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# THE RETURN OF THE "CYCLOPES"?

(H)

Gordon Creighton

INVESTIGATORS Chionetti and Agostinelli of the Argentinian UFO Investigation Group CEFANC (Buenos Aires) report that they have made an on-the-spot probe of a curious encounter case said to have occurred in the early hours of June 14, 1980, at the house of a rural blacksmith living somewhere near the town of Libertad in the Departamento of San José, some 90 kilometres north-west of Montevideo, Capital of the Republic of Uruguay.

The protagonist in the story, 63-year old Juan Froche Jiaciola, a married man with two children, was in bed listening to the radio when his wife, who was dozing beside him, was aroused by sounds from outside the building. At first she was not much concerned at the noise, for they had some Charqui (Sun-dried beef) hanging out there, and they knew that it often attracted animals. Juan Froche however got out of bed, put on the bedroom light and then went to the kitchen and switched on the powerful overhead light outside over the front door. Then he went to the dining room and peered out through the window on the left side of the door.

(H)

Two strange-looking tall young people, as they seemed to him, were standing out there, looking up with what seemed to be curiosity at the light which he had just turned on. Their faces, he thought, seemed well proportioned, indeed "extremely beautiful." One of them appeared to be a male and the other a female. They looked to him to be about 16 or 17 years old, but unusually tall. Their hair was short and curly and very black, and the skin of their faces and their hands was pale, and he thought their necks maybe a little longer and thinner than is normal. The two beings resembled each other closely "... as though they were brother and sister." And they were clad in matt, leaden-grey, closely-fitting garments from wrists to neck, so closely-fitting indeed that, as he subsequently told the investigators: "They looked as if they were naked, and the clothing was painted on." He also remarked: "It could have been a very fine short downy sort of hair, like the hair of a cat."

He said the musculature of both persons was more developed than the normal. The female was very curvaceous as befitted her sex, and he said the nipples of her breasts showed very clearly. He said she "looked very good!"

But now I come to the most extraordinary part of Froche's story. He said that on their foreheads, both beings bore what looked like a big deep red cicatrized wound running up vertically from between the eyes to as far as the hair line. This mark was about a centimetre wide, like an old healed wound "... as though they had been operated on." (This would have pleased old

"Lobsang Rampa" the recently deceased son of a plumber from Plympton, Devon, who achieved notoriety for his stories about Tibet, and about operations performed there on the "Third Eye" in the forehead to stimulate the development of psychic powers!)

The male being had now come right up to the front door, which was not locked. He pushed it open and put a hand round it. Froche struggled to close the door, and grabbed the back of the intruding hand instantly feeling the whole of his own hand (the left) "terribly burned, as though by fire." This heat effect was instantaneous and he had no time for judging the feel of texture or solidity of the intruding hand. At last he managed to slam the door shut. The curious thing, he said, was that after that they seemed maybe "satisfied that they had burnt me," for they showed no further desire to get in, and were soon gone.

Señora Ana Parodi de Froche told the investigators that she had remained in bed, waiting for her husband to drive off the animals from the dried meat, when suddenly she heard him shouting: "No! No! You shan't come in here!" and then she heard the door slam. She got out of bed and ran out to the front door, to find her husband doubled up with pain, with his left hand under the armpit of the right arm. "Those chaps were trying to get in here and rob us!" he yelled. She examined his left hand and found it covered with vivid red stab-like spots. Then she peered out round the door, but found nobody there.

They spent a sleepless night and then went next day to the Police, who sent them on to the local hospital. There the hand was examined by Dr. Ramón Nuñez, who told the press: "I looked at the hand. He had a series of light burns distributed over the palm of the left hand. Evidently this had been caused by contact with something very hot, but the condition was not serious."

The two Argentinian investigators reported that, by the time they got to see Sr. Froche, two months later (having heard his story reported in an Uruguayan TV programme on current local events, *Monica Reporting*... on June 19, 1980) the wounds were healing, but were still visible. They counted a total of 42 of the marks. The photograph taken by Enrique Bianco which accompanies the CEFANC report shows the dark stab-like or pricked marks very clearly indeed, distributed at random over the hand.

