book *The Dragon and the Disc*, and latterly concentrated on UFOs, particularly investigations of the wave of reports in West Wales in 1977-78. Readers will particularly remember thought-provoking contributions like "Was 'God' at Aberfan?" (FSR Vol. 18, No. 4), "Exorcism and UFO landing at Loch Ness" (FSR 19/5), "A brief taste of Fairyland" — in which he refers to the onset of the illness, in 1974, which eventually took him from us (FSR 20/6), and more recently "Did Humanoids kill these men?" (FSR 24/1). We offer our expression of sympathy to Ted's mother, Mrs. Holiday, in her sad loss.

C.B.

UFOs DEBATED AT THE UNITED NATIONS

HOW UFOLOGY PASSED THE FIRST OF ITS RECENT MILESTONES

Charles Bowen

UFOLOGY has passed two notable milestones in the space of six short weeks.

On December 8, 1978, in New York, the Special Political Committee of the United Nations at its 47th Meeting of the Thirty-third General Assembly, decided by consensus to recommend to the General Assembly that interested Member States be invited "...to take appropriate steps to co-ordinate, on a national level, scientific research and investigation into extra-terrestrial life, including Unidentified Flying Objects. These States would be asked to inform the Secretary-General of "...the observations, research and evaluation of such activities."

On January 18, 1979, the members of the House of Lords, the Upper House of Parliament at Westminster, London, were engaged in a three-hour debate on Unidentified Flying Objects. The level of the debate was, on the whole, reasonable, but the spokesman for the British Government saw no justification for spending money on UFO research. Be that as it may, UFOs were given a Parliamentary airing, and the debate was widely reported — as is discussed in the Editorial leader of this issue.

At the United Nations, New York

Let us return to America. I am indebted to our correspondent Peter Tomikawa, a Japanese UFO researcher at present living in New York, for sending me all the relevant Press Releases, and other items, relating to the United Nations meeting. Mr. Tomikawa writes that he feels that the General Assembly will automatically adopt the Special Political Committee's decision quite soon, as a matter of formality.

The Press Release of December 8, 1978 (GA/AH/1490) states that "...the Assembly would request the Secretary-General to transmit to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space the statements made by the delegation of Grenada on the item concerning unidentified flying objects which was submitted for the agenda by Grenada. The relevant documentation would also be transmitted to the Outer Space Committee for its consideration." Mr. Tomikawa tells me that he understands that the Outer Space Committee meeting is scheduled to be held in June 1979.

The 35th Meeting of the Thirty-third General Assembly

The decision made on December 8, 1978,

stemmed from a draft resolution (document A/SPC/33/L. 20) submitted by the Grenada delegation, proposing that the Secretary-General appoint a group of experts, under the aegis of the Outer Space Committee, to define guidelines for a United Nations study of "the nature and origin of unidentified flying objects and related phenomena." That submission had been made at the 35th Meeting of the Special Political Committee, on November 27, 1978.

On the morning of that day the Prime Minister of Grenada, Sir Eric Gairy, introduced the discussion. He was supported by Mr. Wellington Friday, Grenada's Minister of Education, and three ufological experts — a high-powered team indeed — Dr. J. Allen Hynek, Dr. Jacques Vallée and Lt. Col. Larry Coyne. In an afternoon session Mr. Friday read a letter from former astronaut Gordon Cooper, and Stanton Friedman was also invited to speak.

The addresses and discussion were recorded in U.N. Press Release GA/AH/1478 of November 27 and General Assembly official record A/SPC/33/SR. 35

Sir Eric Gairy introduced the discussion. He said the fact that he was heading his country's delegation on the subject of UFOs was proof of his personal conviction that it was a matter of world-wide importance which warranted serious consideration by the Special Political Committee. He alluded to the (then) recent case of the *abduction* [Sir E. Gairy's description — CB] of the Cessna aircraft (and pilot) in Australia.* This was but one of tens of thousands of incidents everywhere in the globe. He referred to the data in UFOCAT [Dr. D. R. Sanders — CB] as exemplifying the massive and world-wide nature of the phenomenon. Grenada, he said, was pre-occupied with the subject because other countries devoted all their attention to international problems, but put little emphasis on "international matters relating to the earth as one planet." He added that it was presumptuous of us to imagine that we are God's only intelligent beings. Leading scientists and UFO researchers had signed a resolution at Acapulco in April 1977 endorsing and supporting the [original] initiative taken by the Government of Grenada in regard to UFO research, and offering to join them in their effort to bring the matter to the attention of the United Nations. That relationship between Grenada and the scientific community

* An account of this incident, by W. C. Chalker, will be found in *Flying Saucer Review* Volume 24, No. 5.



