N.I.O.* Union of the U.S.S.R. established a Ufological Commission. Dotsent (Assistant Professor) V.G. AZHAZHA was confirmed as President of the Commission, with Pilot-Cosmonaut P.R. POPOVICH, Twice-Hero of the U.S.S.R., as Vice-President."

But if one looks back through the pages of FSR as far as the autumn of 1964, when, on the sudden death of Editor Waveney Girvan, Charles Bowen saved the day by taking over as Editor, one will see that the Russians have constantly been announcing the formation of committees and commissions to study UFOs! Without looking at them all (we have not the time for that) we recall the names of Zigel', General Stolyarov, Azhazha, and Popov. We have heard of them all already, long ago. Popov seems to have been the last. Before

him it was Azhazha, and we had plenty about him, and by him, in FSR.

For a long time we thought that Azhazha had been liquidated, but now here he is, popping up again. From all of which, we feel the reader can safely conclude that there is today no more "glasnost" in the Soviet Union on the subject of UFOs than there is in Britain or Europe or USA or anywhere else in the world. G.C.

*We do not know what the initials "N.I.O." stand for, and, being in a hurry to get this off to press, we have not the time to find out. — G.C.

VI — TAIL-PIECE ON VORONEZH

Nor is this the first time that FSR readers have heard of the city of Voronezh.

In issue No. 105 (June 1-15, 1962) of the Italian journal Oltre Il Cielo: Missili & Razzi (a serious publication on rockets, not on UFOs) the Italian investigator Alberto Fenoglio published an extraordinary series of UFO stories which he had personally learned from Soviet engineers and diplomats visiting Italy. I translated and published them in full, and they appeared in FSR Vol. 8, No. 6 (Nov./Dec. 1962) under the title of "AMAZING NEWS FROM RUSSIA: CAN THIS BE TRUE?".

Report No. 4 of the Russian series of accounts read as follows:-

"Last summer, over the city of Voronezh, a giant cigar, at least 800 metres long, came down to a height of only 2,000 metres, in daylight, and hung there immobile. Thousands saw it and there was tremendous panic. Suddenly the cigar "began to grow transparent". It disappeared completely. Shortly after this, some fighter aircraft arrived and flew around, evidently searching for it. Seconds after the baffled pilots had departed, the monster was back again "in the same place" above the city.

Then a vast jet of flame suddenly shot out from its stern. The "cigar" began to move, rose steeply into the sky, and vanished at immense speed." — G.C.

BOOK REVIEW

By Paul Whitehead, FSR Consultant

THE TUJUNGA CANYON CONTACTS

By FSR Consultant Ann Druffel. Co-Author D. Scott Rogo.

The original hardback of this book by two Californian researchers was published in the USA in 1980. The new paperback edition, by Signet Books (May 1989) has been updated with much fascinating new material.

Linis own alleged visitations in "Communion", similar things were going on on the other side of America. In 1953, more than 20 years before Strieber's contacts with something (ranging from himself to demons or aliens) began, two women in California had experienced an apparent abduction, medical examination and operation et al. Other women they came into contact with had experienced a similar trauma — beings with large heads in their bedrooms at night; flying saucers landing nearby; white globes of light; and Close Encounters late at night by motorways.

Unfortunately, much of the information was retrieved under hypnosis, and only many years later, and author Ann Druffel recognises the problems associated with this approach. However, she is thorough in her research and cross referencing and, although it appears at times that some "witnesses" were given

some leading questions — especially by one of the hypnotists — the overall weight of evidence that something unusual had indeed happened to these women is strong.

What did happen — and why were females involved? Generally, the women led a lesbian-orientated lifestyle, and Druffel points out that this may have attracted the attention of aliens engaged in studying us earthlings.

However, the story should not be viewed as a "nuts and bolts" tale of close encounters, Druffel and coauthor D. Scott Rogo caution. There are fascinating parallels with other close encounters separated by many years, and unknown to those concerned.

In 1975, for example, U.S. airman Sgt Charles Moody saw what one of the Tujunga Canyon women had seen in the early 50s — aliens with masklike faces, grey-coloured skin, wearing skintight, black

clothing with no zippers or buttons showing. Each also reported that when inside a craft, they came across an alien dressed in a light grey suit — different from the others, and that a few of the aliens were taller than most.

One feature common to every case is the apparent "block" put on the witnesses, which made it difficult for the hypnotists to extract information.