In conclusion the CEFANC investigators report that they find it impossible to conclude whether this case is genuine or not, and they offer it without comment to their readers' judgement. For, as they explain, they have heard confidentially from an Uruguayan UFO Study group (no names given) that Dr. Ramón

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Núñez is Froche's own family doctor. He therefore knows the man well and he says Froche has in the past displayed "certain tendencies to hallucination," when complaining to the doctor about imaginary swellings in his armpits which the doctor said he himself was unable to find. The doctor had concluded that Froche (who is right-handed) had probably inflicted the wounds upon himself. The CEFANC investigators add that an experienced Police officer in the San José area, who had participated in the preliminary questioning of Froche at the Police Station, described the wounds as looking "like the results of a hot metal tube-shaped like a soft-drink straw being pressed into the palm of the hand."

Froche also showed the investigators some holes in the ground some 80 metres from his house. There has been a lot of dispute about these holes, as the Uruguayan ufologists maintain that a journalist had visited Froche some three or four months before the dissemination of his story about the two entities, and that on that occasion Froche had said nothing to the journalist about the two entities. Froche however explained that this was because he had found the marks before the date of his close encounter with the entities.

Another point of dispute concerns Froche's claim that on the night of his close encounter his electricity meter showed that he had used 600 kilowatts in that single night — more than he used in a whole month normally. He explained this by saying the entities had stolen the electricity. But the CEFANC investigators say their contacts in Montevideo looked into this and found the claim unfounded, as Froche had no unusual consumption of energy that night.

Froche said that after that night, there had been a very strange and unidentifiable smell in his smithy, which is in the ground floor of the building. When the CEFANC investigators were there, it was no longer detectable, but they admit that the other investigators from Montevideo told them that when they had visited Froche they too had smelt it and were unable to identify it.

In conclusion the CEFANC investigators admit however that Froche's story has been coherent and consistent throughout, and agrees with what he had told other investigators and reporters.

In the light of the scores and scores of UFO reports from all over the world which I have read, in at least a dozen languages over the past 34 years, I can only say that the Froche story strikes me as far more likely to be genuine than not. For one thing, it has all the usual absurdity and "pointlessness." So I think we ought to put it on record.

For it so happens that we do already have an extremely similar case reported to have occurred at Torrent, near Santo Tomé in the nearby Argentinian Province of Corrientes, in the first week of February 1965, when tall "Martians," nearly two metres high, and "each having only one eye, in the centre of the forehead,"

is a matter of some interest that this Uruguayan CE-III is reported to have occurred on June 14 1980. That date was also notable for the rocket launching of Cosmos 1188 from the Cosmodrome at Plesetsk in the Soviet Union which, due to lack of information among the Soviet public in general, and Soviet ufologists in particular, was misidentified as a UFO (see Dr. Teerikorpi's article in FSR Vol. 27 No. 6). It is understood that the launch vehicle's trajectory took it over Argentina (and adjoining countries?). At the time of this vehicle's passage over Russia, there were reports of landings of small craft with, allegedly, sightings of humanoid entities. Was it purely by coincidence that there was also this CE-III in Uruguay, just across the river from Buenos Aires? If there are visitations, or projections, controlled by alien interlopers, devilish deceivers, or what-have-you, are some of the visitations timed to coincide with spectacular man-made heavenly displays; inner space coverings-up distracting our attention from the true purpose behind the landings — whatever that can be?

EDITOR

entered a farmhouse and tried to seize a man but were "driven off." On February 6 however, they returned and were seen by many people, and once again they tried to catch a man and "failed." He escaped and gave the alarm, and the villagers turned out in strength and fired their shotguns at the "Martians" — though seemingly without inflicting any damage on these.

This case at Torrent is No. 41 in my article, "The Humanoids in Latin America," which forms part of the larger compilation, *The Humanoids*, first published by FSR in 1966 and subsequently re-issued, first as a hard-cover book and then as a paperback.

Let us now return to our 1980 South American "Cyclopes" with their "one eye" in the middle of the forehead. The Argentinian Province of Corrientes lies due north of the home of blacksmith Froche, and the two areas are not too far apart if one judges the matter on the continental scale of South America.