Photo: Peter Tomikawa

U.N. Press Conference, November 27, 1978. Left to right: Mr.W.Friday, Sir Thomas Gairy, Dr.J.A.Hynek

had given the scientific world new dimensions with regard to UFO research. The fact that several scientists formed part of Grenada's delegation was evidence of his country's determination to bring the UFO phenomenon to the attention of the United Nations.

Sir Eric went on to say that his country was well aware of the different views among Governments, scientists and researchers, and the public in general, regarding the origin, nature and intent of the UFO phenomenon. They were aware too of the concern expressed by Governments regarding the cost of establishing new United Nations organs, but as they had support from many well-respected Governments, his Government had decided to suggest to the committee a new course of action, and to present a very modest draft resolution. Under this a three-man committee would be set up by the Secretary-General and would work within the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

The following is the text of the draft resolution:-

"The General Assembly,

"Mindful of its commitment to promote international co-operation in solving international problems,

"Noting the statements made by Grenada at the thirtieth, thirty-first, thirty-second and thirty-third sessions of the General Assembly regarding Unidentified Flying Objects and related phenomena which continue to baffle mankind, and Grenada's appeal to have the United Nations conduct and co-ordinate research into these baffling phenomena, and to disseminate more widely among the nations of the world information and other data gathered and available on the phenomena,

"Aware of the growing interest taken by people of the world in Unidentified Flying Objects

and related Phenomena, and also interest in strange happenings in various parts of the world, and recognising the commitment to research into these phenomena demonstrated by certain national Governments, individual scientists, researchers and educational institutions,

"1. Recommends that, in consultation with the appropriate specialized agencies, the United Nations Organizations initiate, conduct and co-ordinate research into the nature and origin of Unidentified Flying Objects and related phenomena;

"2. Requests the Secretary-General to invite Member States, specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations to transmit to him by 31 May 1979 information and proposals which would facilitate the proposed study;

"3. Further requests the Secretary-General to appoint at the earliest possible date a three-member group of experts under the aegis of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to study information and proposals submitted to the Secretary-General by Member States, specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations;

"5. Also decides that the group of experts reports on its work through the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to the thirty-fourth session of the General Assembly;

"6. Decides further to include in the Provisional Agenda of the thirty-fourth session of the General Assembly an item entitled 'Report of the group of experts of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for the defining of guidelines for the study of Unidentified Flying Objects and related Phenomena.' "

* * * * *

Mr. Wellington Friday next spoke on behalf of Grenada, talked about the Acapulco congress, and congratulated his Prime Minister for his forthright stand on the matter of research on the UFO phenomenon. He urged him to continue the diplomatic thrust in seeking co-operation among nations to bring about the establishment of a U.N. agency or department for research into UFOs and related phenomena. It was in that context that Grenada had invited scientists, who had participated in the Acapulco congress to make statements in support of the Grenada initiative. He then introduced Dr. Hynek.

* * * * *

Dr. J. Allen Hynek observed that one of the smallest nations on earth had courageously introduced the perplexing subject of UFOs to the United Nations and thus "trod where mightier nations had feared to tread." He said there existed a world-wide phenomenon "so strange and foreign to our daily terrestrial mode of thought" that it was frequently met by ridicule and derision by persons and organisations unacquainted with the facts. He defined

the UFO phenomenon as any aerial or surface sighting, or instrumental recording (e.g. radar, photography, etc.) which remained unexplained by conventional methods, even after competent examination by qualified persons. However he pointed out that, in the popular mind, the UFO phenomenon was associated with the concept of extraterrestrial intelligence, which might yet prove to be correct in some context.

UFO reports interested millions of people and, said Dr. Hynek, they had been assembled from 133 countries. In significant numbers they had been made by highly responsible people — radar experts, astronauts, military and commercial pilots, officials of Governments and scientists, including astronomers. A recent Gallup Poll had shown that 57% of the population of the United States believed UFOs were real.

