

to its lower points. It was orange hued like street-lamps, and although I could make out a definite shape, it had an orange glow around it. It moved away from us and then shot off at a fast speed. We lost it in the glare of the Shell Oil tanks near Rhosgoch."

Dave describes what he saw when Elfed pointed it out to him: "It appeared to me to be the shape of a triangle with its point upwards. It kind of shrunk and formed into two cup-shaped objects, rim upwards, joined together. I think this may have been due to it turning. After a short while it changed back into the triangle shape and receded towards Rhosybol (†), growing smaller."

Terrence says that he saw "...an orange oval-shaped light with a reddish bottom. It also seemed to have black panels. As we watched, the object started to drift towards us and then away. As it went away it seemed to change into a general triangle shape, again orange but with a reddish centre."

Owen Pritchard, when called out, immediately saw "...an orange oval-shaped object in the sky. Whilst watching I saw the object change into the shape of a triangle. I suppose this could have been caused by small clouds or even by it turning. I think when I saw it, it had started to go away, because it

just got smaller and smaller until it blinked out. I am sure that when it did this it was not covered by cloud or anything."

His wife saw very little except an orange light. Through binoculars she could see it clearly enough to recognise that it was nothing she had ever viewed before, but it was moving in and out of tree coverage so was not easily visible.

The weather that night was cool, with scattered cloud and a moon. It was fine. RAF Valley, who control air traffic on the island, had nothing that could account for the sighting. Local police received other calls that weekend reporting an orange sausage-shaped object.

* [And therefore an enormous object unless it was very very close. Remember that the full moon high in the sky only covers half of a 1p piece (or an old-fashioned six-penny piece, or an American "nickel") held at arm's length. This rapid expansion of a stationary object is also described in the report *Phenomenon Observed* on page 20 of this issue. The Russian article also carries a footnote referring to the remarkable Canary Islands landing which also involved a "growing" UFO. — EDITOR]

† [Rhosybol is the scene of another close encounter under investigation. — EDITOR]

INTERESTING NEWS FROM RUSSIA

Gordon Creighton

WE have recently received in confidence, from a French UFO investigator, an interesting mimeographed document in Russian, made on a very worn duplicator, barely legible in places, and bearing all the signs of an original Russian duplication, and not merely a Western copy of one. This document bears at the top the title *Life in the Cosmos*, and also the name and position of the author, from which it would appear that, if such a person does indeed exist, then the importance of this document is very great. For the post which he is described as holding is a high one in one of the departments of the prestigious USSR Academy of Sciences.

The heading also makes it clear that the document is a summary of a lecture delivered by this important Soviet scientist.

Since we have received no authorization to reveal this man's name or his position, I am not going to do so, nor will I name the French source. We can publish these details later, if authorized to do so.

This poorly mimeographed, partly illegible document strikes me as quite typical of the huge volume of so-called *Samizdat* ("self-published") material nowadays in clandestine circulation throughout the vast underground of Soviet society. Those of us who have had dealings with Russian matters have seen plenty of *samizdat* material, but it is of course generally of a social or political nature, and primarily

to do with the burning issues of elementary human rights.

This is however the first piece of *ufological samizdat* that has come our way, and one has to admit that it is distinctly interesting!

A warning is necessary. The document contains details of one or two Russian domestic reports which are new to us, as well as giving a few additional details of known cases. But most of the material in it refers to the over-all world-wide and foreign UFO scene, and as we read through these foreign cases we sometimes have the impression, either that the person making the notes has not got the story quite right, or that the lecturer himself had not got it quite right. If so, this is not surprising, for the world behind the Iron Curtain is a closed society. We must not forget that those of us who live outside that system have a far better chance of knowing what is going on in this whole UFO business than the people who live in countries with tight control of press and media, education, and all forms of information. For a Russian to get information about UFOs is very difficult. First of all there is, in any case the language problem. But then even if the Russian reads several foreign languages (and they are brilliant linguists) there still remains the fact that the securing of any sort of foreign books in the USSR is excessively difficult for anybody outside the privileged elite,

and to get foreign books or journals on the UFO problem must be even more difficult still.

