

FLYING SAUCERS

L. W. DOUGLAS

SOUTHERN ARIZONA BANK AND TRUST BUILDING  
TUCSON, ARIZONA

CABLE ADDRESS: DUGLEWIS, TUCSON



February 15, 1955

*My dear Dick:*

Your letter of the fifteenth of November, together with a copy of your letter to Bowen, apparently was received in New York when I was in the hospital and has been rattling around since unanswered. Please excuse this unseemly and unpardonable delay.

*Handwritten initials in a circle*

The book, "Flying Saucers from Outer Space," I have only now located and I shall read it with great interest, only because you recommend it. Were it not for you, I suspect that the title and the cover would persuade me to look in the opposite direction.

Your letter to Bowen does not suggest that you have gone nuts - yet!

*BF 7/3*

Since you wrote the letter many things have been happening in the Far East. I should so like to talk with you about them. It seems to me that our Administration would be on much firmer ground on the Formosa and Pescadores question if they would rest their case on the simple legal question of title. There is no doubt that the title to Formosa and the Pescadores is very cloudy. It seems to me that there is little doubt that title permanently can pass only as the result of the terms of a peace treaty or of an instrument equivalent to a peace treaty.

*Handwritten signature*

Rt. Hon. Richard G. Casey, CH, DSO, MC  
Minister for External Affairs  
Melbourne C. 2, Australia

L.W. DOUGLAS

SOUTHERN ARIZONA BANK AND TRUST BUILDING  
TUCSON, ARIZONA

CABLE ADDRESS: DUGLEWIS, TUCSON

November 20, 1954

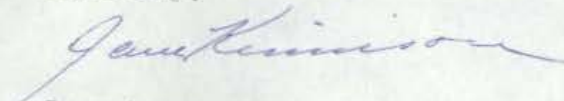


Dear Mr. Casey:

In the absence of Mr. Douglas I am writing to acknowledge your letter to him of November 15th.

Mr. Douglas is at present in the hospital in New York where he is recuperating from the operation he underwent recently. I will forward your letter there and it will be brought to his attention as soon as he has sufficiently recovered to be able to take care of his correspondence.

Sincerely,



Secretary.

*AA*

Rt. Hon. Richard G. Casey, CH, DSO, MC,  
Minister for External Affairs,  
Melbourne, C.2., Australia.

*BF 26/2*

*B/F on Mr. Douglas' reply per*

*for 26/11*

*26/1*

FLYING SAUCERS

COMMONWEALTH



OF AUSTRALIA

COMMONWEALTH SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH ORGANIZATION

DIVISION OF RADIOPHYSICS

TELEGRAMS: CORESEARCH, SYDNEY

TELEPHONE: MW 2484

REFER TO

*File*

RECEIVED  
2 FEB 1955  
MINISTER'S OFFICE  
UNIVERSITY GROUNDS,  
SYDNEY, N.S.W.

*W.M. A. Bend Copies to Officer  
& Mr. Bentley with C/S - "you may  
conclude"*

*see  
D.F.S.  
Various  
(ESMO,  
Radio  
Physics)  
reactions  
N.W.L.*

28th January 1955

*Done  
3/2*

The Rt. Hon. R.G. Casey, OM, CH, DSO, MC,  
Minister in Charge of C.S.I.R.O.,  
Commonwealth Offices,  
Treasury Place,  
MELBOURNE, C.2, Victoria.

My Dear Minister,

I am writing in reply to your two letters of January 4th and 24th on flying saucers. I read them and the enclosures with great interest, but I must admit that I was rather at a loss for comment on the despatches from France and Italy. It was, however, very amusing to see that the main reaction in France was a ribald one. I did not entirely understand the theory of electro-magnetic propulsion expounded by Lt. Plantier in Paris-Presse l'Intransigeant but, like the views of Mr. W.B. Smith in Keyhoe's "Flying Saucers from Outer Space", they savour very much of doing work without the expenditure of power. This is an age-old fallacy or, to put it in rather different terms, propulsion by these means violates all the physical laws as we know them.

The latest letter with comments from Brundrett I found much easier going and most heartily agree with the points he makes. There are just too many physical inconsistencies in the reports to put much faith in them. The difficulty is that they point in so many directions at once, not in a single direction. Also I agree with Brundrett that given enough time and finance it might be possible to build a body with some of the characteristics of a flying saucer. It might even be persuaded to make excursions outside the atmosphere, but the energy expenditure would be simply enormous and no-one would be left in any doubt that it was around.

Yours sincerely,

*E.G. Bowen*

(E.G. Bowen)  
CHIEF OF THE DIVISION

P.S. I am returning the enclosures to your letters of January 4th and 24th.

*Retd.*

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE

In reply please  
quote:

No. 407/6/Tele (5A)

Headquarters Home Command,  
R.A.A.F.,  
Penrith 1.W  
New South Wales

14th December 1953

Commonwealth Scientific and  
Industrial Research Organization,  
University Grounds,  
City Road,  
Chippendale.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND RADAR  
ANOMALOUS PROPAGATION

1. Advice has been received from the R.A.A.F. Units at Williamtown of a phenomenon which is being observed on the frequency of 2800 megacycles, this frequency being used by the Ground Controlled Approach equipment.
2. The phenomenon takes the form of strong echoes similar to radar returns from heavy cloud formations but no cloud formation has been visible at the time the echoes have been observed. The target moves in any direction irrespective of wind and in many cases has been observed to move in a direction against the wind. Changes in shape similar to cloud formations take place and are clearly observed to a radius of 10 miles.
3. The actual heights to which the echoes rise is unknown but is believed to be below 5000 feet, as a tilt of 5 degrees of the search antenna causes severe attenuation of the signals indicating the target to be at low levels. Echoes seen on the Precision Indicators show the target to be from ground level to approximately 2000 feet.
4. It would appear the target has internal movement as it shows up brilliantly when the Moving Target Indicator System is in operation, although its relative movement to or from the ground installation is very slow, on occasions being less than 2 miles per hour.
5. Several times aircraft have been vectored on to the area in which the phenomenon has been observed but pilots have reported nothing unusual. A number of landings have been made through the phenomenon but no abnormal effects were observed by all concerned.
6. The possibility of dust being the cause is rejected as visibility has been excellent except in one instance when a pilot reported haze whilst looking for the target.
7. The matter was discussed with the members of the Meteorological Branch at Williamtown who can advance no possible cause for the phenomenon.
8. The matter is referred for your information and it would be appreciated if any solution can be offered by your Department.

(J.W. BLACK)  
Group Captain  
for Officer Temporarily Commanding

Bowen, Dr. E.G.

RGC/CVH

XXXXXXXXXXXX

Commonwealth Offices,  
Treasury Place,  
MELBOURNE, C.2.

24th January, 1955.

Dear Dr. Bowen,

I enclose a letter from our External Affairs Minister in London - L.R. McIntyre - about "flying saucers". I think you may find this an interesting letter - and it reaches the same conclusion as yourself. I would be grateful to have it back when you have had a look at it.

I am going today up to Sydney for two or three days - and I may give you a call on the telephone - although my time up there is fairly well mortgaged in advance.

With best wishes - I am,

Yours sincerely,

R. G. CASEY

(R. G. CASEY).

Dr. E.G. Bowen,  
Chief of the Division of Radiophysics,  
C.S.I.R.O.,  
University Grounds,  
SYDNEY, N.S.W.

BF  $\frac{24}{1}$

BF  $\frac{4}{2}$



CONFIDENTIAL

TEMPLE BAR 2435

AUSTRALIAN EXTERNAL AFFAIRS OFFICE,  
AUSTRALIA HOUSE,  
LONDON, W.C.2.

In reply quote No.

Personal & Confidential

12th January, 1955.

*My dear Minister,*

My enquiries in respect of your letter of 9th November last, asking whether any responsible people over here were taking flying saucers seriously, have ultimately led me to Sir Frederick Brundrett, Scientific Adviser to the Minister of Defence and (I am told) a knowledgeable and authoritative figure in the eyes of the United Kingdom Chiefs of Staff. I had previously made some soundings at the senior service level, and have been given to understand that, so far as was known, flying saucers were not taken seriously here and no special research was being carried out to try to find a simple explanation for these phenomena (as the Americans are reported to be doing). At the same time I was told that if by any chance anything was being done here, Brundrett would be bound to know about it.

Brundrett is from all accounts a person you yourself might be interested in meeting. In addition to being highly regarded as a scientist, with long experience as an adviser to all the Services at various times, he is I believe a successful farmer, who breeds Red Polls and makes his farm pay by scientific methods. He is certainly agreeable and pleasant to meet.

He told me that he had as a matter of fact made something of a study of the problem himself in an effort to lay a ghost, as it were. He says that as stories of sightings of flying saucers accumulated he himself refused to be completely sceptical and decided to make first of all a careful study of all available visual "evidence". This study, covering a large number of reported sightings extending over the past 30 years or so, revealed two things that struck him as curious:

- (a) on no single occasion has a reported sighting been verified by an independent eye witness in another position. In other words, a report from an aircraft crew has never been verified by another aircraft or from an observer on the ground; and observations from the ground, even when claimed by several persons in one position, have never been supported by observers situated elsewhere.
- (b) every case so far reported has lent itself to at least one possible rational explanation - meteorological in a good many cases.