Granted not all of the tens of thousands of reports were of high quality, but they did include a large number of extremely interesting and provocative accounts of strange events, he added. These events challenged man's conception of the world, and might signal a need for a change in some of those concepts. That point had been brought out by M. Robert Galley, a former French Minister of Defence, in a radio broadcast to the French nation on 21 February 1974. Speaking about the large number of Gendarmerie reports of UFO sightings, M. Galley had stressed the importance of investigating the truly unknown and of keeping an open mind in that regard.

Dr. Hynek went on to describe the most reliable data on UFOs as the so-called "Close encounters of the second kind" — the physical trace cases, of which there were over 1300 currently on record. In these

there could be immediate physical effects on either animate or inanimate matter, or on both; physiological effects on humans, animals and plants; interference with electrical systems; disturbed regions on the ground or nearby. All these had been reliably reported.

Dr. Hynek also spoke of the growing community of scientists from many countries who had declared an interest in pursuing the challenge; now there was no longer any question in his mind of the importance of this subject, after many years of study both as scientific consultant to the United States Air Force and, more recently, as an involved scientist.

France had assumed a leading role in the scientific approach to the question of UFOs. The French Gendarmerie had diligently undertaken the investigation of many UFO reports, and provided material for further study by a scientific group called GEPAN, headed by Dr. Claude Poher, and made up of specialists in physical science, psychology, the social sciences, law and medicine. The group's work had been reviewed by an independent scientific board from the parent organisation, the Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales (CNES), and the group had been given instructions to proceed on an expanded and well-funded basis [my emphasis — CB]. He understood that only one of the cases investigated had been found to have a conventional explanation. The remainder had been close encounter cases, in which UFOs had reportedly been sighted within 250 metres of the witness, and two of them had been close encounters of the third kind in which the presence of intelligent beings had been reported. Great care had been taken in the GEPAN investigations, and the evaluation of the psychological factors involved —

*Photo copyright:
Peter Tomikawa*

**Press Conference at
United Nations, New
York, November 27,
1978. Left to right:
Dr. J. Allen Hynek,
Dr. Jacques Vallée,
Lieut - Colonel Law-
rence Coyne.**



much superior to the degree of care exercised in previous studies in other countries — and it had been concluded that most of the cases involved a material phenomenon that could not be explained as either a natural phenomenon or a human device.

Scientists other than those in France had come to similar conclusions, drawn independently, but many of them were reluctant to express their opinions openly. In many cases they were associated with large and prestigious organisations, both governmental and private, which were either silent or even officially derisive about the UFO phenomenon. So they had to work silently and in private on UFO matters. There were many others who, independently or in small groups, studied the subject with whatever means they had available. What was needed was a mechanism for exchange of ideas and findings. The United Nations was not being asked to conduct research, but merely to provide a means whereby results of investigations could be disseminated between scientists in various countries. Neither financial burden would be involved, nor disruption of the United Nations Organization's many other activities. Data of high potential significance to science and to the world was continually being lost for lack of a means to prevent its loss.

Dr. Hynek closed by saying he had once been openly sceptical, believing that the phenomenon was simply a mental aberration and a public nuisance. It was now his considered opinion that the UFO phenomenon was real and worthy of study. The creation of a mechanism within the United Nations to facilitate the exchange of UFO reports, and studies conducted in member states, would hasten the day when such opinion would be translated into firm scientific knowledge.

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Dr. Jacques Vallée was the next to speak.

As he has sent *Flying Saucer Review* a copy of his "Statement on the UFO phenomenon" I am glad to be able to record that statement in full, without need to resort to the Press Releases:

"Mr. Chairman,

"In the process of science it is common for old human ideas to be challenged by new facts. New knowledge is born of this challenge.

"In the process of social development it is common for new knowledge to trigger emotional reactions with far-reaching cultural and political effects. New beliefs are born of this confrontation.

"The frequent reporting of unexplained phenomena in the sky of many countries over the last thirty years presents an opportunity to observe both of these processes.

"In the documents circulated prior to this meeting, and in our preliminary discussions with Mr. Kurt Waldheim and representatives of the Outer Space Affairs Group, the essential facts of the phenomenon have been stated by Dr. J. Allen Hynek, by Dr. Claude Poher, and myself. Accordingly I will limit

my remarks to one aspect of the phenomenon which touches directly on the role of your committee.

