

U.S. CONGRESS MAY VOTE MORE CASH FOR PARAPSYCHOLOGY RESEARCH

According to a report featured prominently in the British weekly *Psychic News* (July 3, 1982) the U.S. Congress may consider the allocation of more money for parapsychological research in the wake of a Committee Report which declares that telepathy and clairvoyance "could have far-reaching social and political implications for this nation and for the world."

The Report, compiled by the Committee on Science and Technology, says Congress might wish to undertake a serious assessment of the American research effort in view of the two following very important factors:-

(1) The potentially powerful and far-reaching implications of knowledge in this field.

(2) The fact that the Soviet Union is widely acknowledged to be supporting such research at a far higher and more official level.

From the U.S. House of Representatives, Don Fuqua, Chairman of the Committee on Science and Technology, told a representative of *Psychic News*:-

"The major purpose of the Report was to identify major issues in science and technology warranting Congressional attention in the years ahead.

"One issue identified concerned research on the physics of consciousness" (*Parapsychology*.)

"The Report states that 'attempts in History to obtain insights into the ability of the human mind to function in as-yet misunderstood ways goes back thousands of years'.

"Only recently, serious and scientifically-based attempts have been made to understand and measure the functional nature of mind-mind and mind-matter interconnectiveness.

"Telepathy tests have yielded some encouraging results, but experiments with mind-over-matter 'have yielded less compelling and more enigmatic results'.

"However, the Report concludes: *'The implication of these experiments is that the human mind may be able to obtain information independent of Geography and of Time.'*"

SPANISH WITNESSES SEE SMALL "ROBOT" FROM LANDED UFO

Gordon Creighton

ACCORDING to a report published in the Spanish newspaper *Pueblo* for February 18, 1981, two Spanish witnesses in the region of Burgos (North-Central Spain) observed a small "robot" at 4.30 a.m. on February 13, 1981, at Fuentecén, a place lying 17 kilometres from Aranda de Duero, towards Valladolid. The witnesses were Luis Domínguez Díaz, his wife, and their son, and the total length of the sighting was one hour. Later in the day, Sr. Díaz telephoned to the newspaper *Pueblo* (published in Burgos) and gave them his account. Members of the staff of the paper at once went to the spot and found the marks which Sr. Díaz said had been left in the ground by the UFO.

As he told the newspaper, Domínguez Díaz is the proprietor of a bar. As they were shutting up for the night, he stepped out and saw two red lights at ground level, and seemingly about 150 metres distant. He assumed at first that they were the rear lights of a car. But then he noticed that they were moving upwards into the air, to descend again shortly afterwards to ground level. He and his wife then went off home to bed, his house being close by. Once inside, with all the lights in the house turned off, the three witnesses con-

tinued to watch the UFO from one of the windows, as it performed various movements in the air, including wide lateral undulating sweeps.

The robot that "barked"!

Meanwhile their dog was barking loudly. The wife became afraid and went up to bed, while the husband and boy continued to watch.

From time to time, said Domínguez Díaz, the UFO shot out "what looked like rockets, lighting up the whole area round about just as brightly as though it were daylight. It was amazing.

"We went on watching all this for half an hour, and then, after the thing had come down and landed again, we heard what sounded like footsteps, and we saw what you might call a robot. It was square, about 1 m. 40 centimetres in height and about half as wide. We could not see whether it had arms or a head. It looked metallic. First we heard the footsteps, and then we caught sight of it. It was right by the iron railings, about a metre or so from the house. Our little dog was barking furiously the whole time. And the robot gave

a sort of imitation, but more slow, of the barking! At that point I moved from the kitchen window, where we had been watching, and went into the lavatory, where there is a little window giving a better view. And I was indeed then able to see the robot more clearly."

"I decided to approach it"

Asked by the newspaper staff whether he had felt frightened, Díaz said: "I felt 'goose-pimples', as we say, and a very peculiar sensation. But, having watched it for over half an hour already, I didn't feel any fear. I asked my boy whether he knew where the torch was. I managed to find it and, arming myself with a hunting knife, I unbolted the door, but when I got out there I found the robot had disappeared, and I saw the craft taking off again and heading in the direction of a grove of trees lying on the right-hand side of our house."

Noise produced by the UFO

Asked if the UFO made any noise, he said yes, it was a noise like the sound emitted by high voltage electricity cables.

Asked how long exactly he and his son had watched the robot, he replied that it was for about twenty minutes. "Its body looked square — that's all. We could make out neither head, nor arms. In height, it was a little shorter than myself."

Domínguez Díaz said the night was quite dark and

the weather not very good, and that this was why he had not been able to see the robot more clearly. He added that when he opened the door and went out he could see flashes of light directed towards the house from the departing craft.

He and his son finally went to bed at 7.30 that morning. A few hours later they were up again, and they went to inspect the spot where the UFO had stood, and found numerous footprints and marks left by the craft. There were also holes in the ground, and areas of scorched earth and scorched grass. The marks were crescent-shaped.

Concluding the report, the group of investigators from the newspaper confirm that they went to the landing site and also saw the marks and burns. The area of scorched soil and grass measured about five square metres. They said they felt this was due to a sudden burst of heat rather than actual flame, because the burning was quite superficial and sporadic, and had not penetrated deeply into the soil. At first they found only two holes, about 30 cms. deep and 2 cms. in diameter, and lying 1½ m. apart. The holes ran into the ground on a slant and this gave the investigators the impression that there must be a third hole, in accordance with the concept of an adjustable tripod landing-gear, and indeed after a few minutes of further search they did find the third hole, concealed at first sight by a tuft of grass.

(Credit and thanks for photostat of *Pueblo* press report to reader Jean Bastide of Aix-en-Provence, France.)

FSR BOOKSHELF — 16

New UFO books reviewed by...

FROM November 1896 to April 1897, thousands of people in the U.S.A. reported seeing bright lights moving across the night sky. In some cases they said that they saw the shadowy structure of an airship above the light. The phenomenon was widely reported in the press and rapidly became known as the mystery airship. In the 1960s UFO researchers unearthed some of these reports and published their findings, which showed that the reported performance of the mystery airship was inconsistent with the level of technical development which airship designers had achieved at that time. Since then, the mystery airships have joined that group of peripheral mysteries which appear to have some connexion with the main body of ufology, but which continue to evade precise investigation.

Many articles on the subject have been published in UFO journals, and one booklet dealing with the

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early Californian wave was privately distributed by Loren Gross, but in **The Great Airship Mystery** (Dodd, Mead & Company, New York, hardback, \$9.95, 212 pages, index, illustrated) Daniel Cohen provides a detailed report and analysis of these events, and their strangeness can here be fully appreciated. The author starts with the earliest sightings in California in November 1896 and follows the reports as they moved eastwards during the next six months. He shows how the airships were reported in the press, with much the same mixture of irresponsibility and ridicule that later UFO reports received, and how the rivalries and ambitions of newspaper owners coloured the reporting. The public expectation was that a secretive inventor had solved the mystery of flight and would very soon reveal himself, and there were of course various individuals who claimed to be he, but after a brief blaze of publicity they faded once more into obscurity.