Brundrett is particularly impressed by (a); he feels that, with so many reports now available, it is almost inconceivable that there should have been no independent testimony in at least one of them. He finds it difficult to accept the possibility that the kind of thing periodically reported by pilots could not at least sometimes be seen at various places on the ground. On the whole, therefore, he has reached the conclusion that there is nothing in the flying saucer theory. But he has not entirely discarded the possibility that such things may exist. He believes that the kind of thing pilots think they have seen is a feasible mechanical proposition which could be manufactured on the basis of modern scientific knowledge - if it were considered worth making. It would be difficult, and also expensive; but it could be made, and it could travel very fast. I asked him whether it would in fact be worth making, and whether it would have any mechanical or strategic

/advantages

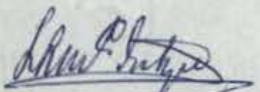
advantages over any flying machine produced up to the present. Brundrett said it could have distinct advantages. One might imagine an advanced development of the Rolls-Royce "flying bedstead" which caused a lot of interest at last year's Farnborough Air Display. In other words, it might provide a solution to the problem of vertical take-off for super-sonic aircraft. Since in fact such a machine could be manufactured, one must not completely dismiss the possibility that it was already in existence; but he himself thought this highly unlikely.

Another conceivable explanation of the phenomenon was the possible presence of small satellites rocketing round the earth at, of course, a very high level. He by no means ruled out the possibility that, with the development of nuclear energy, such "satellites" could be created artificially. The idea had been thought about in America. Who could say that things of this sort, created naturally, and moving so fast as to be normally invisible from the ground, might not already be in existence? It was a faintly possible explanation of the saucer theory, though he did not really accept it.

In short, he did not believe that flying saucers existed, and considered that all reports so far received, even though emanating from many sane and responsible people, had been based on one or other form of hallucination. Nor does he consider that the available evidence is enough to justify the setting aside of money and resources for serious study. But he has by no means closed his mind completely.

I am still continuing my search for the photograph of Wavell Stump that you enquired about longer ago than I care to think. My early enquiries got nowhere, and I am afraid I have not followed them up as pertinaciously as I might have, but I am still trying, and we may get somewhere.

Yours sincerely

  
(L. R. McIntyre)

Rt. Hon. R.G. Casey, CH, DSO, MC, MP,  
Minister for External Affairs,  
Canberra, A.C.T.

FLYING SAUCERS

RGC/CVH

PERSONAL  
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XXXXXXXXXXXX

Commonwealth Offices,  
Treasury Place,  
MELBOURNE, C.2.

4th January, 1955.

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I enclose a number of letters from  
our posts about "Flying Saucers". If you  
have any comment on them, I'd be interested to  
hear.

I am,

Yours sincerely,

R. G. CASEY

(R. G. CASEY).

Dr. E.G. Bowen,  
Division of Radiophysics,  
C.S.I.R.O.,  
University Grounds,  
SYDNEY, N.S.W.

P.S. Would you please let me have the attached papers  
back with your reply.

BF  $\frac{14}{2}$





AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY,  
PARIS.

21st December 1954.

*Dear Richard*

Your letter of 9th November reached me when I was in London. Soon after, Paul McGuire talked to me about flying saucers, and asked me whether there had been any particular interest in them in France. I told him there had been a certain number of reports, but I thought they had been treated rather derisively.

There, in London, I found a certain amount of interest in some quarters, and there have been one or two books produced. A rather reliable friend of mine told me that a friend of his in the Air Force, when he was flying a jet, saw one flying alongside him. It went ahead, then came back straight at him, but before colliding swerved and went over him. Unfortunately, he did not press the trigger which would have put his camera gun into operation, but the radar had recorded the saucer and, I understand, it has recorded many others - but then the radar will also record heavy cloud formations.

One interesting thing I was told was that flying saucers have been reported in Europe since the Middle Ages and that there are various references to them in the chronicles of that time. I cannot give you references but no doubt the National Library would produce them. Recent ones seem to be of two types - cigars or saucers, and there is a theory that the cigar launches the saucers.

As far as France is concerned, unidentified flying objects (u.f.o.) have been seen or detected in the past by many people in widely separated parts of France, but the period mid-September to late October of this year was an open season (about 500 reports). Discs of all shapes and sizes, strange objects landing in lonely fields, little men in space suits, with "ray guns" and many other familiar complements to science fiction were claimed as having been seen.

At first, the reports in the Press were presented relatively seriously, but, as the fashion developed and the claims became more fantastic, the Press took up the game and they became a national joke. For this reason it is impossible to disentangle fact from speculation and true reports from sensational fantasies.

Apart from a "Flying 4 Chevaux" (Renault), and an illuminated "Flying Pumpkin", chased by some villagers in the Pyrenees, the objects described appeared to fall into two main groups: saucers and cigars. It is possible that they may refer to the one and same object depending on the angle

The Rt. Hon. R.G. Casey, C.H., D.S.O., M.C., M.P.,  
Minister of State for External Affairs,  
Canberra. A.C.T.

of vision. They are supposed to resemble two saucers placed rim to rim with port-holes on top; the reported diameter varied from 10 ft. to 50 ft. or more; they could remain stationary in mid-air and then move noiselessly at very high speed either horizontally or vertically; they are alleged to be capable of suddenly changing course whilst in flight, and it is possible that this operation would account for the variously coloured lighting effects described.

It would seem probable that by far the greater number of genuine u.f.o. seen could be accounted for by meteorological balloons, experimental guided missiles, research aircraft, etc. However, in company with the United States, Canada, and perhaps other countries, France has considered the problem sufficiently disturbing to create a special commission of enquiry to investigate the more serious reports. The findings, if any, have not to our knowledge been revealed, but I will endeavour to obtain the report of the special committee of enquiry and let you have it.

A certain number (perhaps less than 5 per cent) of u.f.o. reports describe machines which could absolutely not be accounted for by conventional mechanics, and the power of which would have to exceed by far even the biggest jet or rocket motors to account for alleged performances. A French book was published on the subject a few weeks before the last outbreak: "Lueur sur les Soucoupes Volantes", by Aimé Michel. It provides various accounts of u.f.o. reports since the end of the war and, in particular, in France up to the summer of 1954, and goes into considerable detail in providing various possible explanations. A theory that the u.f.o. are propelled electro-magnetically has been put forward by a certain Lieutenant Plantier of the French Air Force. This seems to be particularly favoured by the author, who does not rule out the possibility that they may be of extra-terrestrial origin.

Scientific opinion in this country is generally sceptical, but there are nevertheless several intelligent and informed persons who have been sufficiently concerned about the u.f.o. reports to state that they are retaining an open mind on the subject. Even so, to my knowledge, u.f.o. have not become a subject for serious dinner conversations here.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Paul McGuire as he is interested in the subject.

*Ken King*

Enclosures:

1. One page of cartoons;
2. Two pages of speculation;
3. Extracts from specially published paper, giving impressions of Martians on first seeing the Earth and its fauna;
4. One advertisement.

2

20/10

### Dans dix ans des satellites artificiels encercleront la terre

Le président de la Société britannique interplanétaire, le Dr Shepherd, a déclaré au congrès du 21<sup>e</sup> anniversaire de la société, dans le courant de la prochaine décennie des satellites artificiels pourraient commencer à décrire leur orbite autour du globe terrestre. La création de ces satellites, a-t-il affirmé, constituera la première étape dans l'organisation des voyages interplanétaires. Avant de se lancer dans le vide interastral, il est, en effet, nécessaire de recueillir ainsi un grand nombre d'observations.

# Paris-presse l'intransigeant

### Le préfet de police de Vienne « surveille les soucoupes volantes »

VIENNE, 18 octobre (Reuter). — M. Halaubek, préfet de police de Vienne, a ordonné aux agents se trouvant sous ses ordres d'établir un rapport sur toutes les affaires de soucoupes volantes et sur toutes les déclarations de personnes affirmant avoir vu « des visiteurs d'un autre monde ». Le préfet insiste, dans une circulaire, sur le fait qu'un œil non entraîné peut aisément confondre un ballon-sonde avec une soucoupe volante.

Voici ce que vous devez savoir si l'on vous en parle ou si vous en « voyez » une...

# SEULS DES SUPER-EINSTEIN POURRAIENT CONSTRUIRE DES SOUCOUPES VOLANTES

L'HOMME qui le premier imagina des soucoupes volantes fut sans doute Jonathan Swift, l'auteur des « Voyages de Gulliver ». Swift (1667-1745) décrit dans un de ses ouvrages l'île volante de Laputa qui flotte dans le ciel par répulsion magnétique, en « s'appuyant » sur le champ du gigantesque aimant que constitue la terre.

Swift était d'ailleurs doué d'une imagination bien curieuse : plus de cent ans avant que les astronomes les découvrent, il a donné deux satellites à la planète Mars en précisant assez exactement leur temps de révolution.

Et il décrit également, sur son île volante de Laputa, des machines à calculer électroniques utilisant les nombres binaires à la façon des « cerveaux » artificiels les plus modernes et composant des « poèmes » faits de bouts de phrases, comme la machine électronique Calliope du Français Durocq.