Thus, while some cases known to us seem a bit garbled, or may sound merely like an *echo* of some other case known to us, we do not know how well informed the author of this document is. In view of his high scientific status, he may in fact be very well informed indeed. Thus, the story about the 7-foot UFO entities seen recently in Iran is (I think) totally new to us in the West, and may very well be quite authentic, since it is said to have come to Moscow from Teheran in a special report to the Russian Government. Again, as regards the question of alleged UFO sightings by American astronauts, most of us prefer to suspend judgement for the time being.

We have heard so many rumours about what was seen on or near the Moon, and the real evidence that has reached us is so flimsy. But it may very well be the fact that the Russian scientist who gave this lecture has better contacts in Houston and the American Space Programme Headquarters than most of us have.

All in all, I find the document fascinating as a rare chance to get some sort of insight into what the difficulties of UFO research in the Soviet Union must be like, and I have therefore thought it well worth while to translate it in full. I have also annotated the article, and have added appropriate comments where I have felt it desirable to do so.

LATE ITEM: IMPORTANT NEWS

Since Mr. Creighton translated the Russian document *Life in the Cosmos* and wrote the foregoing introductory article (both of which had been typeset and made up into pages) a further copy of the document has come into our hands, together with a translation thereof. After reading this we see no reason to make any re-assessment of our views that the document is *Samizdat* material (see note on page 29). This new translation, however, has been widely circulated among members of the "Invisible College" and other scientists, academics and researchers, and the name of the lecturer is given, and the post he holds. In the circumstances we feel we can now give these. He is *Vladimir Grigorievich Azhazha*, Deputy Director of the Section of Underwater Research, USSR Academy of Sciences (see Introduction to *Life in the Cosmos* below).

EDITOR

LIFE IN THE COSMOS

This interesting item is a summary of a lecture on Ufology allegedly given by a Soviet scientist. As the summary is based on notes taken by an unknown member of the audience, this could be the reason for the presentation of some of the items, as readers will agree, in a far from scientific way. Translation from the Russian by Gordon Creighton.

FROM Petrozavodsk, on September 20, 1977, the *Tass* News Agency reported in the newspapers *Izvestiya* and *Sotsialisticheskaya Industriya* of September 20 and September 23, 1977 respectively that:-

At 3.00 a.m. a UFO, in the shape of a fiery ball, appeared at a great height in the sky over Helsinki.¹ After hanging for a few minutes over the centre of the City, it then flew off at high speed towards the East. According to a report issued by the ?NI² Agency, at the moment when the UFO crossed the frontier and passed over into Soviet air-space a sharp increase was noted in the radio messages exchanged between various areas of the United Nations countries.

The UFO performed a vertical figure 8 over Leningrad and left a vivid trail behind it. Then at 4.00 a.m. there was a³ UFO over Petrozavodsk. Further to what was given in the *Tass* Agency reports, the UFO put out two probes shaped like pocket

torches, which flew along at great height above Lenin Prospekt.⁴ At the moment of its appearance over Petrozavodsk, many residents of that town awakened suddenly with a sensation of terror. Over the Petrozavodsk port, the UFO came down low above a 140-metre-long vessel which was lying there. Eye-witnesses state, when comparing the size of the UFO and the size of the ship, that they estimated the length of the UFO at approximately 105 metres. When the UFO moved away towards Lake Onega, many motorists rushed off after it. It hung stationary over the lake, and another, smaller, object came out of it and plunged down into the lake. Then the UFO vanished from sight among the clouds.

A pilot who was flying to Petrozavodsk, contacted the personnel of the airfield to report that there was another aircraft in his flight corridor. The airfield replied that there was no other aircraft. The pilot then said he could see it, a fiery ball with a black tail protruding from it.

Another pilot, starting out on a flight from Kiev to Leningrad, reported that he was being accompanied by a UFO.

Other eyewitnesses saw several ball-shaped UFOs which kept changing colour from yellow to green. They all said the balls were travelling at immense speed. At one place, using instruments, observers worked it out at 44,000 km.p.h.