Were I a betting man — to use one of my favourite phrases — I think I would be inclined to view the strange tale of Señor Juan Froche Jiaciola as very likely true. I doubt whether we need pay too much attention to the views of Dr. Ramón Núñez, who is extremely unlikely to have an expert knowledge of the UFO problem — and what, pray, does a doctor stand more in need of when he finds a UFO victim in his consulting room?

What would a country blacksmith have to gain by

(Concluded at foot of page 5)

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ME-P2  
GdM 130 — 5

UFO IN ITALIA

di Sergio Conti

# L'UFO SUL LAGO BRUNO



**Si ripropone l'accostamento UFO-acqua - Quattro ragazzi spaventati - L'alieno cammina sull'acqua.**

Il nostro collaboratore genovese Vittorio Crosa ci invia la relazione di un'inchiesta da lui condotta su un episodio particolarmente importante che si sarebbe verificato l'8 novembre 1980, nei pressi di Praglia, in Liguria.

Praglia si trova a pochi chilometri da Genova, nell'interno delle ultime pendici delle Alpi Marittime, annidato sul versante che si apre sulla valletta del Gorzente, il tortuoso torrente la cui sorgente è poco distante dal paese e che insinuandosi fra le strette gole dopo aver formato alcuni laghetti, unendo le sue acque a quelle del Piota, va a gettarsi nell'Orba.

È proprio la zona dei «laghi del Gorzente» che è stata teatro dell'eccezionale avvenimento.

Va rilevato che, fra l'altro, la vicenda

s'inserisce, se pure marginalmente, nelle manifestazioni ufologiche del novembre di quell'anno. Quasi si potrebbe dire che prelude al «miniflap» dell'11 novembre, manifestandosi ai limiti della zona che ne fu interessata.

## Un incontro inaspettato

Quattro giovani di Genova Sestri Ponente, Maurizio Dagnino, abitante al n. 17 di Via Monte Timone, Fabio Nari di sedici anni, abitante in Via S. Alberto 24A/2, Ivano Di Sisto, anch'egli sedicenne, abitante in Via F. Persico 11/30 e Graziano Berna, di diciassette anni, abitante in Via S. Alberto 24/6, tutti studenti dell'Istituto Professionale ANCI-FAP, sono stati i protagonisti della insolita vicenda.