Or, l'île magnétique de Jonathan Swift n'est nullement une conception absurde. C'est ainsi que le bismuth, un métal répandu, est doué d'une propriété curieuse, appelée propriété « diamagnétique » : une pièce de bismuth a tendance à se placer perpendiculairement à l'aiguille aimantée d'une boussole. Le bismuth se comporte en somme comme une sorte de boussole est-ouest.

### La deuxième révolution d'Einstein

Cette théorie mathématique a été formulée en 1929, et son auteur s'appelle Albert Einstein. La première étape des travaux

loppée et conduite jusqu'à ces conclusions pratiques. En 1929 — et c'est la deuxième étape de ses recherches — Einstein se manifestait de nouveau en publiant sa théorie dite du champ unitaire ; il établissait l'unité des trois « champs » : champ magnétique, champ électrique et champ de la pesanteur. Mais alors que le mathématicien français Elie Cartan avait auparavant élaboré un outil mathématique qui avait permis de développer la pre-

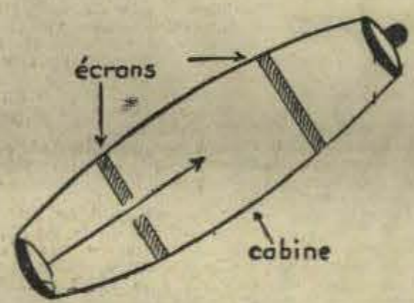
de l'énergie fournie à l'appareil est finalement traduite en déplacement, le reste se perdant en chaleur, frottement, lutte contre la pesanteur, etc. Le moteur à explosion d'une automobile possède déjà un rendement nettement supérieur, avoisinant les 25 %. En revanche les machines basées sur la conversion des champs électrique et magnétique représente l'idéal auquel la technique peut tendre : leur rendement approche de 100 %.

« chambré » un groupe de mathématiciens de génie en lui demandant de chercher la solution des équations d'Einstein. Qui nous dit qu'ils n'auraient pas réussi ? C'est un problème qui inquiète suffisamment certains gouvernements pour qu'on ait établi un recensement précis des grands mathématiciens de notre époque. Aucun d'entre eux n'a disparu depuis 1929.

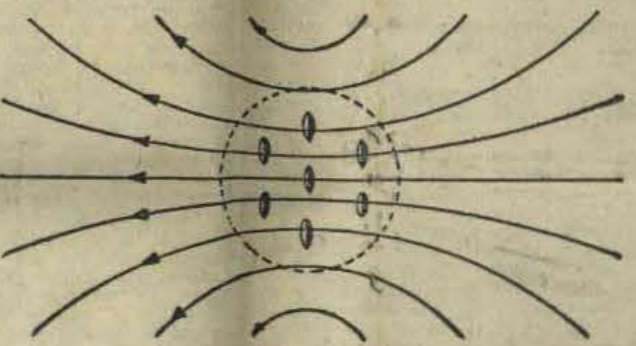
posséderait ces connaissances et ces engins pourrait aisément se rendre maître du monde, et on se demande pourquoi il ne l'aurait pas déjà fait. Le développement des équations générales d'Einstein peut, il est vrai, réserver des surprises. Rien n'empêche de penser qu'il démontrera l'impossibilité de convertir un champ électrique en champ de pesanteur. La théorie scientifique a bien déjà démontré par exemple qu'il était impossible de transmettre de

particules présentent des condensations d'énergie atteignant... environ 100.000 fois l'énergie que pourrait donner la « sublimation » complète et irréalisable d'un noyau d'uranium... Elles supposent une énergie de base fabuleuse : il faudrait, en effet, des cyclotrons géants pour obtenir des particules animées de telles énergies. Or, rien n'a été décelé dans l'espace qui puisse expliquer ces mystérieuses condensations de puissance. 2. Il existe un moyen de li-

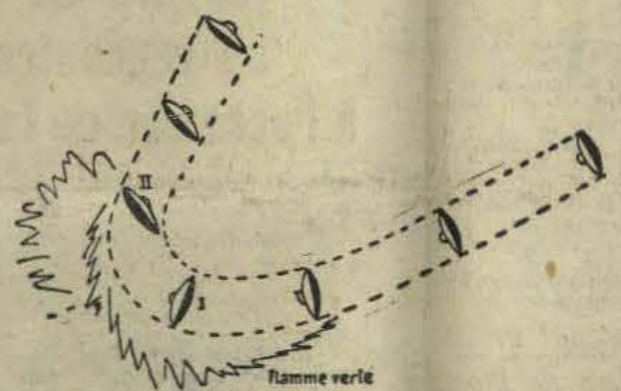
## Depuis 1929, le principe de l'antipésanteur a été défini



Selon la théorie du lieutenant Plantier, les cigares volants seraient une combinaison de deux ou plusieurs soucoupes réunies par une coque contenant la cabine protégée par des écrans contre d'éventuelles radiations nocives.



Ce croquis représente le diagramme des forces en cas de vol en groupe. Les soucoupes combineraient le flux d'électrons sur lequel elles s'« appuient » et qui entrainerait avec lui les molécules d'air en diminuant le frottement.



Ce graphique montre le virage d'une soucoupe tel que se le représente le lieutenant Plantier. De I à II, le pilote bascule brutalement son engin pour contrer l'accélération centrifuge. Ce basculement a été plusieurs fois observé.

molécules les plus proches, sera toujours très inférieure à la vitesse du son

3. Pour la même raison, l'engin pourrait se déplacer à travers l'atmosphère à des vitesses énormes sans s'échauffer beaucoup : la chaleur du frottement, au lieu d'être concentrée sur la coque de l'engin, se répartirait dans le vaste volume d'air entraîné par le champ de force.

4. Les accélérations les plus terrifiantes de l'engin seraient, a affirmé Plantier, non seulement supportables, mais insensibles aux passagers de l'engin. En effet, ces passagers seraient eux-mêmes pris dans le champ de force. Par conséquent, chaque atome de leur corps étant également entraîné, les passagers ne s'apercevraient rigoureusement de rien.

Or toutes ces caractéristiques ne sont-elles pas celles que l'on prête aux soucoupes volantes ?

### Désintégration en vol

Imaginons l'engin de Plantier en vol. Comment se comporterait-il ? Pour rester immobile dans le ciel, il devra diriger le champ de force à la verticale, en lui donnant une intensité exactement égale au champ de l'attraction terrestre, mais de sens contraire, c'est-à-dire dirigée vers le haut. Vu d'en bas, l'engin aura exactement l'aspect de la soucoupe classique, circulaire pour les spectateurs situés exactement dessous, elliptique pour les autres.

Or, Plantier rappelle qu'on peut observer, à la sortie des accélérateurs de particules utilisés dans les laboratoires nucléaires, une forte luminosité due à l'action du fluide corpusculo-ondulatoire « vomit » par l'accélérateur, comme l'augmentation brutale du champ de force de l'engin ne peut être obtenue que par une telle accélération, on doit donc prévoir que l'engin, au moment où il dégage de la

Arrivés hier soir à l'aérodrome d'Orly

Les footballeurs de Dynamo de Moscou entament aujourd'hui leur Tour de France

LES prestigieux footballeurs de Dynamo de Moscou — champions d'U.R.S.S. 1954 — sont depuis quelques heures à Paris. Ils sont arrivés hier à 18 h. 30, à l'aérodrome d'Orly.

leur Tour de France 1<sup>re</sup> étape : les châteaux de la Loire

Ce n'est pourtant que le 3 novembre que le public de la capitale aura le plaisir d'apprécier les joueurs soviétiques, contre une sélection Racing-Reims, au Parc des Princes.

En attendant cette rencontre — dont l'heure du coup d'envoi mériterait d'être fixée à 19 ou 21 heures afin de permettre à tous les ouvriers d'y assister — les footballeurs russes feront le... Tour de France : non pas à bicyclette, mais dans un car de luxe, mis à leur disposition par la Fédération.

Voici, d'ailleurs, le programme complet du séjour en France des joueurs de Dynamo de Moscou :

Aujourd'hui 19 : Visite des châteaux de la Loire ;

Le problème de l'équipe de France est enfin résolu

Octobre 1952 : Paul Nicolas est membre du comité de sélection. Les joueurs français battent tour à tour l'Allemagne à Colombes, l'Autriche à Vienne, etc.

Octobre 1953 : Paul Nicolas quitte le comité de sélection pour devenir président du groupement des clubs autorisés. L'équipe de France joue sept matches décevants. Elle en perd quatre : Yougoslavie, Suisse, Italie et Yougoslavie. Elle en gagne deux : Elze et Mexique. Elle obtient un match nul : Belgique.

Octobre 1954 : Paul Nicolas est devenu — provisoirement — directeur de l'équipe de France. Premier match : les Allemands, champions du monde 1954, sont battus sur leur terrain par des joueurs tricolores survolés.

AINSI, IL EST CLAIR que Paul Nicolas est le SEUL qui sache préparer « moralement » les footballeurs appelés à défendre le prestige de la formation nationale. Il est LE SEUL qui ait la confiance des joueurs. Il est LE SEUL à les comprendre.

AINSI, IL EST CLAIR que Paul Nicolas DOIT — malgré lui — accepter de rester au poste de commandement de l'équipe de France, pour que d'autres exploits s'ajoutent à ceux réalisés à Vienne en 1952 ou à Hanovre samedi.