"To be specific, I would like to call your attention to a new social movement based on the expectation of contact with beings from outer space. This belief, in many ways, is an emotional one. Although the UFO Phenomenon is real and appears to be caused by an unknown physical stimulus, I have so far failed to discover any evidence that it represented the arrival of visitors from outer space.

"Instead it is my conclusion, Mr. Chairman, that this phenomenon has three aspects.

"The first aspect is a physical manifestation that can and should be investigated through already-available scientific equipment. Dr. Claude Poher, in his recently-concluded study sponsored by an agency of the French Government, has now shown the way in this direction. Recently, [1977 — CB] the Spanish armed forces have also released their files on cases that had resisted analysis by their experts. There is no lack of physical data and there is no lack of competent scientists who are willing to examine them with an open mind.

"The second aspect of the UFO Phenomenon is psycho-physiological. Witnesses at the scene exhibit disorientation symptoms, a loss of the sense of time, partial paralysis or loss of voluntary muscle control, auditory and visual hallucinations, eye complaints ranging from conjunctivitis to temporary blindness, massive psychic reactions and longer-term effects such as disturbance of sleep and dream patterns and radical behaviour changes.

"I do not believe it is within the province or the budget of the United Nations to address such effects directly, except where the United Nations Organization can serve its traditional role in disseminating scientific information and facilitating exchanges among scholars.

"It is the third aspect of the UFO phenomenon which deserves your full attention here, Mr. Chairman. This third aspect is the social belief system which has been generated in all the nations represented on this committee by the expectation of space visitors. This belief has been nurtured by the lack of serious attention given to genuine reports of UFOs, and it is creating new religious, cultural and political concepts of which social science has taken little notice.

"I have spent over fifteen years conducting studies of the reports made through official and unofficial channels in France and in the United States. These analyses have been supported by extensive computer statistics. In addition, I have been in frequent communication with scientists in other parts of the world. The conclusions I have reached regarding the social effects of the UFO phenomenon in the cultures I have studied are the following:

"1. The belief in space visitors is independent of the physical reality of the UFO phenomenon. In terms of social science, we might say that something is 'real' if enough people believe in it. The UFO Phenomenon has now reached this point. The question of knowing whether or not UFOs are physically 'real' is becoming secondary in the mind of the public.

"2. The belief in the imminence of UFO "Contact" is an indication of a widening gap between the public and science. We are beginning to pay the price for the negative and prejudiced attitude with which our scientific institutions have treated sincere witnesses of UFO phenomena. Lack of serious, open-minded research in this field has encouraged these witnesses to think that science was incapable of dealing with the phenomena. This attitude has led many people to seek answers outside of the rational pursuit of knowledge to which science is dedicated. Only an open exchange of information on the subject could now correct this dangerous trend.

"3. In the absence of serious, unbiased research on the subject, the belief in the imminence of UFO 'Contact' undermines the image of Man as a master of his own destiny. In recent years we have seen many books arguing that the earth had been visited by space travellers in prehistoric times. Although this theory deserves serious study, it is leading many people to suggest that the great achievements of mankind would have been impossible without celestial intervention: the development of agriculture, the mastery of fire and the bases of civilization are credited to so-called 'higher beings.' Not only does this idea contradict many archeological facts; it encourages passive expectation of another visit by friendly space creatures to solve current human problems.

"4. The expectation of contact with space visitors promotes the concept of political unification of our planet. Through the belief in space entities, a strong and beautiful yearning for global peace is expressing itself. The UFO Phenomenon is providing an outside focus for human emotions. Whether this becomes a factor for positive or negative social change will depend on the way in which these emotions are treated and on the seriousness with which the underlying physical phenomenon is investigated. Such is the challenge before this Committee.

"Mr. Chairman, it is not my role to suggest a



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November 27, 1978: Lt. Col. Coyne addresses the Assembly

specific approach to this complex problem. The scientists with whom I am in contact would welcome an opportunity to share their data and their ideas within any structure that could be made available for this purpose.

"All the great nations of the world are represented on this committee. Let us keep in mind that the UFO Phenomenon may represent an even greater reality. It is our choice to treat it as a threat or as an opportunity for human knowledge."

