

RESEARCH IN THE UKRAINE

**RESEARCH INSTITUTE ON ANOMALOUS PHENOMENA (RIAP) P.O. Box 4684,
310022 Kharkov-22, Ukraine**

Mr. Gordon Creighton, December 3, 1992.
FSR Publications Ltd.,
P.O. Box No. 162,
High Wycombe,
Bucks HP13 5DZ.

Dear Mr. Creighton,

Thank you for the continued despatch of FSR. The journal proved to be so much interesting and informative, as ever. I ought to say your Review has been for years and remains at present a very important communication medium in the field of ufology!

This year the Kharkov-based aerospace company "Vertical" has established here the Research Institute on Anomalous Phenomena (RIAP), whose main aim is to study the UFO problem on a serious scientific level, trying to revise and improve standards of quality both of empirical data and theoretical interpretations of these data. You will find here enclosed a RIAP Information Leaflet, describing the Institute's goals and structure in some detail. Please feel free, if you wish, to distribute this information among your friends and colleagues who might be interested in it. I would also be most grateful if you could consider the possibility of publishing a shortened version of the Information

Leaflet (which is enclosed here under the title "RIAP: Some Basic Data") in the Letters Column of your splendid *Flying Saucer Review*.

I am happy to inform you that the Scientific Council of the Institute, knowing of your outstanding contribution toward advancing ufological studies and your very many important publications in this field, has elected you an Honorary Fellow of RIAP (please see the enclosed copy of the Resolution of the Scientific Council, dated December 1, 1992). Your certificate will be sent to you in a few weeks.

As an Honorary Fellow of our Institute you will be kept informed as to our working plans and scientific results. We are going to publish a *RIAP Bulletin* (in English), as well as a scientific journal *Anomalistics and Astronomy* (in Russian). The Bulletin will be sent out to all RIAP Fellows free of charge, and any RIAP Fellow will have the right, if he wishes, to subscribe to the Journal at a reduced rate. No regular dues for Honorary Fellows are envisaged, but any help to the Institute in its activities will be highly appreciated.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to wish you and your family a happy Christmas and a very prosperous New Year!

Sincerely yours, **Vladimir V. Rubtsov** RIAP
Director

**RESEARCH INSTITUTE ON ANOMALOUS PHENOMENA (RIAP)
Kharkov, Ukraine
Director: Dr. Vladimir V. Rubtsov**

Scientific Council: A.V. Arkhipov, M.S., Astronomy (Secretary); A.V. Beletsky, M.A., History (Vice-Chairman); P.I. Kutniuk, Ph. D., Biology (Member); Yu.N. Morozov, Ph.D., Folklore studies (Member); Yu. V. Platov, Ph.D., Geophysics (Member); V.V. Rubtsov, Ph.D., Philosophy (Chairman); V.G. Tupalo, Ph.D., Aerospace Engineering (Member).
Advisory Board: E.A. Ermilov, Ph.D., Physics (UFO problem); V.N. Fomenko, Ph.D., Physics (UFO problem); Yu.A. Fomin, M.S., Engineering (UFO problem); L.M. Gindilis, Ph.D., Astronomy (SETI problem); A.F. Pugach, Ph.D., Astronomy (UFO & SETI problems); A.D. Ursul, Ph. D., Philosophy (SETI problem); V.K. Zhuravlev, Ph.D., Physics (Tunguska Explosion); A.V. Zolotov, Ph.D., Geophysics (Tunguska Explosion).

RIAP has been established in 1992 by the VERTICAL Aerospace Company. It is an independent research body, aimed at scientific studies in the fields of the UFO problem and non-classical SETI (Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence). The Institute makes its investigations in strict conformity to requirements of the scientific method and in close collaboration with the CIS Academy of Cosmonautics and the Russian Academy of Sciences. It is engaged in posing and solving specific problems, within assigned terms, under particular

financing (which can be internal, from the Institute's own budget, and/or external, obtained from organizations, interested in these investigations).

RIAP has been conceived as a kind of "crystallization center" of problem-oriented teams of researchers and scientific trends. When carrying out its investigations, it also involves scientists of universities and research institutions in cooperation under contracts. All this provides a combination of flexibility with ability to concentrate specialists in various disciplines on chosen directions of research.