Il fatto assume un particolare interesse

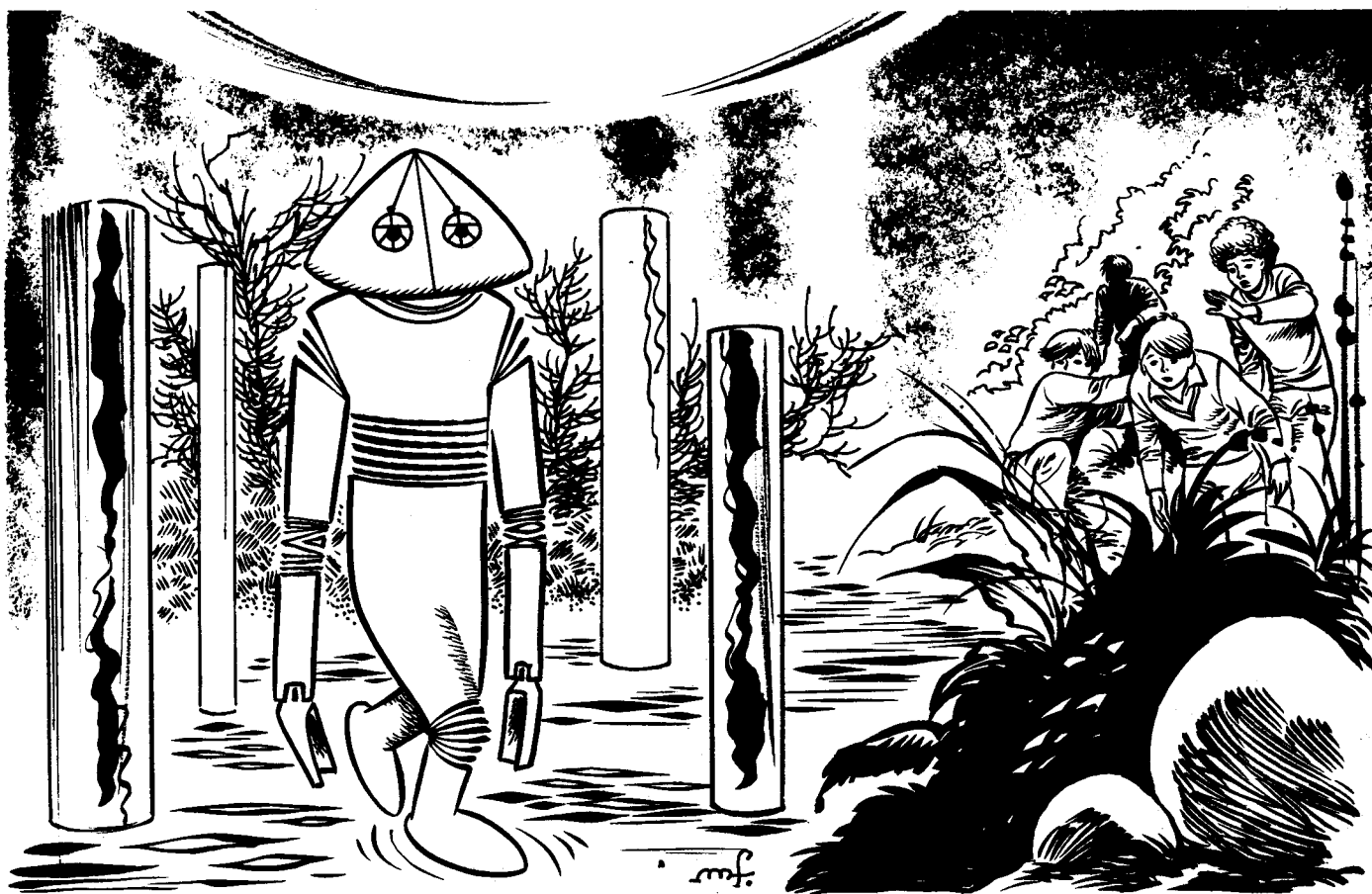
perché si presenterebbe come un suggestivo fenomeno di «incontro del terzo tipo».

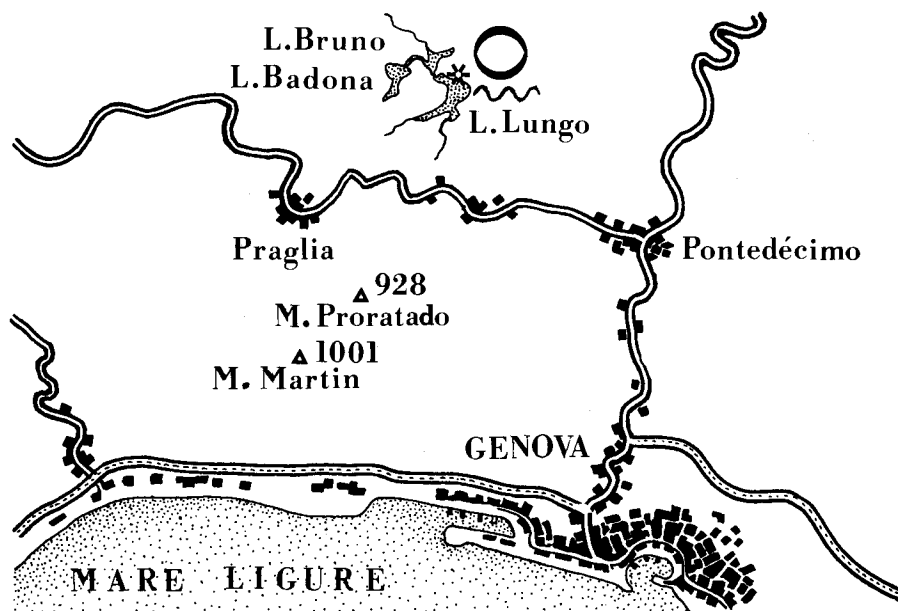
I quattro compagni sono appassionati di motocross e si erano recati appunto in quella zona, posta a nord del paese, detta appunto Piani di Praglia, che si stende intorno ai laghi del Gorzente e che si presta particolarmente alla pratica di quello sport.