Another common feature is the aliens' mouths — often depicted as a thin straight line which does not move when they talk. "Emily" (a pseudonym to protect the actual witness) speaks of mental communication, and similarities between "them" and "us".

Indeed, in one session, Emily denies that they are aliens — while they look different to us, she says they "think" the same. She then lapses back into uncontrollable crying. Later, when out of hypnosis, she says over and over again: "All life is one, It's the same".

Interestingly, there is an interaction on a highway with very tall beings with thin faces (like the ones allegedly seen in a Russian park in 1989?)¹

Much is written about *loss of will* among witnesses while they are having their unusual experiences. It is as if their minds are taken over by a superior intelligence. "One can only guess as to what extent these beings can manipulate our minds, brains and sensory perceptions," Druffel writes.

They may, one of the witnesses states, be intelligences which can mould themselves into any shape they please — a theory already espoused by John Keel, as Druffel points out. "Invisible energy forms that can take on any shape they wish."

Druffel believes aliens to be similar to the Muslim "jinns" discussed by Gordon Creighton, editor of Flying Saucer Review. The jinn theory, she says, has upset some people in a big way. "Since Volume 29 No 1 of FSR was published, there has been an underground denunciation, slowly increasing to diatribe, directed against the journal mainly by English researchers who disagree violently with Creighton."

The jinn theory need not be gone into here, as it was dealt with in depth by Creighton in Volume 29 No 1 of FSR. Suffice to say, however, that interactions with "aliens" were reported centuries ago in the Middle East (and elsewhere), and that these creatures are called "jinns" in the Muslims' Koran.

Quite why a small clique of British researchers should get so upset at what is, after all, a theory which is close to others, is indeed surprising.

Without giving too much of the book away, let's hear what Druffel says: "When I first read Creighton's article, the idea of jinns seemed strange, but as time passed I realised that the powers traditionally ascribed to these beings are, indeed, the same powers attributed to UFO occupants: powers that were reported over and over again in UFO literature. I also realised that my own theory stated in the original Tujunga Canyon Contacts — namely that UFO visitors came from intradimensional sources rather than our own space/time — seemed to merge with Creighton's, and his theory amplified and clarified my own."

The co-author, D. Scott Rogo (a parapsychologist) takes a different but a partly complementary path:

"The UFO mystery seems to be a cosmic reflection objectifying man's own technological concerns and potentials into objective existence." UFOs, he says, are "linked to our minds," and it is curious, he notes, how those who have close encounter experiences are dogged by the phenomenon and by psychic experiences for years afterwards. This he calls "paranormal fallout".

Rogo likens UFO activity to poltergeist² phenomena, in which telekinetic (or psychokinetic) energy is generated by individuals under some kind of stress. And here we come to the Keel theory — Rogo uses it to support his own. Rogo suggests that the human mind sometimes reacts with a supermind (people with "psychic abilities" would be best placed to have this connection) and is subjected to symbol-laden dramas created by the supermind. The individual has a highly personalised "close encounter" or "abduction"; it is certainly intriguing that while some "abductions" have some common general features, the fine detail itself is often different.

Many examples of these commonalities and discrepancies arise during cases. Virginia Horton, for example, saw classic grey beings with long fingers but protective eye covers. In other cases, these grey beings don't have eye covers; the actual details of the eyes themselves are given by the witnesses.

For those who like a long and fascinating read, this paperback book of 326 pages is highly recommended. Anybody hoping for a short explanation of what it is really all about won't, of course, find it here — or anywhere else, for that matter.

COMMENT BY EDITOR OF FSR

- (1) Not so. It can be stated categorically that the descriptions (very unanimous) given of the tall creatures allegedly seen in the Yuzhiny Park, Voronezh, Russia, on September 27 of this year in no way resemble any of the creatures described in the Tujunga Canyon story or in Whitley Strieber's Communion.
- (2) Thirty years ago, at a date when Mr Scott Rogo had probably not yet begun even to think about such matters, FSR was frequently referring (and we were the first anywhere in the UFO research field to do so) to the similarity indeed even the *identity* between the so-called classic features of poltergeistery and the new phenomena of "Ufology". The civilizations of the peoples of Western Europe and the Americas are far younger than the civilizations of the East. From the Arab lands right across to China and Japan, the peoples of those countries have for centuries known all about these matters, and *nowhere* are they better understood and better described than in Islam.

If the nations of the West were better educated, perhaps there wouldn't be such a hysterical fuss as we are now seeing when the jinns are beginning to stage a large-scale reappearance here.

— EDITOR

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