Mercredi 20 : Arrivée à Bordeaux et entraînement ; Jeudi 21 : Match contre Bordeaux (12 h. 30), puis dîner à bord du paquebot « Maréchal-Leclerc » ; Vendredi 22 : Visite des parcs à hêtres à Arcachon ; Samedi 23 : Visite des vignobles bordelais ; Dimanche 24 : Voyage Bordeaux-Béziers avec visite du capitole de Toulouse ; Lundi 25 : Voyage Béziers-Saint-Raphaël avec visite des arènes de Nîmes et d'Arles ; Mardi 26 : Visite de la Côte d'Azur et réception chez le prince Rainier III à Monaco ; Mercredi 27 : Arrivée à Marseille et entraînement ; Jeudi 28 : Match contre Lille ; Vendredi 29 : Voyage Marseille-Lyon avec visite du barrage Donzère-Mondragon ; Samedi 30 : Voyage Lyon-Paris avec déjeuner à Saulieu ; Dimanche 31 : Visite de Paris ; Lundi 1<sup>er</sup> novembre : Visite du château de Versailles ; Mardi 2 : Entraînement ; Mercredi 3 : Match contre l'Entente Racing-Reims ; Jeudi 4 : Départ pour Moscou.

L'accueil, qui sera fait aux joueurs de Dynamo, sera, il faut l'espérer, aussi chaleureux que celui qu'ont eu les footballeurs bordelais en U. R. S. S. en juin dernier.

La Fédération, pour une fois, semble devoir être... généreuse... !

**Arsenal avant Dynamo de Moscou** Avant Dynamo de Moscou, le public parisien aura l'occasion d'assister au classique match Racing-Arsenal organisé au profit des plus grands invalides de guerre. C'est demain soir — 71 heures au Parc des Princes — qu'aura lieu cette rencontre qui permettra d'applaudir Marche, Grillet et Mahjoub, trois des onze héros du récent France-Allemagne (3-1).

Le Racing, en dépit du match important qu'il doit jouer dimanche contre Toulouse en championnat, veut battre Arsenal. — Ainsi, dit-on rue Ampère, se disputera le 3 novembre une véritable finale entre récents vainqueurs d'Arsenal.

Le club londonien, en effet, a

leur équipe de club du monde — dans les premiers jours de décembre. Les Puskas, Kocsis, Czibor, Boszik, Grosits et autres Lorant — six récentes vedettes de la Coupe du monde — jouent à Honved. Enfin, les meilleurs footballeurs du monde joueront à Paris. Oui, enfin... L. N.

Arsenal de Londres sera en fin de matinée à Paris. Comme d'habitude, les footballeurs anglais viendront dans deux avions différents. Malgré tout, ils sont assurés pour 300 millions.

JEU A XIII Les 72 meilleurs joueurs du monde vont se rencontrer en France à l'occasion de la Coupe du monde

LA première Coupe du Monde de Jeu à treize sera organisée en France du 30 octobre au 13 novembre.

Les meilleurs rugbymen du néo-rugby vont se retrouver sur notre sol. Néo-Zélandais et Australiens s'envoleront demain en direction du vieux continent. La Grande-Bretagne est attendue à Paris le 26 octobre. Quant aux Français, on ne connaît pas encore de façon officielle le nom de ceux qui auront l'honneur de défendre le prestige national.

Une vingtaine de noms ont été avancés, mais le règlement de la coupe exige que 18 joueurs sélectionnés soient désignés avant le 20 octobre, c'est-à-dire demain. L'équipe de France reste sur la tournée triomphale de 1952 qui lui valut de remporter aux Antipodes 19 succès et d'être sacrée championne du monde.

La succession est lourde pour les épaules de nos internationaux 1954.

**Brousse et Poncinet sans successeurs** On comprend les difficultés des sélectionneurs pour composer un treize de valeur. Le championnat

Saddler, le joyeux compère retenait, hier, la force de ses coups



CUISSARD bleu marine, maillot jaune, chaussettes rouges et chaussures blanches, telle était la tenue d'entraînement de Sandy Saddler hier après-midi salle Oquinarrenne. Oh ! j'allais oublier, par-dessus ses cheveux crépelés, une épaisse couche de fixateur parfumé, un serre-tête — imperméable — vert et, enfin, son casque protecteur.

Dans le ring, Saddler paraît un joyeux compère avec lequel on aimerait rire. Il a une façon particulière de se déplacer (pendant sa séance de shadow) qui est amusante ; ses gestes, ses coups sont très courts, il les esquisse davantage qu'il ne les donne en réalité. On sent que s'il libérait sa force, cela produirait un certain courant d'air. Mais le poids de l'épaule est là ; il y a de la puissance dans chacune des attitudes du champion du monde.

Ses jambes et ses cuisses sont fines, grêles même, ce qui est normal en raison de son poids et de sa taille (que ne désavouerait pas un mannequin parisien d'un de nos plus grands couturiers) et des épaules bien proportionnées. Ses muscles et avant-bras sont impressionnants. Certes pas par leur volume, mais par la nervosité et la force que l'on y devine en les voyant travailler.

Hier, Saddler effectua seulement trois rounds de gants avec le jeune Marius Dori, qui lui donna une réplique timide mais au cours de laquelle on put se rendre compte que l'adversaire de Famechon s'entraînait pour lui et non pour la galerie qui était là, épiant ses moindres gestes et prête à les interpréter de façon différente.

Saddler se bande lui-même les mains

Son crochet gauche à la face est donné en sautant, mais ses uppercuts des deux mains, surtout au corps à corps, partent de l'épaule, alors que bien posé sur ses jambes, il ne laisse aucun répit — un peu à la façon de Percy Basset — mais avec plus de rapidité dans les jambes.

Ses coups, indéniablement, Saddler les a « retenus », ne voulant pas les appuyer contre un sparing-partner de plusieurs classes au-dessous de la sienne.

Mais, devant l'ancien champion de France des poids plume, Mohamed Chickahouli, qui lui servira de partenaire demain après-midi, il est à peu près certain que l'on verra jaillir le crochet gauche et l'uppercut qui valurent à son exécutant de très nombreuses victoires.

SURSIS POUR LE SPORT CYCLISTE

NON, l'agonie du cyclisme n'est pas pour demain. Ses fidèles l'ont sauvé, remarquablement sauvé et lui ont fait franchir allégrement l'obstacle sur lequel on pouvait craindre qu'il ne trébuchât : le Salon.

Car le Salon de la Moto et du Cycle 1954, c'était un peu (si vous me passez la comparaison) la « rivière des tribunes » d'Auteuil, si redoutée des steeple-chasers. Là, une bonne fraction des pur sang du vélo risquait de périr corps et biens. Mais il s'est trouvé que Francis Pélassier a renforcé son habituelle équipe pour 1955 de quatre champions de France : J. Dupont, Hassenforder, Thomini et Bourgeois ; il s'est trouvé que la rentrée en compétition d'une grande marque de l'avenue de la Grande-Armée a contrebalancé le renoncement d'une autre ; ses directeurs sportifs, Emile Ignat et Guy Delacotte, ont pu engager des routiers qui erraient au Salon comme des âmes en peine ; il s'est trouvé également que Romain Belenger a été promu, comme par le passé, directeur sportif de Raphaël Géminiani, à la tête d'une équipe plus consistante. Il s'est trouvé, enfin et surtout, que les marques fidèles à la « petite reine » ont consenti des efforts plus larges

Jacques Dupont courra à Lugano

La requête du champion de France Jacques Dupont a été favorablement entendue ; les organisateurs du Grand Prix Vanini qui se courra à Lugano l'ont engagé, au côté d'Anquetil, son camarade de l'équipe Francis Pélassier.

Anquetil a bon espoir de recevoir le visa ministériel qui lui est indispensable pour passer la frontière. Quant à Fausto Coppi, il ne sera pas au départ, car il exigeait d'entrer en possession de son passeport, toujours en mains de la police, et n'acceptait pas la « permission » de 24 heures qui lui était accordée, afin de lui permettre de défendre son prestige sur le circuit de Lugano, en Suisse.

Regrettons-le. Car, privé du « choc » Coppi-Anquetil l'an dernier déjà et cette saison, dans le Grand Prix des Nations, le public est déçu de constater que Anquetil est toujours présent là où Coppi ne veut se rendre. F. T.

Ziege-Holzmann en tête des Six Jours de Berlin

BERLIN, 19 octobre. — Voici le classement des Six-Jours de Berlin, hier, à 20 heures : 1. Otto Ziege-Holzmann (All.), 149 pts ; 2. Plattner-Schaer (Suisse), 129 pts ; 3. Strom-Patterson (Australie), 115 pts. A 1<sup>er</sup> tour : 4. Iacoponelli-Heniz Ziege (Fr.-Al.), 138 pts ; 5. Zöll-Weinrich (All.), 72 pts ; 6. Ockers-Van Steenberghe (Belg.), 62 pts ; 7. Carrara-Forlini (Fr.), 40 pts. A 2<sup>es</sup> tours : 8. Preiskeit-Schultz (All.), 157 pts ; 9. Intra-Mueller

BOURSE ÉCONOMIE

JOURNAL DES SOCIÉTÉS

**L'ASSEMBLÉE EXTRAORDINAIRE** du 4 novembre, le conseil de la Librairie Hachette proposera d'augmenter le capital de 1.125 millions à 2.600 millions par incorporation de réserves au moyen, d'une part, de l'évaluation de 2.500 à 5.000 fr. de la valeur nominale des actions et, d'autre part, de l'attribution — à titre de conversion — de 7 actions nouvelles de 5.000 fr. pour 2 parts.