Erano giunti da poco sul posto, erano circa le 16.30 ed erano quasi sulla riva del secondo laghetto (il Lago Bruno), quando si trovarono improvvisamente ad assistere ad uno spettacolo inatteso che li sconvolse gettandoli in preda allo stupore e al terrore.

Videro un grosso ordigno di forma ovale, di un diametro che essi stimarono sui venti metri e che aveva uno spessore al

*Era alto circa due metri e cinquanta. Al centro dell'apparecchio si aprì silenziosamente un portello... (disegno di Mario Fantoni)*





Cartina della località in cui si manifestò il fenomeno.

centro di sei o sette metri, avvicinarsi, volando silenziosamente, alle acque del lago e planarvi sopra fino a giungere quasi a toccarne il pelo, a una distanza di una ventina di centimetri. A questo punto dalla parte inferiore della misteriosa macchina fuoriuscirono quattro tubi cilindrici di circa mezzo metro di diametro, che scesero mentre l'oggetto si arrestava rimanendo immobile.

I ragazzi stupefatti e atterriti si nascosero dietro alcuni cespugli rimanendo con il fiato sospeso ad osservare la sconcertante apparizione, in preda a contrastanti sentimenti di curiosità, paura e stupore.

### L'ospite inatteso

Le sorprese non erano finite. Al centro dell'apparecchio si aprì silenziosamente un portello a parete «come quello di un ascensore» ed essi ne videro uscire uno strano essere dall'aspetto fantascientifico e impressionante.

Era alto circa due metri e cinquanta. Sembrava indossare una tuta color amianto/argento. Aveva una testa semi-triangolare nella quale facevano spicco due occhi rotondi. Il misterioso individuo, una via di mezzo tra l'umanoide e il robot, cominciò a camminare sul pelo dell'acqua come se vi scivolasse sopra con i suoi stranissimi «piedi» o «scarpe» di forma semiovale lunghe una ventina di centimetri e larghe una quindicina. Le sue «braccia» oltrepassavano il ginocchio. Le «mani» erano come due palette. Si diresse verso la riva, la raggiunse in un punto che non distava più di quindici metri dai cespugli, dietro i quali gli esterrefatti testimoni stavano rintanati e

cominciò a percorrere la riva scavando qua e là con le sue «mani-palette».

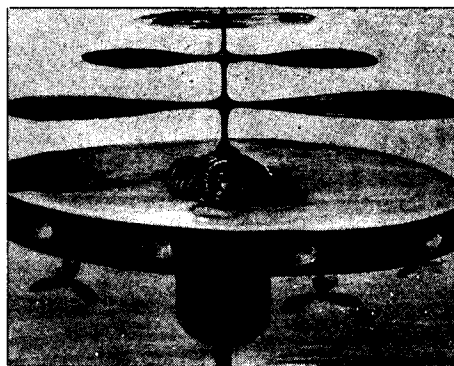
Dopo un po' ritornò al suo sconosciuto veicolo vi risalì e si dileguò all'interno rientrando dalla porta, che si richiuse scivolando alle sue spalle.

La porta era restata aperta tutto il tempo durante il quale egli si era trattenuto a terra, ma per quanto i ragazzi avessero aguzzato lo sguardo, non erano riusciti a vedere nulla dell'interno, che risultava del tutto oscuro.

Non appena l'essere fu salito a bordo e la porta si fu ermeticamente richiusa, dai cilindri che erano calati dal corpo dell'ordigno uscì uno sbuffo di gas grigio-bianco, denso e tutto l'apparecchio si sollevò di circa un metro, per poi prendere immediatamente quota e partire silenzioso e veloce sparendo nella stessa direzione dalla quale era arrivato.

Tutta la vicenda era durata circa venti minuti. L'oggetto era rimasto immobile a

*L'Ufo di S. Piero a Vico (1952) che ha molte affinità con l'avvistamento avvenuto nei pressi di Praglia.*



non più di trenta metri dagli osservatori. Quando raggiunse una quota valutata sui 6/700 metri, si mosse a velocità elevatissima con assetto di volo rettilineo. Di colore bianco lucido, in volo era confuso da un lieve alone verde. Al momento del decollo i ragazzi ebbero una sensazione di calore. Allontanatosi e scomparso all'orizzonte lo sconosciuto velivolo, i ragazzi si liberarono dallo stato emozionale nel quale erano caduti e si avvicinarono alla riva del lago sulla quale, a prova che ciò che avevano visto non era uno strano sogno, spiccavano nitide e numerose le impronte lasciate dai passi dello sconosciuto robot-umanoide.