* * * * *

The next speaker was **Lt. Colonel L. Coyne**, who described an incident that occurred on October 18, 1973. It involved a United States Army helicopter, of which he had been in command, and which included three other crew members. The incident occurred near Mansfield, Ohio, during a flight between Columbus, Ohio, and Cleveland, Ohio. This incident has been dealt with by Mrs. Jennie Zeidman in *Flying Saucer Review* Volume 22, No. 4, and with further detail in Volume 23, No. 4, (both are still available) so there is little point in repeating the account here.

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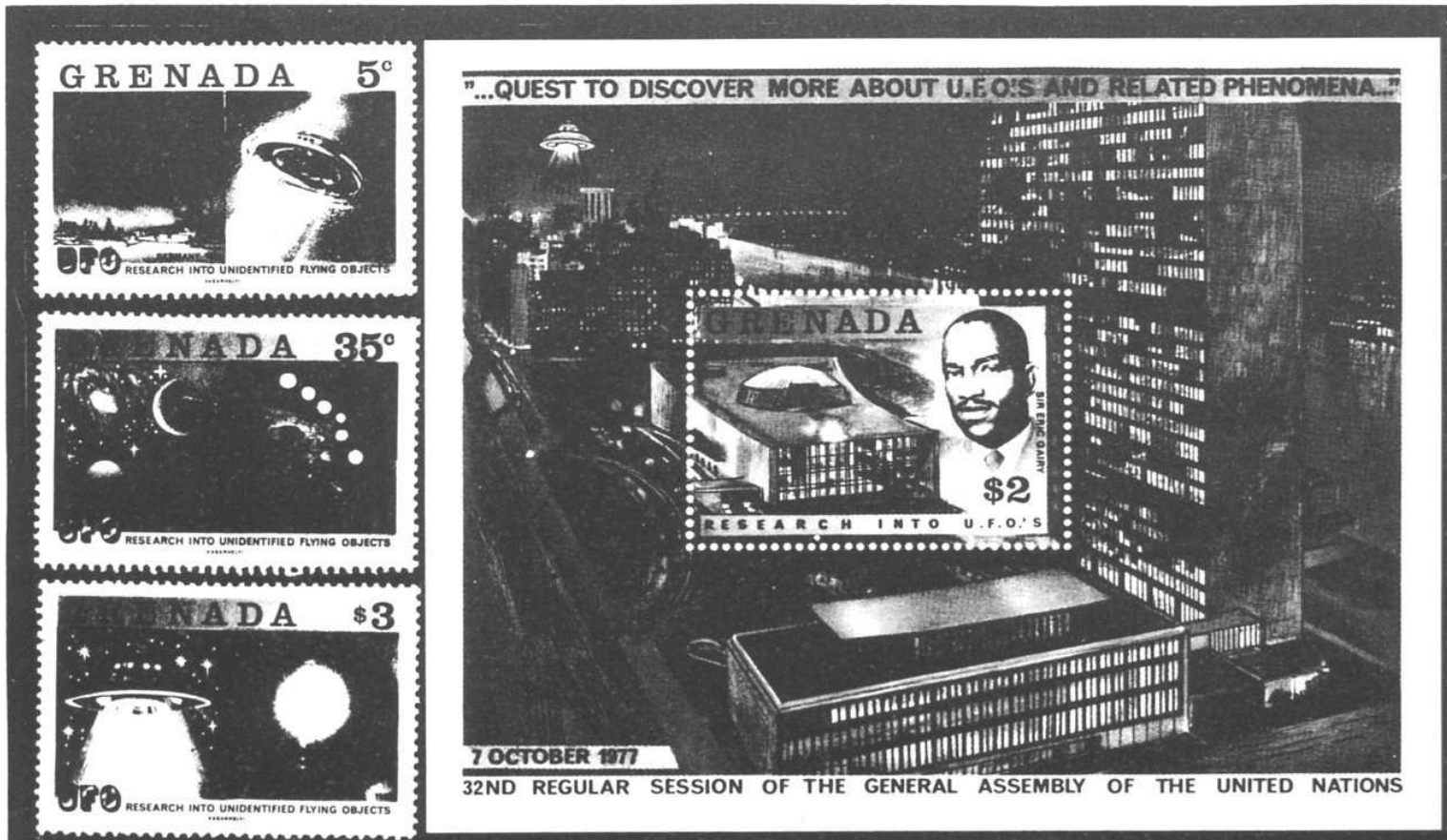
Mr. Friday, of the Grenada delegation now requested a break in the proceedings so that a documentary film, specially prepared for the Committee, could be shown. The Committee agreed, and Dr. Hynek gave the narration.