**POUR LES 9 MOIS SE TERMINANT** fin septembre ; les usines de Batignolles-Châtillon ont eu une activité soutenue ; le chiffre d'affaires total de la société dépasse de 30 % celui de la période correspondante de 1953.

**LE CONSEIL DE LA Cie GÉNÉRALE DE RADIOLOGIE** a décidé de porter le capital : 1<sup>er</sup> de 349.958.400 fr. à 312.448.000 fr. par incorporation partielle de la réserve spéciale de réévaluation et élévation de 3.200 fr. à 4.000 fr. du nominal des actions ; 2<sup>e</sup> de 312 millions 448.000 fr. à 468.672.000 fr. par émission à 4.400 fr. de 39.056 actions de 4.000 francs.

**LA DISTRIBUTION D' ACTIONS GRATUITES** créées en représentation de l'augmentation de capital de 900 à 1.800 millions par la Cie Générale des Eaux (1<sup>re</sup> nouvelle pour l'ancienne) sera réalisée, sauf imprévu, dans le courant du mois de novembre.

Au « Bulletin des Annonces Légales Obligatoires »

**LE B.A.L.O.** du 19 octobre, publie des insertions concernant, notamment, les sociétés suivantes : Compagnie Française des Pétroles. — Emission de 1.160.445 actions de 5.000 fr. (dont 5.000 actions catégorie « A » et 1.155.355 actions catégorie « B ») ; souscrits du 25 octobre au 3 décembre, au prix de 6.500 fr. Droit de souscription, abstraction faite des actions nouvelles souscrites par l'Etat ; une action « B » pour trois actions « A » ou « B » de 5.000 francs ; jouissance des actions nouvelles : 1<sup>er</sup> janvier 1954.

**Société Commerciale de l'Ouest Africain.** — 1<sup>re</sup> Emission à 5.500 fr. et cotation de 500.000 actions de 5.000 fr. jouissance 1<sup>er</sup> avril 1954 (1<sup>er</sup> pour 2 de 3.000 fr.) ; souscription du 25 octobre au 4 décembre ; 2<sup>e</sup> Regroupement des actions de 3.000 fr. en titres de 5.000 fr., puis création de 200.000 actions nouvelles de 5.000 fr., attribuées gratuitement aux 1.100.000 actions de 5.000 francs représentant alors le capital (2 pour 1) ; cotation de ces 200.000 actions nouvelles.

**Société Commerciale et Industrielle de la Côte d'Afrique.** — Emission à 5.500 fr. et cotation de 35.000 actions de 5.000 fr. ; jouissance 1<sup>er</sup> mai 1954 (3 pour 2).

Bourse de Londres

	Précéd.	18 oct.
Bo.	39 7/8	40 1/4
Rhodes	28 3/4	28 3/4
Rosan Antioche	22	21 1/8 1/2

# SOUCOUPES VOLANTES :

## « UNE MYSTIFICATION »

par Jacques BERGIER

...l'homme qui informa le premier les alliés des préparatifs allemands de fusées V1 et V2, Jacques Bergier, a collaboré à notre série sur les « soucoupes ». Son opinion prend d'autant plus de poids que ce scientifique, membre de l'Académie des Sciences de New-York, n'a rien d'un sceptique : il est en même temps corédacteur de la revue d'anticipation « Fiction ».

mais jamais je n'ai recueilli un seul témoignage permettant de conclure à l'existence d'un véhicule terrestre ou autre et pour moi c'est une mystification.

### Des cas explicables par la fluorescence de l'atmosphère

L'examen de la documentation très complète rassemblée par « Paris-Press » montre que tous les témoignages sur les soucoupes volantes sont explicables par la fluorescence de l'atmosphère sous des influences électriques.

Là, nous nous trouvons sur un terrain plus solide. L'aurore boréale comme l'enseigne au néon

donnent l'exemple de phénomènes vérifiables pouvant rendre l'air lumineux.

Il est extrêmement probable qu'il existe des phénomènes de ce genre pouvant faire apparaître dans l'air des disques ou des fuseaux lumineux.

La symétrie et une forme circulaire sont les caractéristiques de nombreux phénomènes physiques. Plusieurs explications de ce genre rendent compte des apparitions de soucoupes volantes et elles me paraissent fort plausibles.

Un disque d'air ionisé se comporterait exactement comme le font les soucoupes volantes.

L'imagination y ajoute des hublots comme elle a ajouté des canaux aux irrégularités observées à la surface de la planète Mars.

Il faut notamment se méfier de l'imagination redoutable des astronomes qui fit voir à Gruithausen des cités dans la Lune, au célèbre Herschel des habitants sur le Soleil et aux astronomes Schiaparelli et Lowell les canaux de Mars.

### Rien de plus qu'une décharge électrique

Les disques d'air ionisé seraient repoussés par le métal des avions, se déplaceraient à grande vitesse et seraient totalement silencieux. Ils pourraient disparaître en explosant (comme la soucoupe de Dieppe) ou se dissiperait dans l'air comme le cigare de Vernons-sur-Eure qui donna naissance à plusieurs soucoupes.

Cette ionisation peut avoir plusieurs causes. Des causes naturelles, rayons cosmiques, électrons solaires, décharges électromagnétiques terrestres. Ce dernier phénomène lie l'apparition de boules de feu aux tremblements de terre et a été développé par M. Montandon dans la revue « Geographica Helvetica », en 1948. Il y avait été fait allusion deux ans auparavant dans l'ouvrage de M. Rothé « Séismes et volcans », paru dans la collection « Que sais-je » en 1946.

L'ionisation peut avoir également des causes humaines : ra-

dar, ondes millimétriques servant par exemple au téléguidage de fusées, explosions atomiques, décharges en couronne des fils de transport d'énergie électrique, tout ceci se combinant pour donner naissance au phénomène dit des « soucoupes volantes ».

Dans ces conditions il n'y a aucune raison de croire à des soucoupes matérielles — véhicules ou projectiles. Comme la foudre, l'aurore boréale et l'enseigne au néon, les soucoupes volantes me paraissent être un phénomène de décharge lumineuse dans les gaz de l'air.

### Voici ce que vous devez faire si vous en « voyez » une...

LES témoignages sur les soucoupes volantes pèchent le plus souvent par manque de précision. Le ou les spectateurs du phénomène sont troublés et oublient de remarquer des détails qui pourraient permettre son identification. S'ils gardent leur sang-froid, ils ne savent pas toujours où adresser le compte rendu de leur observation ni quelle autorité prévenir pour qu'éventuellement le phénomène soit étudié à l'aide d'instruments appropriés.

C'est pourquoi, au cas où vous aussi seriez un jour témoin d'un vol de soucoupes, nous vous fournissons ces quelques indications.

Si le phénomène se déroule à proximité d'une habitation ou d'un véhicule où se trouve un poste de T.S.F., allumez-le et placez l'aiguille entre deux stations. Si la soucoupe est un véhicule fonctionnant sur un quelconque principe électrique ou magnétique, il y a de fortes chances pour que le poste de T.S.F. enregistre des parasites extrêmement bruyants.

### Vérifiez l'aimantation

Si l'on vous signale qu'une soucoupe a été aperçue posée sur le sol, rendez-vous sur place et, si vous n'apercevez rien, vérifiez s'il ne s'est pas produit d'aimantation aux alentours.

En admettant que le phénomène ne soit pas purement hallucinatoire et que l'engin suive l'un des principes qu'imaginent certains spécialistes (antipésantisme champs de force) des objets de métal proche de l'aire d'atterrissage pourraient avoir été aimantés. Un instrument agricole en métal, une charrue, une clôture en fil de fer peuvent avoir été magnétisés. Une

boussole ou plus simplement un couteau ou une clé suffisent pour constater cette aimantation.

Pour une observation de soucoupe en vol, prévenir le plus rapidement possible l'observatoire ou le centre météorologique le plus proche qui pourront observer le phénomène avec leurs appareils. Si vous ne pouvez les joindre, prévenez au moins la gendarmerie.

### Ce que vous noterez

Un bon compte rendu d'observation doit comprendre des précisions sur la date, l'heure, le lieu, l'état du ciel (nuages, visibilité, brume, température...)

La description du phénomène lui-même devrait indiquer le point du ciel où il est apparu, sa trajectoire, ses changements de direction, sa forme, sa couleur, sa grosseur apparente.

Quand l'objet a parcouru une ligne droite, noter la longueur de cette ligne en largeur de la main par exemple et le temps mis à la parcourir.

Noter s'il y a des accélérations, ralentissements, stationnements.

La grosseur apparente de l'objet peut être comparée à celle de la pleine lune ou du soleil. Si l'objet passe devant une montagne ou un nuage noter si possible leur distance. Noter si la lumière paraît réfléchie ou au contraire propre à l'objet.

Joindre un croquis au compte rendu, si possible prendre des photographies.

Le compte rendu de l'observation doit être adressé soit au Bureau Scientifique de l'Armée de l'Air, 24, boulevard Victor à Paris, soit à la Météorologie nationale, 1, avenue Rapp à Paris, soit à « Paris-Press », 12, rue du Croissant qui transmettra.