### Analogie

Purtroppo, come quasi tutti i casi di contatto ravvicinato, anche questo non offre a garanzia della sua veridicità che le parole dei giovani che dicono di averlo vissuto. Tuttavia val la pena di rilevare alcune analogie con casi simili. Per cominciare riguarda l'apparecchio torna alla mente il lontano caso di San Piero a Vico (26 settembre 1952) di cui fu fatta ampia relazione sul n. 8 del G.d.M. e quello di Fornacette avvenuto il 13 luglio 1952 (anche per questo vedi G.d.M. n. 8, pag. 28).

In quei due casi si ripropone l'accostamento UFO-acqua, una delle caratteristiche più diffuse nei casi di «contatto» con UFO e con presunti umanoidi. Anche la forma e il comportamento dell'oggetto richiamano analogie dei due casi con questo di Praglia.

Quanto al comportamento e alla figura dell'«alieno» vi è un notevole riferimento all'«alieno» del caso di Storno (vedi G.d.M. n. 82, pag. 12). Anche in questa vicenda (che tra l'altro ebbe il supporto di numerose testimonianze e di notevoli tracce lasciate sul posto, tanto da essere considerato uno degli episodi con la più alta percentuale di credibilità tra i più alti nella casistica italiana di quel tipo di contatti) l'essere che fu avvistato aveva caratteristiche che lo ponevano sul piano di aspetto ibrido tra il robot e l'umanoide. La mancanza di conferme fornite dalle testimonianze collaterali, purtroppo, relega l'episodio di Praglia nella categoria dell'aneddotica, anche se i testimoni, nonostante la loro giovane età, danno garanzie, a detta di chi li conosce, di serietà assoluta.

Certo è che i ragazzi hanno dato l'impressione di aver subito un forte trauma emozionale e nel riportare e descrivere la vicenda che dicono di aver vissuto non sono mai contraddetti e sono stati coerenti e precisi (doc. n. 3089).

Incubi notturni a Cosenza

## «Questura? Accorrete ci sono i marziani!»

Ma all'arrivo degli agenti gli extra-terrestri si erano dileguati nel nulla

COSENZA — Fra le notizie curiose che la cronaca quotidianamente registra s'incastona prepotentemente quella relativa ad una segnalazione telefonica giunta ieri notte in Questura, secondo cui qualcuno avrebbe visto i marziani.

Sul posto è accorsa una « volante », ma dei marziani nessuna traccia.

Secondo quanto si è appreso in Questura, tale Giovanni Fragale, via Gramazio (è la zona che ricade nei pressi del cimitero) e sul cento dei quali non sono stati forniti particolari, verso le 22 avrebbe improvvisamente avvertito un frastuono come provocato dal vento, mentre si trovava in casa. Si sarebbe affacciato e avrebbe visto una figura gigantesca « tipo persone che scendono dai dischi volanti ».

PAN. EN - AB 80

La figura avrebbe anche cercato di afferrarlo, ma non ci sarebbe riuscita perché il Fragale si è chiuso dentro.

Subito dopo, il frastuono sarebbe cessato e il marziano sparito. « Uno spettacolo impressionante » avrebbe detto il Fragale agli agenti increduli. L'assunto sarebbe stato confermato dai suoi familiari.

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Gazzetta del Sud / Sabato 15 Marzo 1980

IL « MARZIANO » A COSENZA

## Una voce di donna ha dato l'allarme

COSENZA — Nuovi particolari si sono appresi sulla strana vicenda di via Gramazio, dove qualcuno avrebbe visto i marziani.

Tutto è cominciato verso le 22 della notte fra martedì e mercoledì allorché una voce femminile ha telefonato al 113, informando l'operatore di servizio che stava accadendo qualcosa di singolare: « Accorrete — invitava concitatamente la donna — perché sta succedendo un fatto stranissimo... c'è un mostro, un marziano ».