Iranian fighter jets and UFO over Teheran

In December 1976 a UFO was seen over Teheran, in Iran. Fighters took off and tried to intercept it, but the UFO, sweeping in a wide curve, at first out-paced them and then appeared behind them.

When the pilots of the fighter planes tried to open fire, their electrical control systems all failed. The pilots had difficulty in landing their planes. The UFO released a probe which landed in the outskirts of Teheran.

The Iranian Government sent a message to the leaders of the USSR and USA saying that they suspected that this was a trial of some new weapon, and asking them what they had to say about it. The message received by President Kosygin of the USSR was passed on to the Chairman of *Intercosmos*,⁵ Academician V. N. Petrov, and from him it passed to F. Yu. Zigel,⁶ leader of the Soviet UFO investigation group. The group requested further information from Iran, and this was received in due course from the Iranian Government.

The additional report said that the UFO that landed in Iran was 4.5 metres in diameter and weighed 5 tons. This estimate was arrived at by studying the impressions left on the ground by its legs. It was spherical in shape and displayed a metallic appearance with shifting colours. Two "astronauts," about 2½ metres high, came out of it. They were dressed in something like one-piece overalls, shining, as though made of metal.

When people dwelling in the neighbourhood approached the landed UFO, it rose slowly into the air and then, turning into a fiery ball, vanished instantly. At the landing site there were the marks of three landing feet, and some kind of greenish fluid.

UFOs are frequently seen over military targets and in the vicinity of military manoeuvres. No case of aggression by a UFO has ever been observed.⁷ All the cases where there has been conflict with Earthmen have been caused by the aggressiveness of the latter.

UFO and NATO Missiles

In 1975 a UFO appeared over a NATO missile installation on one of the islands in the Mediterranean. The order was given to destroy it. A missile was fired, but exploded before it could reach the target. The same fate befell three more missiles. It was felt that the missiles had encountered some invisible barrier which detonated them. Meanwhile one warning shot from the UFO was successful, and the whole system was knocked out.⁸ Meanwhile aircraft had managed to photograph the UFO, and when the film was run in slow motion it was poss-

ible to observe the precise moment at which, as it approached the target, the missile exploded. Examination of the remains of a missile showed that they were all covered with holes, just like wood that has got the beetle in it.⁹

UFO and Humanoids at Borisoglebsk

In the summer of 1975, First Lieutenant Pal'tsov, stationed in the Borisoglebsk Region, was returning in the morning to his unit when he saw a cupola-shaped "something" in the bushes beside the road. He walked towards it, and when he was some 30 metres from it, it took off and flew across the road and landed again. Pal'tsov ran towards it, but when he was only a few metres from it, he felt himself running into a resilient wall,¹⁰ and lost consciousness. The last thing that he could remember was seeing two humanlike figures in a transparent cupola. One of them was seated at what looked like a desk, and the other was standing and looking out through the cupola.

The sizes of UFOs vary. Diameters of anywhere from 4½ metres up to 1½ kms.¹¹ The shapes too are varied: balls, cylinders, discs etc.

It may be mentioned that even today it has already been possible to attain, in a few experiments with particles, a speed ten times the speed of light.

How do UFOs fly, at speeds of tens of thousands of kilometres per hour and changing direction well-nigh instantaneously and attaining a mass that must be as much as 160,000 kg.?

There are two hypotheses¹²:-

1. The luminosity of UFOs is explained by the fact that a cloud of plasma is generated around the craft, with a vacuum layer lying between the plasma cloud and the body of the craft, i.e., the propulsion of the UFO takes place in a vacuum and there is no resistance from the atmosphere.
2. The theory of a single pole with three vectors: electrical, magnetic, and gravitational. Apparently the UFO-nauts are able to reduce to a minimum the influence of any one of these three vectors, converting its energy to the other two vectors. Thus, when making sharp turns they eliminate the gravitational vector and feel no enormous stress. The energy is transferred into the formation of the cloud of plasma. The presence of an electromagnetic field around the UFO explains the effects they are able to produce on nearby objects. When a UFO is travelling along a power-line, sparks are often seen to leap across between the UFO and power-line. And electrical and electronic systems coming within the field of influence of the UFO fail.