UFO Studies

The UFO problem consists of two main sub-problems: that of the real existence of the "genuine UFOs" (GUFOs), i.e. of objects and phenomena which do defy conventional explanations, and that of their origin. Some specific features of this problem essentially distinguish it among the problems usually dealt with by the sciences. The principal "tool" here is man detecting by his sense-organs anomalous and pseudoanomalous objects. The individual characteristics of a witness, his (her) quality of sight, attention, ability to remember the essential traits of a phenomenon witnessed and to correctly and consciously relate them have certainly a bearing on the informativeness and precision of a report. In general, the whole body of reports on UFOs is highly heterogeneous in these respects.

Equally, if not more, heterogeneous is the researchers' community. Some UFO bodies (such as MUFON, CUFOs, FUFOR, CEI, CUN, to name just a few) are really professional organizations, deeply involved in serious research work in this field. But many amateur associations (both in the CIS* and in the Western countries) have in fact nothing to do with science, producing a permanent noise which provokes the scientific community to consider UFO studies as a waste of time. This does not mean, of course, that science and scientists are always right in their reluctance to examine the data available, but makes such an attitude more understandable. The "anomalous" studies are lacking in the "quality standards", and those still existent do not conform, as a rule, to the general scientific criteria.

In the past few decades an evident progress has been made in collecting and analyzing raw data on UFO observations. There are good reasons to assume that genuine UFOs really do exist. However, their nature still remains an open question which can hardly be solved in the present circumstances. The existing body of UFO reports simply does not allow specialists to come to any definite conclusion.

To open the way to the solution of the UFO problem, it should be posed as a normal scientific problem, in complete conformity to the cognitive standards of science. However the problem of unidentified flying objects is not wholly in the scope of any of the established scientific disciplines. Therefore, it is to be divided into narrow monodisciplinary problems which could be developed methodologically and rigorously with providing efficient interdisciplinary coordination. Elaboration of these problems can and will be of much use for science and technology even irrespective of whether or not GUFOs indeed represent a fundamentally new phenomenon.

This is the purpose for which RIAP has been

set up. The founders of the Institute proceed from the concept of physical reality of genuine UFOs and our ability to investigate them with "normal" scientific methods and equipment. Detailed investigation of GUFOs by means of radiolocation, atmospheric optics, etc., and of supposed anomalous object landing sites by methods of geology, geophysics, geochemistry is expected to yield data on various aspects of the phenomenon. It is very essential to organize efficient gathering and processing of instrumental ("regularized") information on UFO sightings. This information will provide a basis for a complete picture of the phenomenon and its theoretical models.

The principal trends of researches of the Institute in the UFO field are as follows:

1. Development of methods and strategies of active monitoring of UFOs by means of radar, optical, infra-red and other detection systems.
2. Instrumental studies of supposed landing sites, impacts on biological systems and UFO samples.
3. Creation of an efficient system of reconstruction of a real anomalous event on the basis of witnesses' testimonies.
4. Creation of a unified UFO data base and a computer expert system to identify GUFOs.
5. Development of physical models of GUFOs.
6. Psychophysiological investigations of contactees and abductees.
7. Studies in the history of Soviet ufology.

SETI Studies

During the last 30 years scientific searches for ETI have been realized mainly in the field of radio astronomy. Certain theoretical models of supposed ETI-signals, as well as methods of detecting the signals, have been worked out, and some experiments have been conducted — unfortunately, without any positive results. It is widely believed, nonetheless, that we are to continue the search for repetitive sequences of narrow-band radio or optical pulses transmitted from the outskirts of Solar-like stars. But is this "classical" approach the only possible way of the ETI quest? It is hardly so. In fact, we cannot consciously choose the optimal SETI strategy only on the basis of purely theoretical considerations. Some alternative (or non-classical) approaches to this problem may have even a greater potential than the classical strategy. One can classify these approaches into the following three groups:

1. Search for casual external manifestations of technological activities of advanced cosmic civilizations, such as broad-band and/or sporadic radio emissions, infra-red radiation, gamma rays, etc.
2. Search for alien artifacts (space bases, interstellar probes, starships, various technical devices, etc., or their remnants) in the Solar System — on the surfaces of planets and

satellites, or even in Outer Space.