The documentary film included well-known film clips and still photographs: the Montana and Tremonton, Utah, films; the ATV film shot by a camera crew on location near Banbury in 1971; a Japanese broadcasting company film shot inside a car; a suspect film from West Germany; photographs taken at McMinnville, Oregon, and Rouen, France; the Lubbock Lights photograph; the Heflin pictures; surface markings in Queensland, Australia, and at Delphos, Kansas; the Trinidad Island photographs of 1958, and many other examples.

In the afternoon session, which concluded the General Debate on UFOs, Mr. Wellington Friday read a letter from former astronaut Gordon Cooper, who stated that he believed extraterrestrial vehicles and their crews were visiting this planet from other planets. He said he himself had spent two days in 1951 [In a U.S.A.F. plane — CB] observing UFOs of different sizes flying in fighter formation, generally from east to west over Europe.

Mr. Stanton Friedman stated that after 20 years of study, he believed that there was overwhelming evidence to suggest that the planet was being visited by intelligently controlled extraterrestrial vehicles. He elaborated at some length on that belief.

After a request by Liberia that the statements of the Grenada delegation should be reproduced *in extenso*, and a query by the United Kingdom representative about the cost of doing that — she was reassured that it was part of the work of the General Assembly, and there would be no financial implications — the meeting rose.



Revenue, and publicity for Grenada, from UFOs? Postage stamp issue (the \$2 value is set inside an adhesive-backed picture of the United Nations Building, New York) to commemorate Grenada's 1977 proposal to the General Assembly. We wonder what Messrs Hynek and Vallée thought of some of the illustrations?

Comment

If the General Assembly should adopt the recommendation by the Special Political Committee, to the effect that Member States be invited to take steps to co-ordinate scientific research into UFOs, then ufology indeed will have reached a memorable milestone.

It will be said by the "professional" debunkers: "Ah, but the General Assembly is but a talking shop for the Third World countries." But that is not the point. The little country, Grenada, thanks to the personal interest of its Prime Minister, and others in his government – and thanks, no doubt, to the side-attraction of publicising their country – obtained the support of a high-powered team, among them scientists who had been involved with the French official project on UFO research. It was there that the Third World was left behind. Ufology was presented responsibly in First World terms – and the responsible approach will be noted for all time in the record – and the machinery will be set up whereby valuable co-operation could take place.

Perhaps it is too soon to expect that this could lead to a speedy reduction of the harassments, tensions and even penalties (seen and unseen) suffered by scientists, technicians, civil servants and ordinary folk who, while they may possess an abiding interest in the subject, and a deep urge to do research therein, are forced to keep quiet or suffer the consequences.

If the recommendation is adopted, two questions of great interest remain. First, who will be the three appointed experts and, secondly, and more important, which Member States are likely to participate? [France? Possibly, for she has the most advanced and high-level official investigating team, and has made a real advance. Italy? She has a system whereby the Carabinieri investigate reports officially and do *not* seem to be loathe to discuss them with the public in the form of amateur UFO investigators. Spain? We know that the Spanish Army for several years has been involved in the collection and study of reports – details of some of which have been released and published in this journal.

As for Britain, it would seem that the answer would be a very firm "no" (see Lord Strabolgi's recent pronouncement in the House of Lords debate). Even if there were a desire to become involved, anything that required expenditure, such as the setting up or enlarging of Civil Service departments would, in these chaotic times, be ruled out. I expect much the same goes for the United States on the official level, happy to continue to abide by the recommendations of the Condon Committee in 1969, although I am well aware that American genius for organising things could well find an unofficial way round that obstacle.

The U.S.S.R? the FSR team know, from personal experience that, officially, at the science centre at Novosibirsk, someone is beaver away, sending cards to people around the world trying to glean

information on UFO reports and research ideas. We at FSR have received them — and correspondence from other interested individuals, who have sent reports to us. Robert Chapman of the *Sunday Express* tells us he has received a card too, in his case a request for a copy of his book, and a local newspaper in Kent has been asked for details of a report (see *Sunday Express* of 21 January 1979, page

7), and there have been a number of other recipients. So, any chance to collect new material and ideas could well be attractive to them. Whether or not it would be on an exchange basis is another question.