Encounters with Ufonauts

Over the last thirty years it has been established that there have been 800¹³ encounters with UFO-nauts. And reliably established UFO sightings totalling 80,000.

UFO-nauts encountered are of three types:-

1. Small beings, 33-100 cms. in height, with long,

fine extremities, a big head with pointed ears, like the ears of — (illegible) deeply (illegible) eyes and large froglike mouth, skin-colouring green or brown and appearance not very pleasant. They wear one-piece suits, generally with light visors (? illegible) over the eyes.

2. Normal-sized beings of human height, showing no external differences from the human. Well built. Men and women.

3. Giant types, from 3.3 metres to 5 metres in height, and built in proportion. Enormous physical strength. Skin colourings: white, brown, black.

Three UFO accidents have been observed: two over the sea and one on land, in Brazil. When, in the latter case, the UFO exploded, 16 bodies of small-sized Ufonauts were found.¹⁴ These were at once sequestered by the Pentagon, and scientists were refused permission to see them. The investigation of the wreckage revealed that the UFO was made of an alloy of magnesium, aluminium, copper, and zinc, plus strontium. Specific gravity of the alloy: 1.86 g/cm³.

Unidentified underwater objects

UFOs are seen over land and also in the sea. They have been entering the sea, and there are periodically sightings of small UFOs leaving it... (a few words illegible)... but returning after a while.

During manoeuvres in the Arctic, with an American aircraft-carrier plus 15 other warships, a huge craft was seen moving under the water at a speed of 150 miles (200 kms) per hour. But no present day craft built on earth can travel under water at that speed. The maximum speed for us is 40 m.p.h.

While an international expedition was working in the Arctic a tremendous noise was heard, and then, a few tens of metres distant, blocks of ice were seen hurled upwards and, from the cavity produced, a spherical object was seen to emerge and vanish into the sky at tremendous speed.¹⁵

When the French underseas explorer Piccard made his famous descent into the Mariana Deep in the Pacific Ocean, a UFO accompanied him down.

One UFO seen in Mexico had a crew consisting solely of women. They got a young Mexican man into the UFO and, so it is said, carried out medical-biological experiments on him.¹⁶

In Brazil, on one occasion, in a fashionable restaurant,¹⁷ a 3-metre tall Ufonaut suddenly appeared, allegedly with jugs in his hands, and gestured that he wanted water. After receiving it, he went off to the UFO, which was standing 150 metres from the restaurant, awaiting him. He went aboard, and the craft vanished.

Astronauts' Sighting

One of the most interesting reports is about the encounters of American astronauts with UFOs. On almost all their flights it is stated that the astronauts have been accompanied by UFOs of various types. In the case of *Apollo 11* (Armstrong, Aldrin, Collins) at once, after blast-off, on their flight to the Moon.

They saw a gigantic UFO which, when first spotted, was behind them, but then it overtook them. Its length was 1.5 kms. When Armstrong and Aldrin landed on the Moon, they saw a number of disc-shaped UFOs over on the other side of a crater. Armstrong yelled: "Hell! They're already here!"

When the astronauts reported this to Houston, there was a delay of five hours before instructions were issued to the astronauts to go outside their module. Only when they were sure that no hostile action was being taken by the UFOs did the astronauts receive this decision to step out on to the Moon. Aldrin took a colour film which has been kept strictly secret, and all the reports were received significantly late. The encounter had a powerful effect on the astronauts. Aldrin had a very severe nervous break-down, from which he still has not recovered, and Collins has become a priest of the Church.

The crew of *Apollo 13* also had a UFO encounter. According to the programme laid down, they were due to explode a small atomic device on the surface of the Moon, the purpose being to produce an artificial moonquake. While this was being discussed by them with Houston by radio, a UFO came and flew around *Apollo 13*. After their discussion with Houston, a tank exploded, but causing no damage. This tank was inside the *Apollo 13* cabin, and it made it impossible for them to make the Moon landing. The atomic device was also rendered inoperative. In the opinion of the astronauts, all this was due to the influence of the UFOs.