3. Search for similar artifacts, as well as for other possible traces of past and/or recent extraterrestrial visits, on the Earth.

RIAP contributes to all these research directions. In particular, its SETI Department, headed by A.V. Arkhipov, is engaged in analysis of infrared and microwave sky maps, with the object to detect highly evolved ETIs, and some interesting findings have already resulted from this work. Besides, the program "Search for Alien Artifacts on the Moon" (SAAM) is being carried out. This program includes:

- a) search for sunlight reflections from flat (mirror-like) surfaces of hypothetical ET objects (say, reconnaissance devices monitoring the Earth);
- b) search for other probable artificial extraterrestrial phenomena on the Lunar surface;
- c) examination of the possibility of interaction between the terrestrial and extraterrestrial civilizations on the Moon;
- d) simulation of probable ETI strategies for the Moon.

These investigations employ both the existing catalogues of Lunar Transient Phenomena (LTP) and the data obtained by the network of LTP observers that has been recently set up specially for this purpose and involves at present a group of competent observers in Ukraine, Russia and Byelarus. The SAAM program appears to be especially topical in the light of the new plans for Lunar missions which are being developed by the space agencies of the USA and Japan.

RIAP Structure, Publications, Financing

The Institute staff consists of RIAP Fellows — the scientists and scholars, permanently employed by the institute, and RIAP Contributing Fellows, who are temporarily engaged under contracts. They are distinguished specialists in physics, astronomy, history, psychology, and other disciplines.

RIAP Honorary Fellow is an honorary title, conferred by the Scientific Council of the Institute upon researchers who have made a valuable contribution to anomalistic studies. The Honorary Fellows are invited — if they wish — to express their opinions on RIAP plans and directions of research, to propose new problems, worthy of examination, to participate in RIAP research work, etc.

Formally RIAP is divided into four Departments: 1) Ufological Department; 2) SETI Department; 3) Historical Department; 4) Information Department. But the main *research* unit is a problem-oriented team which is specially created to work on a mono- or interdisciplinary problem. Such a team is headed by a leading specialist who is wholly responsible for the quality of its work to the Scientific Council and Director of the Institute.

The latter ones manage RIAP, make its plans, allocate its funds and supervise the work of the



Dr. Rubtsov

problem-oriented teams. When forming the working plans, they consult the Advisory Board which comprehends a number of outstanding specialists in anomalistic fields from Ukraine, Russia and other CIS countries.

RIAP is starting two special periodicals: the journal "*Anomalistics and Astronomy*" (in Russian) and the newsletter "*RIAP Bulletin*" (in English).

The budget of the Institute is formed from the following sources: subsidies of VERTICAL; payments for research works, performed by RIAP for other organizations; grants and donations. Thanks to the VERTICAL Aerospace Company, the Institute has got a sufficient funding in the Ukrainian currency, which enabled the beginning of its research activities. However, some (limited in the number, but important) equipment, materials and services may be obtained here mainly or even exclusively for dollars or another hard currency, not for Russian roubles or Ukrainian kupons. The lack of these means (however small) impeded considerably the work of RIAP.

In this connection, the *Scientific Council of the Institute appeals to the anomalistic community of the United Kingdom and other foreign countries for any possible donations in a free convertible currency*. Any financial help on your part will be most highly appreciated and will serve for the benefit of our common field of study, promoting its further development.

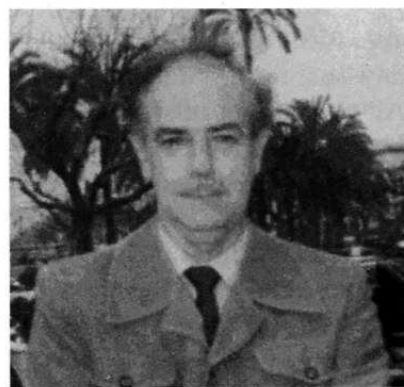
These donations may be sent here by money transfer through the Credit Lyonnais Bank, (P.O. Box 81, 84-94 Queen Victoria Street, London, EC4 4LX), correspondents account 0114100100100 of Commercial Bank "Promin", payable to Vladimir V. Rubtsov, Chernishevskogo 88/66, Kharkov 310023, Ukraine.