Ce n'est pas une « soucoupe » mais une comète photographiée à l'observatoire du mont Wilson

## « MAIS MOI, J'Y CROIS »

par Aimé MICHEL

...auteur du livre « Lueurs sur les soucoupes volantes », est l'un des premiers spécialistes français sérieux dans ce domaine. Aimé Michel, qui a collaboré, comme Jacques Bergier, à notre série sur les soucoupes, a étudié dans un esprit d'objectivité tous les témoignages dignes de foi existant à ce jour et les a réunis dans son ouvrage.

LA question posée par le problème des soucoupes volantes n'est pas de savoir s'il se déroule dans le ciel des phénomènes curieux, vagues et difficiles à identifier.

S'il en était ainsi, la réponse serait simple ; la science dispose dans cet or-

dre d'idée de tout un arsenal d'explications largement satisfaisantes pour l'esprit : bolides, aéroolithes, étoiles filantes, météorites, parhélies, halos, arcs-en-ciel, météores, faux soleils, astres de forte magnitude (Vénus, Jupiter, Vega, Arcturus, etc...), foudre en boule, aurores boréales, ballons-sondes, hélicoptères, avions, etc... sans parler de la dernière, celle que M. d'Alton proposait récemment et qui explique avec beaucoup de vraisemblance certaines apparitions lumineuses par la rencontre d'une couche d'air ionisée avec un faisceau d'onde radar.

Malheureusement, la question n'est pas là.

La question posée par le problème des soucoupes volantes est la suivante : comment expliquer la description extrêmement précise et concrète, donnée par des milliers de témoins, d'un engin d'apparence métallique, ayant des espèces de hublots et qui évolue toujours de la même manière en basculant et projetant de la lumière aux accélérations ?

A cette question, tous ceux qui ont jusqu'à présent tenté d'expliquer les soucoupes volantes par des phénomènes naturels omettent de répondre. Et ceci pour deux raisons : les uns ignorent les témoignages, les autres n'y croient pas. En ce qui me concerne j'ai poursuivi mon enquête pendant des années et j'ai dépouillé des milliers et des milliers de témoignages. Quant à n'y pas croire, ce serait plus facile assurément. Mais comment tenir pour unanimement menteurs la foule des astronomes, les techniciens d'engins téléguidés, des aviateurs, des officiers, des météorologistes, qui affirment avoir vu l'engin ? Voilà pourquoi, bon gré, mal gré, j'ai été amené à croire aux soucoupes volantes.

Faut-il traiter de menteur et de fou le grand astronome Clyde Tombaugh, qui partage avec Lowell la gloire d'avoir découvert la planète Pluton, lorsqu'il

rapporte avoir vu avec toute sa famille, le 20 août 1949 un cigare à hublots traverser le ciel au-dessus de lui ?

Fou ou menteur, le grand astronome Hess de l'observatoire de Flagstaff, universellement connu notamment pour ses travaux sur l'atmosphère de Mars, qui vit une soucoupe passer sans se presser sous une couche nuageuse assez lâche, briller au soleil, rentrer dans l'ombre, se profiler sur les nuages, et qui put même évaluer ses dimensions ?

Fou ou menteur, l'astronome Hall, de l'observatoire Lowell, qui vit lui aussi une soucoupe passer au soleil, brillante et ombreuse, l'observa à la jumelle et parvint lui aussi à calculer sa vitesse et ses dimensions ?

### Il faut chercher

Fou ou menteur, le professeur Lincoln La Paz, directeur de l'Institut de Météorologie du Nouveau Mexique, qui contempla le mystérieux engin par deux fois ?

Fous ou menteurs, le capitaine Mac Laughlin et son équipe de spécialistes de la base d'essais d'engins téléguidés de White Sands, qui suivirent à plusieurs reprises, évoluant autour de leurs fusées à 100 kilomètres d'altitude, des engins circulaires filant à 28.000 et même 32.000 kilomètres-heure ?

Ils sont des dizaines de milliers maintenant comme Tombaugh, La Paz, Hall, Hess, Mac Laughlin, Zohm, M. Daurces, etc... qui ont vu quelque chose de précis et d'inexplicable : car il n'y a pas de phénomène naturel en forme de cigare avec des hublots. Ces milliers et milliers de témoins, ce sont eux qui posent le problème, et non pas ceux qui ont vu quelques vagues lueurs dans le ciel. Avec ces témoins là, le choix est simple : il faut les accuser de faux témoignage ou renoncer provisoirement à l'explication, c'est à dire, chercher.

Ce choix, il est évident qu'il engage une attitude morale. Les présomptueux ont l'accusation facile, mais Pascal conseillait de « chercher en gémissant ». Pour moi, je crois que Pascal avait raison. Même si, jusqu'à plus ample informé, il n'est pas utile de gémir.

### Ce qu'ont vu les astronomes

LE 20 mai 1950, à 13 heures, le professeur Hall, astronome de l'observatoire de Lowell, dans le Massachusetts, observa à loisir un disque argenté brillant au soleil, qui se déplaçait à une vitesse modérée.

L'astronome examina la soucoupe dans sa jumelle, puis la suivit au théodolite pour mesurer sa grandeur et ses déplacements apparents.

Il estima que sa distance réelle était comprise entre des chiffres de l'ordre de 2 à 4 kilomètres, son diamètre de 10 à 20 mètres, et sa vitesse réelle de quelque 300 kilomètres.

Sa description de l'objet est extrêmement précise : il a vu un disque métallique brillant « entouré d'un bouillonnement blanc, genre crème fouettée », se représenter ce « bouillonnement ».

Le 22 mai 1950, deux jours après l'observation de Hall à Lowell, l'astronome Hess étudiait les conditions météorologiques, lorsqu'il remarqua un disque brillant qui passait, sans se presser trop, entre les nuages et le sol.

Il était parfaitement visible à l'œil nu, mais l'astronome l'étudia à la lunette.

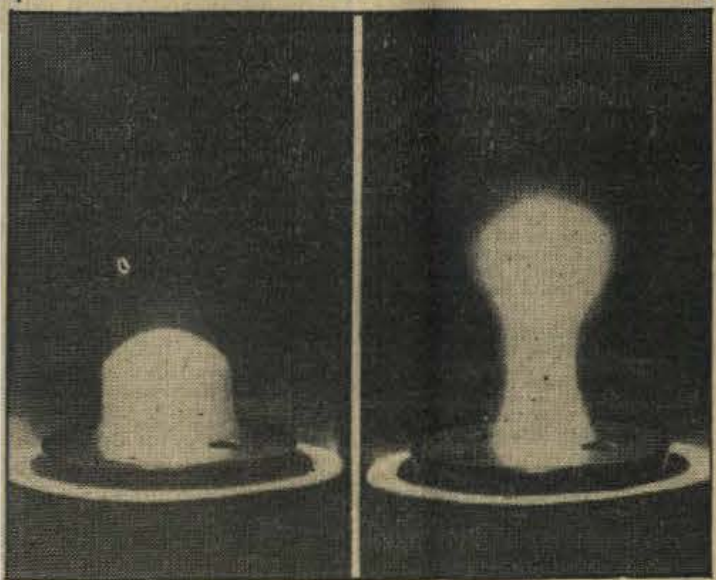
C'était un disque d'apparence métallique. Les nuages étant assez lâches, le professeur Hess put le voir se profiler tantôt sur les nuages très blancs — et alors sa silhouette était sombre, car elle était à l'ombre — tantôt sur le bleu du ciel, et alors, étant frappé par les rayons du soleil, il resplendissait comme un miroir.

Hess avait un excellent moyen de mesurer l'altitude maximum de l'engin, puisque celui-ci volait plus bas que les nuages. Et connaissant l'altitude et le diamètre apparent, il put calculer les dimensions réelles : il trouva 2 mètres à peine.

Le soir du 20 août 1949, à 22 h. 45, le professeur Tombaugh, qui, en 1930, découvrit Pluton, la dernière planète du système solaire, se trouvait devant sa maison de Las Cruces, dans le Nouveau-Mexique.

Levant les yeux vers le ciel, il aperçut soudain, près du zénith, six ou huit rectangles resplendissant d'une lumière verdâtre, volant rapidement vers un point de l'horizon situé entre 25 et 30 degrés sud-est. Ils se déplaçaient d'un mouvement rapide et uniforme et semblaient être les hublots de quelque engin non éclairé porté en vague silhouette lumineuse sur le noir du firmament.

### « Elle » est née dans un laboratoire



Le physicien américain Noël Scott a réalisé en laboratoire cette expérience qui, selon lui, livre l'énigme des soucoupes volantes. Sous une cloche dans laquelle existe un vide partiel, il fait passer un champ électrique créant ces « lueurs anodes » qui changent de forme, passant du champignon à la boule, et se déplaçant dans la cloche au gré de leur fantaisie. Selon le physicien américain et de nombreux savants, les soucoupes seraient le même phénomène répété dans l'atmosphère sur une plus grande échelle.

Après avoir applaudi "Les Indes Galantes" à l'Opéra

# HAILÉ SÉLASSIÉ REÇU PAR LE CONSEIL MUNICIPAL PASSERA

## 31 minutes sur la Seine

Le séjour parisien de S.M. Haïlé Sélassié s'achève. Demain, le souverain quittera la capitale pour Lyon. Auparavant, il aura été — ce matin — l'hôte de la municipalité de Paris.