Results of Ufonaut activities found on the ground

In Brazil a mine was found, the walls and — (illegible word) of which were filled in with layers of soil and covered with transparent plastic. At present there is an expedition at work in this mine, headed by Armstrong.¹⁸

In Soviet Kazakhstan a quarry has been found with heaps of extracted rock on the surface nearby and showing the appearance of having been processed. All investigations so far have failed to establish what it is that has been extracted from the processed rock.

In the USA considerable attention is paid to the problem of UFO research. In the Rocky Mountains thousands of projectors, of a power of as much as 1 ml.kw/hr. are set up, pointing up at the skies. Every night they are turned on, in the hope of attracting Ufonauts.¹⁹

UFOs have been clocked passing over at speeds of 16,000 km. p. h. Attempts have been made to send a signal to UFOs with the figure π 3.14, and it seems that a reply has been received, which the Americans were able to decypher as $1/\pi$, but this interpretation has been much disputed.

A highly interesting case is that of Mr. and Mrs. Hill in the USA, who had a direct encounter with Ufonauts. Travelling by road at night, they saw a stationary UFO. When they approached it, they saw the crew, who invited them into the craft, after which they lost consciousness, and when they came to their senses again they were at the spot where they

had encountered the UFO. The Hills were put under medical examination and psycho-neurological treatment with a view to recovering their memory of the events of that night. As a result of this treatment, the doctors were successful in reactivating the memory centres of Mrs. Hill, who described how they had encountered the UFO and had been for a flight in it in Space. After that, she noted down a few points on paper, as though linking up constellations in the sky.

The EVM,²⁰ with whom these data were lodged, compared her sketch with the sky-charts, and established that the ufonauts had come from a star 37 light-years distant. The most interesting part about it is that the Hill sketch contained stars that were not yet on the star-charts. They were only discovered a year later. Precisely at the spots indicated. Prior to their encounter with the Ufonauts the Hills had not possessed the slightest knowledge of Astronomy.

* * * * *

Notes and Comments by G. Creighton

1. Helsinki is not of course in the USSR, but the Capital of nearby Finland. (Since the disastrous end of the Soviet-Finnish War the Finnish Capital has lain only 100 miles from the Soviet frontier.)
2. First of these three initials illegible.
3. The exact translation of the Russian word would be "UFO appeared over Petrozavodsk". The Russian language has no word for "the", nor for "a", and they generally get along all right without them. In this case, I should imagine that it is the *same* UFO which appeared over Petrozavodsk, and that we can therefore insert the word "the." But of course it might have been a different UFO.
4. The Russians use the word *prospekt* for *avenue* or *boulevard*. In Leningrad, for example, there is the famous *Nevskiy Prospekt* (Neva Boulevard) about which the incomparable Gogol wrote so charmingly.
5. Can anybody tell me what *Intercosmos* is? I confess my ignorance.
6. Our colleague F. Yu Zigel, head of the Russian UFO investigation group, is well known by name to FSR readers and is a regular recipient of our journal.
7. Here, alas, I fear our Soviet lecturer is not too well informed (or maybe he is trying to do a little covering up himself?).
8. I don't know what on earth to make of this story because, in almost every detail, it seems the exact account which I gave in *Amazing News from Russia* (FSR Vol. 8, No. 6 November/December 1962). But my story, derived from a report received from a Russian engineer visiting Italy on a mission, related to an alleged incident near Moscow itself, where missile batteries defending the Soviet Capital allegedly opened fire several times against a huge disc hovering at around 60,000 or 70,000 feet, with precisely the same result. The only different feature was that in my Russian story of sixteen years ago, six small discs swooped down out of the "mother-UFO" and flew low over the missile batteries, putting the whole of the electrical controls out of order. *I am inclined to think that these are indeed two separate stories and that both may well be authentic.*
9. Remember the 'shredded, pitted' remains of Captain Mantell's plane? And what about all the *dead mice found at Warminster, riddled with holes*, after the loud horrendous UFO had passed overhead?