The Scientific Council is also very much interested in establishing contacts and collaboration between RIAP and serious British anomalistic bodies, journals, researchers. For further details please write to: RIAP, P.O. Box 4684, 310022 Kharkov-22, Ukraine.

* **Note by Editor.** CIS = *Commonwealth of Independent States* (the new name for the old "USSR") ■

THE "SKY PEOPLE"

(C) By Omar Fowler
(Phenomenon Research
Association, Derbyshire), FSR
Consultant.



Omar Fowler

In April of 1963, Mr. Derek Smith *, his wife Dora, and their three children, Martin, Sharon and Andrew, left their home in England and travelled to Australia under the Government Immigration Scheme, to take up residence in Australia.

They initially set up home in Elizabeth, near Adelaide, but in July 1965, decided to move on and to make for the East Coast of New South Wales. They were travelling in an old Humber Super Snipe car and before long they were forced to stop at Canberra to have a leaking oil seal fixed. Once the seal had been replaced they were able to continue their journey and headed further on up the coast.

It was late on a Saturday night when they pulled into the "Oasis" caravan park at Windang, a small development on the Pacific coast, situated between Lake Illawarra and the Windang road. That night they slept in the car, as they were unable to find any accommodation until the following day. It was then that they met the proprietors of the site, Mr. & Mrs. Taylor, who arranged to rent them a caravan. At that time, the Smith family had only intended to stay at the park for a short period.

It was on the following Monday and after some discussion with his wife Dora, that Derek Smith decided to look for work in the area. He succeeded in finding a job at a local timber mill, this was conveniently situated at Primbee, just a few miles up the road from the caravan park. Dora found places for two of their children at a local school (one was too young) and it was then that the couple decided to extend their stay at the "Oasis" park. As a result of their change of plans, Mr. & Mrs. Taylor arranged for the family to move into a "cabin", a residence with far more spacious accommodation. At one time this "cabin" had been a railway carriage, but it had since been converted into a neat little home, and sat at the end of the caravan park on a number of small brick piles.

In the evening, the family often went for a stroll along the shore of Lake Illawarra. It was a picturesque scene and the dotted lights of the shrimp boats could be seen bobbing around across the lake. Occasionally the family walked over the

high sand dunes and made their way along the white sandy beach overlooking the great Pacific Ocean.

When the Smith family returned to the "cabin" after their evening walk, they often tuned into the local radio station 2WL. They liked to listen to the old English comedy programmes frequently transmitted by the station. Occasionally there was a "static" or crackling noise interfering with the programme, but they put this down to thunderstorms which they thought were in the area.

The radio transmitter was quite close to the "Oasis" site, just across the road in fact. It was not long before the couple began to realise that the "static" noise, which sometimes blanked out the radio programme completely, occurred at the same time each week. Derek thought that the interference might be caused by something passing close to the transmitter.

The couple became curious about the "static" noise, and the next time that it was due, they decided to stand outside their cabin and to watch out for anything unusual. Derek had an old pair of ex-army x10 binoculars and with the aid of these, he would be able to search the night sky. "We didn't know if he would see anything" said Dora. "In the clear night sky of Australia, the stars appear to be brighter and there seem to be more of them" commented Derek.

Several nights passed as Derek searched the heavens with his binoculars, then at last his efforts were rewarded. Through the starry sky, he spotted three pinpoints of light, very high and travelling in an East to West direction.

As the lights came closer, their brightness increased and Derek made out the shape of three slender dart-like objects. The main colour of the darts was a brilliant white, but then pale blues and pinks seemed to wash over the length of the craft. Derek thought that possibly the colour changes might have been due to eye-strain. It was a difficult task following the small shapes across the night sky with a pair of old army binoculars.

For some time, Derek and his wife Dora had been interested in psychic phenomena. They had