Hier soir, après avoir à son tour invité M. et Mme René Coty à dîner en la nouvelle ambassade d'Ethiopie, avenue Charles-Floquet, le roi des rois et le président de la République ont passé la soirée à l'Opéra.

Quand l'hôte de la France descendit de la Talbot présidentielle, accueilli par le président du Conseil, les présidents des assemblées, les acclamations de la foule qui attendait furent chaleureuses.

L'empereur d'Ethiopie était en habit, la poitrine barrée du grand cordon de la Légion d'honneur. Les gardes à cheval, massés jusque sur les trottoirs, présentaient les armes.

## Hôte de la capitale

A l'intérieur du théâtre, les trompettes de la cavalerie sonnaient, pour accentuer le caractère solennel de cette entrée.

Après que le souverain, M. et Mme René Coty et le duc de Harrar eurent pris place dans la loge officielle, un ravissant spectacle de ballets — *Les Indes Galantes* et *Etudes*, de Harold Lander — fut joué. A l'entracte, Haïlé Sélassié, le président de la République et M. Mendès-France apparurent en haut du grand escalier et furent l'objet d'une ovation des spectateurs.

Ce matin à 10 heures, le monarque et son fils ont visité l'Institut Pasteur, se sont inclinés sur la tombe du grand savant et se sont intéressés, dans les laboratoires, à un microscope électronique qui leur a permis de voir des virus, invisibles avant l'invention de cet appareil.

A 11 h. 30, l'empereur arrive à l'Hôtel-de-Ville, décoré des drapeaux éthiopiens et français. De



DURANT L'ENTRACTE, HIER SOIR A L'OPERA, S.M. HAILE SELASSIE APPARAÎT AU BALCON DU GRAND VESTIBULE.

Moustier, secrétaire d'Etat aux Affaires étrangères, et leur présente les membres de l'Assemblée parisienne. Puis le cortège gagne la salle des fêtes où l'attendent 1.500 personnes du Tout-Paris.

Le président du conseil municipal prend la parole pour saluer le roi des rois et exalter l'amitié qui le lie à Paris et à la France. Et, en souvenir de cette journée, il lui remet un volume, dédié par Utrillo, des œuvres du peintre de Montmartre.

En quelques mots le souverain, dans un français parfait, remercie M. Lafay et tous les Parisiens de l'accueil qu'ils lui ont réservé, évoquant ses visites antérieures et celles, plus récentes, mais trop rapides à son gré, à Flins, à l'Institut Pasteur et au Musée du Louvre.

A 12 h. 45, l'empereur, le président de la République, M. Lafay, M. Féron et le bureau du conseil municipal, quittent l'Hôtel de Ville pour gagner l'hôtel de Lauzun, quai d'Anjou, où le menu suivant les attend :

Turbot soufflé amiral, Gigue de chevreuil Grand Veneur, Brioche de foie gras au Xérès, Salade Lettuce, Fromages, Glace des Indes, Feuilletés.

Montrachet 1947, Clos d'Estournel 1926, Grand Pommard 1926, Champagne Lanson brut 1947 en jéroboam.

## Sous les ponts de Paris

Cet après-midi, à 15 h. 10, l'empereur et le président de la République, quittant l'hôtel Lauzun, montent à bord du « Borde-Fretigny », dont Mme René Coty est la capitaine. Le bateau, contenant



Au cours de la réception organisée hier à l'hôtel Crillon, l'empereur d'Ethiopie a longuement conversé avec Mme Mendès-France.

# Un nouveau vaccin antidiphthérique mis au point par le Dr Fleming

SIR ALEXANDER FLEMING, inventeur de la pénicilline, que la France recevait triomphalement au lendemain de la guerre, est à nouveau l'hôte de Paris.

« pour mieux travailler » toutes ses fonctions officielles.

— Je suis venu à Paris, nous a-t-il déclaré, pour assister aux travaux du Conseil des organisations internationales.

# Les autobus ne seront pas supprimés

...car ce serait mettre sur le pavé

827 millions de piétons

PARIS conservera ses autobus. Il n'est pas tout à fait superflu de l'annoncer. Le bruit avait couru qu'il était question de les supprimer. On en a même discuté à la préfecture de police, avant de décider qu'ils continueraient à rouler.

Les autobus ont contre eux les conducteurs de voitures particulières.

— Si Paris, disent-ils, est embouteillé, la faute en est en grande partie aux autobus : la plupart de nos rues ne sont pas faites pour des mastodontes de dix mètres de long et 2 m. 40 de large qui, en outre, bloquent la moitié de la chaussée quand ils s'arrêtent.

C'est vrai : les autobus sont encombrants par leur masse. Les piétons le sont aussi, par leur nombre. Cependant jusqu'ici on les tolère. Il faudra bien aussi continuer à tolérer les autobus. Car les supprimer équivaudrait à lancer sur le pavé 827 millions de Parisiens qui, même répartis sur 365 jours de quinze heures, représentent une armée de piétons dont on ne saurait que faire.

## L'impériale est condamnée

Il est probable qu'ils prendraient le métro. Tout au moins s'y essaieraient-ils. On a vu ce qu'il en était en 1945 et 1946 avant que l'on eût rétabli les services d'autobus : en un jour, à cette époque, on a compté jusqu'à cinq millions d'entrées.

Le métro transporte actuellement un milliard vingt-huit millions de voyageurs par an. Il aurait quelque peine à en accueillir 827 millions de plus.

Il n'y a pas longtemps, les services intéressés ont pointé les passages entre 17 h. 20 et 18 h. 30 avenue de l'Opéra (en direction du Palais-Royal). Ils ont dénombré 393 voitures particulières et 35 autobus ; or celles-là transportaient une moyenne de 1,8 personnes chacune, ce qui représente à peu près 700 passagers au total, tandis que ceux-ci avaient absorbé 1.500 voyageurs, c'est-à-dire deux fois plus en circulant dix fois moins.

— Mais vous oubliez de parler de l'aire d'encombrement, dirait-on.

Pour une auto de gabarit moyen, l'aire de déplacement est de 22 mètres carrés 57 en tenant compte des marges de sécurité

# « LES FUITES »

## M. Vincent Auriol fait une déposition de 1 h. 20

Le calme est revenu hier à la caserne de Reuilly. L'interrogatoire du capitaine Cazalet a dû être remis, le commandant Mercier, qui instruit son cas, étant toujours souffrant.

Baranès — qui continue à écrire ses Mémoires — a choisi un troisième défenseur : M<sup>r</sup> Tixier-Vignancour, qui dès hier soir a pris connaissance du dossier concernant l'ancien rédacteur du journal *Libération*.

A Muret, l'ancien président de la République, M. Vincent Auriol, qui, de par ses fonctions, a assisté durant sept ans aux réunions du Conseil supérieur de la Défense nationale, a versé son témoignage au dossier de l'affaire des fuites. C'est le commandant Brun, juge d'instruction près le tribunal militaire de Bordeaux, qui, sur commission rogatoire du commandant de Ressayre, a procédé à son audition. Celle-ci a duré 1 h. 20.

Quant à Mme Ollier, ex-vice-consul-archiviste à l'ambassade de France à Canberra, elle est interrogée ce matin à nouveau au tribunal militaire.

## Le Conseil d'Etat « blanchit » le professeur Louis Rougier

Le Conseil d'Etat a annulé un arrêté du ministre de l'Education nationale, en date du 23 juillet 1945, ayant prononcé la mise à la retraite d'office de M. Louis Rougier, professeur à la Faculté des Lettres de Besançon.

Le professeur Rougier, qui accomplissait une mission en Grande-Bretagne au début de la guerre, écrit par la suite un livre : « Missions secrètes à Londres », qui suscita des commentaires passionnés. (Il affirmait l'existence d'accords Pétain-Churchill).

Retiré à New-York pendant l'occupation, il fut accusé d'avoir favorisé la politique extérieure du gouvernement de Vichy.

Mais le Conseil d'Etat a conclu que l'accusation portée contre lui d'avoir géré l'effort de guerre allié et d'avoir tenté d'intervenir dans des conversations diplomatiques reposait sur des faits inexacts.

## Une casserole d'eau chaude a fait déborder l'indignation du mari trompé

LA 10<sup>e</sup> Chambre interviendra cet après-midi dans un ménage à trois. Trompé, battu (échaudé même) et pas content, M. Delaroche, qui est aide-soigneur à l'hospice d'Ivry, a prié M<sup>r</sup> Corne de réclamer à sa femme infidèle et à son heureux rival, le plombier Lucien Weigand, qu'assiste M<sup>r</sup> Charles Marcepoil, les réparations qu'il estime lui être justement dues, après la très chaude discussion qui l'envoya passer deux mois dans son propre hôpital.

Il y avait belle lurette que Weigand était du dernier bien avec Mme Delaroche. Le mari avait tenté de protester. Mais Mme Delaroche, si l'on en croit les voisins, a le caractère des antiques harpies, une belle carure et quelque ressemblance avec Mme Angot. A peine Delaroche ouvrait-il la bouche qu'il la refermait, terrorisé, il lui arrivait même de se faire « corriger ». Un tel régime avait fini par forger à Delaroche sa philosophie. Il semblait s'être résigné.