10. Here again is our "invisible wall" which has cropped up in several of FSR's reports over the years.
11. Lest anyone might think this sort of size is impossible, I will mention that one U.S. report (I think from Kansas) quite a long time ago spoke of a UFO "ten miles long." During the Vietnam War, pilots of an American troop-carrying plane taking soldiers from Japan to Vietnam reported to APRO confidentially that for half an hour they had been escorted by two huge metallic discs which they thought might have been as much as 1,000 ft in diameter. And in a Russian report, *Amazing News from Russia* (FSR, Vol. 8, No. 6, November/December 1962) I gave the account of the huge "cigar" seen by thousands stationary at a height of only 2,000 metres or so above the South Russian city of Voronezh. The estimates of its length were given as "at least 800 metres."
12. These are old theories with which we in the West are familiar.
13. Since we "only need one white crow to prove our case", this estimate of 800 known encounters with UFO entities over the past thirty years is pretty remarkable. And I suspect that some of our experts, like Dr. David Saunders, may in fact be able to state that the total of good, reliable claims of sightings of landed entities is in fact already considerably more than 800?
14. This is an amazing story. I have never heard of such a report from Brazil. So, is it a garbled version of the UFO containing small dead entities that allegedly crashed near Mexico City in the late 40s or early 50s, or of Frank Scully's story about the saucer that crashed at Aztec, State of New Mexico, USA, during the same period, also with many little corpses aboard. It is of course fashionable in well-informed circles nowadays to hoot at all such "little dead men", especially Frank Scully's. But, according to a private message which I have just received from a correspondent in the USA, the vast mass of 11,000 pages of "non-existent" documents about UFOs which Ground Saucer Watch have just winkled out of the CIA under the terms of the new American Freedom of Information Act will, when published, show conclusively that the stories by Frank Scully and others about crashed UFOs containing little dead crews are true after all! My informant tells Mr. W. Spaulding of Ground Saucer Watch possesses several sworn statements given by retired U.S. Air Force Colonels that at least two such crashed UFOs with small dead entities were indeed recovered by the U.S. Air Force, one in Mexico in 1948, and the other near Kingman, Arizona, in 1953, (By the way, wasn't 1953 the year in which the CIA order went forth to debunk the UFOs?) See also Hughie Green's extraordinary story about the crashed saucer (FSR, Vol. 1, No. 1, Spring 1955). Anyway, as regards this present Russian report, which is said to emanate from Brazil, can any of our Brazilian readers or investigator colleagues tell us please whether they know anything about this? It could quite easily also be true.
15. Here again, one is left wondering. Is this quite a new case, from the *Arctic*, and previously unknown to us, or is it a re-hash of the American report, published a good many years ago, about an identical case said to have taken place in *Antarctica*? (I recall that one of the scientists said to have seen the incident was named Rybikoff.)
16. Has anyone heard of a UFO case involving an *all-female crew*? I have not. But in 1952 Truman Bethurum, now deceased, claimed to have had several meetings in Nevada with a UFO crewed by little men led by a pert little female skipper, on whose account Truman Bethurum's wife subsequently secured a divorce against him (the first known case in "interplanetary" marital wrangles?). Then again, we had recently (FSR, Vol. 23, No. 1) the story of the Colombian cowman who had a somewhat taxing

encounter with some decidedly lascivious and also decidedly repellent female creatures from a UFO. Is this Russian story about the young man in Mexico just an echo or a re-hash of A.V.B.'s case, or the Colombian cow-herds, or Truman Bethurum's or is it genuinely something new? Can any of our Mexican readers and colleagues please help us to throw some more light upon the affair?

17. Over the years Brazil has had more than its fair share of fantastic UFO stories, and FSR has carried a very good selection of them. But what is this? Is it a new case, or is it too a garbling of something else? There are several cases on record (USA, Chile, Canada at least, to my recollection) where entities are said to have asked for water and FSR has just published another one from South Africa (FSR Vol. 24, No. 2). So can any Brazilian reader or investigator please help us with further information about this alleged case of the giant who strode into a Brazilian restaurant with his jugs at the ready?

18. Can any Brazilian or American colleague or reader please confirm whether they know anything about this story concerning Armstrong and the strange mine in Brazil?