One last thing has to be said at this stage, and that is that Drs Hynek, Vallée and Poher, and Lt. Colonel Coyne and the rest, seem to have done a very good job.

World round-up

*of news and comment
about recent sightings*

United States of America

America's leaders forced to own up about UFOs.

We read with amazement on page 3 of the *Daily Mail* of January 20, 1979, the following item which appeared under the signature of *Simon Winchester*, the newspaper's correspondent in Washington, D.C.; amazement in view of the *Mail's* ridiculous Editorial on page 6 of the same issue (see page 3 of this issue of FSR):

"The Pentagon's bland response to flying saucer reports was always the same: It's nothing. Yet all the while they were compiling hundreds of secret files on sightings.

"And yesterday, America's military leaders were forced to admit that UFOs had spied on many of their nuclear missile bases and bomb stores during a fortnight in 1975.

"No fewer than 900 pages of official records have been prised out of them by a private organisation, the Ground Saucer Watch, of Phoenix, Arizona, who took their case to court last summer.

"They reveal that experts are at a loss to explain the rash of sightings over nuclear bases in the first two weeks of November 1975.

"The sites in Maine, Michigan and Montana — where there are several squadrons of Minuteman missiles and atom bomb storage compounds — were all 'visited'.

"At Malmstrom Air Force Base in Montana, a captain Thomas O'Brien reported seeing an aircraft 'resembling a helicopter' approaching the underground weapons silo.

"It had two red and two white lights on the front, a white light on the bottom and another on the rear. The object hovered for a minute or so before flying off soundlessly, said the report.

"Military crews at two nearby sites also reported seeing 'moving lights' in the air on the same evening.

"The 'activity' logs' kept by commanders of the North American Air Defence Command show that during that period witnesses at another launch site saw an object hovering over the missile silo 'issuing a black object from it, tubular in shape'.

"The revelations follow Thursday's warning to the House of Lords by the Earl of Clancarty, chairman of the UFO movement Contact, that it is time people were told the truth."

Credit: John M. Lade

Having read the foregoing, readers might care to refer to the World Round-up item in FSR Volume 23, No. 5: "CIA sued over UFOs"

Italy

The following item from the *Birmingham Evening Mail* of November 30, 1978, was from John Ashton, that newspaper's correspondent in Rome —

"The fish markets along 60 miles of Italy's Adriatic coast are closed, with fishermen demanding naval or coast-guard escorts to cross the offshore waters which have seen mysterious and terrifying events for the past six weeks.

"It all began when the bodies of two fishermen were discovered beside their capsized, but intact, boat. A subsequent autopsy revealed there was no water in their lungs and that their deaths could be attributed to no known causes. A riddle has kept medical experts and scientists alert ever since: hair-thin lines, almost invisible across their chests.

"These deaths were followed by a series of eerie sightings: 60 ft-high columns of foaming water burst from the otherwise glassy sea beside the boats.

"Red lights rocket skywards up to 200 ft. White 'globes of fire' travel at high speed underwater.

"Unidentified echoes on radar that followed trawlers back to port finally broke the fishermen's nerves.

"Despite an unusual spate of UFO sightings, discarded as illusion, no explanation has been found for the strange stirrings in the sea."

Credit: Gordon Creighton

Israel

Police alert after Mount of Olives sighting

The *Guardian* of January 5, 1979, the following interesting report, a UPI item from Tel Aviv, —

"Israelis yesterday reported a spate of unidentified flying objects — sightings of brightly lit objects hovering, zigzagging, or streaking through the skies over the Holy Land from Haifa to Jerusalem.

"But the Air Force said that nothing had shown up on their radar screens. And police, some of whom sighted UFOs, refused to comment on the report.

"The sightings occurred only days after widespread reports of UFOs in New Zealand. Police in Jerusalem alerted all mobile units after three mysterious objects were seen hovering above the city at a high altitude.

"One policeman told the newspaper, Ha'aretz, that he drove up to the Mount of Olives to get a better look. He said: 'I saw a startling thing: three objects with irregular colours of red, blue, and purple — like a sparkling diamond in the sun. They moved forwards as they went up and down, like an electro cardiogram reading. The third moved north and south. The colours flashed like the blue light on top of a police car.'

"Earlier, a member of the staff