Dal centro operativo, è stata smistata nella zona una « Volante » con equipaggio composto dagli agenti Pallone, Montesano e Scaglione. Sul posto indicato è stata trovata la famiglia Fragale e uno dei componenti, Francesco Fragale, 23 anni, raccon-

tava alle guardie incredule che, poco prima, aveva sentito un forte fruscio, come se si fosse levato un vento impetuoso. Aveva tentato di affacciarsi all'esterno e, mentre stava per aprire la porta, aveva notato un essere sconosciuto, a forma di uomo, tipo « marziano », aveva sottolineato, che aveva cercato di afferrarlo.

Francesco Fragale aveva allora chiuso precipitosamente la porta, evitando di finire fra le mani del « mostro ». Poco dopo, il frastuono dall'esterno cessava: l'essere sconosciuto era sparito.

Gli agenti hanno effettuato allora un sopralluogo (la zona di via Gramazio è quella vicino al cimitero), ma non hanno notato nulla di straordinario.

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STRANGE ENCOUNTERS IN LUMUT, WEST MALAYSIA

A series of strange events occurred in the small town of Lumut only two weeks after a case in Kampung Berembang where an UFO is thought to have been the cause of the second of two fires (the UFO allegedly emitted a "laser beam" that struck a house near an oil tank installation). Lumut and Kampung Berembang are on the coast of West Malaysia bordering the Strait of Malacca.


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In June 1980 several strange manifestations occurred near a school in Lumut, Malaysia. There were several witnesses to these events. Most of the witnesses were school-children and the events could have been easily dismissed either as hoaxes or hallucinations if not for the fact that two of the school teaching staff also participated in the sighting. From a reliable source it is understood that the school had a meeting soon after the incident where they were told not to disclose details to anyone regarding the case. Reporters who arrived at the scene when the excitement broke loose were not allowed to interview the witnesses. It was only months later that we finally managed to locate one witness when all seemed to quiet down.

What Really Happened on 18 June, 1980 - At about 10.30 AM the principle witness, a girl aged 12, and another friend (names withheld) went to the back of their school to throw away some rubbish when suddenly they caught sight of two strange, miniature figures less than seven feet away in the grass. The girls got very scared, threw away the rubbish and ran off to report to their teacher. The entities were described as very hairy, monkey-like and measured just about two inches tall.

One of the entities was dressed in a white suit with white hat and white boots (fig.7). The other was all black. Both entities carried something like a pack and a long weapon on their backs. The witness says that the feet of the entities did not appear to touch the ground.

Several hours before this incident, another school-girl had the fright of her life; while going to the toilet she encountered a big hairy monkey-like creature. While this in itself is already bizarre, the creature suddenly shrunk in size to just a few inches tall and on seeing this the witness fainted on the spot.

E.L., MARCH 1982

 destroying planets and the subsequent food chain. The part we are most concerned with here, however, is the work of Canadian Natural History Museum paleobiologist, Dr. Dale Russell, who with collaboration has built a model of what he believes would have been the effect of evolution up to the present day on a typical strain of dinosaur had they not died out. Man, Dr. Russell feels, may never have had the chance to develop as he did from the small mammals if the dinosaurs' extinction hadn't taken place, and the model he built was an experiment based on evolutionary knowledge (fig.6a). Of course, the result is a fair approximation to some UFOs' occupants, a typical example being those claimed seen by Betty & Barney Hill in September 1961 (2). Fig. 6b shows two drawings by artist David Baker of these beings based on Barney Hill's descriptions, and these were published in the April '72 edition of the "UFO Investigator", magazine of the American organisation NICAP (3).

Fortunately, there was no mention of UFO entities or possible life forms on other planets in the Horizon programme, for if there were the strength of this case would have been greatly weakened due to the possibility of Dr. Russell having seen UFO entity drawings before his creation was completed.

Pure speculation, of course, but if evolution on some planets like ours orbiting other stars runs through similar cycles, then their dinosaurs may not have died out and therefore grown very intelligent - as Dr. Russell believes his creation would have been - to the level of advanced space travel. Obviously this idea revives the old extra-terrestrial hypothesis for UFOs origins, an explanation which no longer finds favour with many ufologists. Nevertheless, further research in this area does seem justified.

Refer-