19. This story about the Rocky Mountains lit up at night by vast batteries of searchlights is a real humdinger, and sounds just about the balmiest we have heard yet, except for the idea launched by the late and most respected researcher Major Donald Keyhoe who thought he might be able to lure UFOs into landing here by means of mock-up plywood "UFOs" scattered around! (As if anybody could be so zany as to imagine the UFOs need any encouragement — when they are flying about and landing here day and night — or as if anyone could imagine the UFOs can't find their way in to land here without the help of *landing lights* from us!) Apart from the sheer absurdity of such ideas, they are at least valuable, inasmuch as they reveal how completely self-centred and conceited we Earthlings are! We are, quite genuinely, totally incapable of grasping the elementary idea that there might be other folk around who are a deal smarter than we are!

20. These Russian initial letters, ЗБМ, stand for some American organization, but for the life of me I cannot come up with any idea as to what they stand for. Is it another Russian term for NASA? This initial-mania received a big fillip from Communist Russia, but has now reached global epidemic proportions.

COMMENT

From the version now circulating in France and the United States of America it appears to us — though we can not be quite sure about this — that the French and the Americans are taking it that the whole of the article was a TASS report which went out in *Izvestiya* and *Socialist Industry*. We feel, however, that TASS only reported on the Petrozavodsk incident of September 20, 1977, and not on the Azhazha lecture, which was probably given some time in 1978.

EDITOR

MAIL BAG

Correspondence is invited from our readers, but they are asked to keep their letters short. Unless letters give the sender's full name and address (not necessarily for publication) they cannot be considered. The Editor would like to remind correspondents that it is not always possible to acknowledge every letter personally, so he takes this opportunity of thanking all who write to him.

Dr. Morrell's cow rejected

Dear Sir,— I find Robert Morrell's statement in his "Observations on the Humanoid Encounter at Rainford" (Vol. 24, No. 3) that "...what we have is nothing more than a rather blown-up instance of mistaken identity," a little strange.

The description of the humanoid by the witnesses (Vol. 23, No. 6) is quite clear and consistent, and Dr. Morrell's conclusion that what was seen was a cow that had strayed on to the road seems quite preposterous.

He seems to imply that the witnesses were somewhat intoxicated, although the original account of this case states that the police who actually spoke to the witnesses, were able to confirm that the men were *not in any way intoxicated*.

As an alternative Dr. Morrell suggests that the story could have been invented, to divert attention from their intoxicated condition, after they had to stop for help owing to an asthmatic attack suffered by one of their party. I would suggest that such a tale

would more than likely suggest to a good many people that those relating it were indeed intoxicated.

The "cow" explanation has been used by the Nottingham UFO Investigation Society fairly recently. Although I do not have press cuttings of the matter I recall that some months ago a witness living near Crich, Derbyshire, reported seeing a strange light which appeared to land in a field. Subsequent investigation by the Society (according to the *Derby Evening Telegraph*) led them to the conclusion that it could well have been a cow in a field. The witness was not impressed.

In conclusion I feel that Dr. Morrell is being far too critical of the original report of the Rainford Humanoid, which I felt was quite clear and concise.

Yours faithfully,
J.R. Taplin.
25 Ecclesbourne Avenue,
Duffield,
Derby. DE6 4GE.
February 8, 1979.

A view of the UFO Phenomenon

Dear Mr. Bowen,— Four significant facts stand out in the UFO phenomenon: 1) around-the-clock appearances of UFOs somewhere in the world, 2) bewildering variety of UFO shapes, 3) undeniable existence of a link between the UFOs and the so-called paranormal phenomena and consequently 4) presence of one and the same intelligence behind the UFO and paranormal phenomena.

The adherents of the extraterrestrial hypothesis (ETH) persist in seeing in the UFOs nothing but extraterrestrial spaceships and speculate uselessly on their "propulsion system" disregarding the incredible diversity of UFO shapes. The ETH enthusiasts forget that they are merely anthropomorphically extrapolating our present mechanistic and materialistic science and technology.

In my view, interstellar travel, for which even the speed of light is far too slow, would only be feasible in an *immaterial* way, e.g., in the form of mind travel.