Mais, le 19 mai dernier, revenant de son travail, il trouva Mme Delaroche au domicile conjugal avec Weigand. Cette fois, c'en était trop. Delaroche s'en prit au plombier. Ils en vinrent aux coups, et l'aide-soigneur en reçut sa bonne part.

La nuit passa. Au matin, Delaroche, prenant son courage à deux mains, osa reprocher à sa femme son incontinence. Mais lui en prit ; Mme Delaroche s'affaîrait alors à son repassage. S'emparant d'un fer chaud, elle tenta, indignée, d'en assommer ce mari impudent. Delaroche put parer les coups. Ce que voyant, Mme Delaroche posa son fer, mais saisit la queue d'une casserole d'eau bouillante qu'elle retourna sur la nuque de son adversaire. Quand la casserole fut vide, M. Delaroche, hurlant de douleur, n'eut plus qu'à appeler l'ambulance. C'est sur son lit de douleur qu'il devait porter plainte, assurant en outre que les coups au ventre reçus la veille de Weigand avaient entraîné le retour d'une hernie disparue depuis des années.



— Et comment épelez-vous ce nom ?

LAD.



Pouyet

— Si c'était un homme, il broncherait !



— Vous tombez à pic ! Justement le feu vert est détraqué vous allez nous donner un coup de main.

LAD.



Pouyet

— C'est bien toi qui me disais qu'ils avaient un sens aigu de la civilisation.



— Sors, si tu es un homme !

Tegouf

(K)

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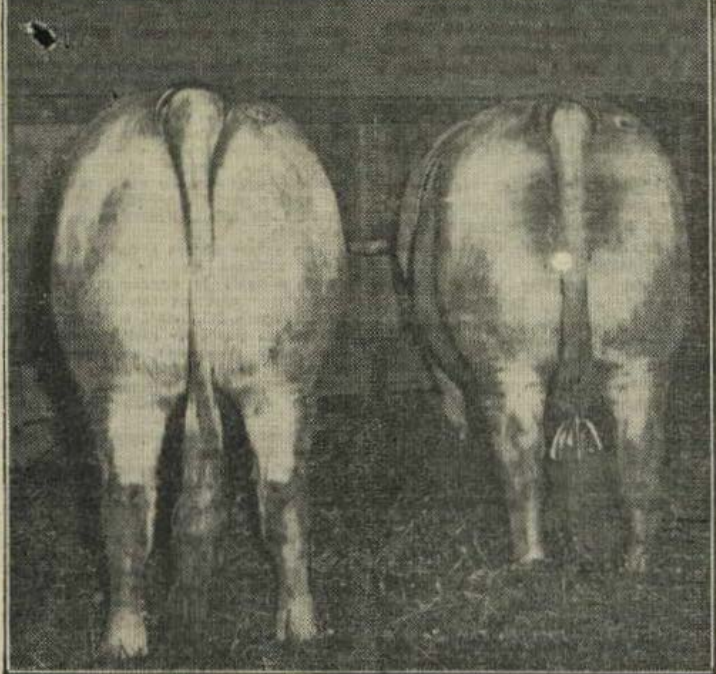
RUEOC



Pour traduire ce message,  
écrit en Martien,  
lire de droite à gauche.

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3

La Voie des Martiens

**V**OICI peut-être le véritable porte-parole des Terriens. L'air calme et pondéré de cette créature inspire la confiance en son jugement. On le devine sain, équilibré, possédant l'équivalent de la sagesse d'un vieux martien. Nos idéaux communs nous rapprocheront, en dépit des difficultés qu'auront nos diplomates à faire admettre le cérémonial en usage chez nous. Nos envoyés s'adapteront vite aux coutumes de leurs interlocuteurs terrestres.

③

"La Voix des Martinis"



Devant nous, un être bouge. Notre appareil approche de lui, lentement. Il fait vers nous un geste. A tout hasard, nous braquons le pistolet stupéfacteur. A-t-il voulu nous saluer, nous menacer? Par mesure de prudence, nous repartons, sans le savoir.

Letter dated 11th December, 1954, from Mr. Crocker to  
Minister - re flying saucers, etc.

Sent to Sir Ian Clunies Ross - "You may care to see" - 29/12.  
RGC.

RGC/CVH

PERSONAL  
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*Seen by Mr  
Casey  
Bowen  
Will*

XXXXXXXXXXXX

Commonwealth Offices,  
Treasury Place,  
MELBOURNE, C.2.

6th December, 1954.

Many thanks indeed for your letter of November 25th, in which you were good enough to analyse Keyhoe's book and to give me your views on it. It was very good of you to have gone to all this trouble and both my wife and I have read your letter with the greatest interest. It puts Keyhoe's theories into proper perspective - and I can well believe that your reaction to it is the right one - although it removes a rather romantic conception that had intrigued both my wife and myself.

---  
I am returning herewith the two photographs that you were good enough to enclose to me with your letter, as you may need them again.

No doubt you will let me know when you reach the next stage in respect of your rainmaking work, which I need not tell you I continue to be most interested in.

With best wishes to you - I am,

Yours sincerely,

R.G.C.

(R. G. CASEY).

Dr. E.G. Bowen,  
Chief of the Division of Radiophysics,  
University Grounds,  
SYDNEY, N.S.W.



## COMMONWEALTH SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH ORGANIZATION

## DIVISION OF RADIOPHYSICS

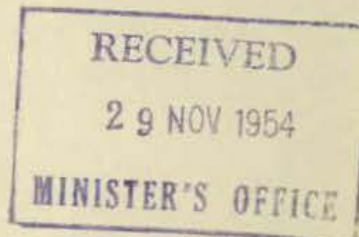
TELEGRAMS: CORESEARCH, SYDNEY  
TELEPHONE: MW 2484

UNIVERSITY GROUNDS,  
SYDNEY, N.S.W.

REFER TO

25th November 1954

The Rt. Hon. R.G. Casey, OM, CH, DSO, Mc,  
Minister in Charge of C.S.I.R.O.,  
Commonwealth Offices,  
Treasury Place,  
MELBOURNE, C.2, Victoria.



My Dear Minister,

I found the book by Major Keyhoe intensely amusing and entertaining and read it right through practically without stopping. I must say, however, that I am far from convinced by any of the anecdotes or arguments. The fact is the author is trying very hard to support his thesis with very inadequate evidence and throughout the book his main aim in life seems to be to trap the Air Force into saying something they obviously were not going to say.

I want to deal at length with some of the evidence given in the book, but before doing so perhaps I should outline a few phenomena which we have had experience of in this Laboratory which are relevant to the whole problem.

- (1) As you well know, there are a whole range of atmospheric reflection phenomena in which it is possible to see mock suns, sun dogs etc. as a result of the bending of light waves or reflection from water drops or ice crystals suspended in the atmosphere.

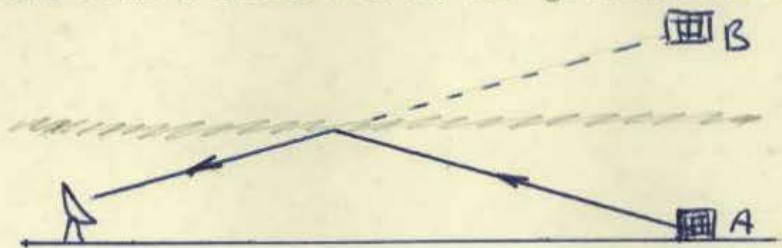
A good example of this sort of phenomenon occurred during an experiment we performed near Nowra a few years ago. It happened towards the end of a rainmaking experiment in which a cloud was seeded with dry ice. The cloud rained out and disappeared, leaving a thin layer of ice crystals in the atmosphere. These were quite invisible viewed from above or below and we only knew they were there by flying through them. From 4,000 or 5,000 feet above the crystals, looking in the direction of the sun, a very strong reflection of the sun could be seen as shown in the attached photograph. This was exceedingly bright, was saucer-shaped and manoeuvred about with the aircraft. If we had not known what was going on it would have been very easy to imagine that we were being followed around by a strange device.

- (2) It is a very common thing to obtain radar reflections from meteors when they enter the earth's atmosphere and there is now an extensive literature on the subject. They usually range in height from 40 to 80 miles and have a wide range of speeds around 5 or 10 miles a second. A typical photograph on a height-time scale (obtained by the Canadians) is attached. These are real visitors from outer space and there is no mystery about what they consist of or how they behave. In the particular case of this photograph the particle responsible was probably no bigger than a grain of sand or a green pea.

- (3) As you have pointed out so clearly, visual sightings of meteors and meteorites are not uncommon and many alleged saucer sightings, as for example the recent one

observed by a football crowd in Italy, come into this category. As far as one can judge from the newspaper reports, this was a pretty exact description of a group of meteorites, including the cloud of dust which is sometimes left as a result of the disintegration of the particles.

- (4) There are a large number of radar-echo phenomena which can arise from refraction or reflection of radio waves in the atmosphere. A typical example of this is described in the attached letter from the R.A.A.F. Home Command. The explanation in this case is that signals from a radar set on the ground are reflected



from a low-lying temperature inversion, giving echoes from ground objects at A which have the appearance to the radar operator of being in the air at B. This phenomenon is quite frequent on summer afternoons in coastal areas of New South Wales and was extensively investigated towards the end of the war.

These are only a few examples of atmospheric phenomena, which I have picked simply because we have had direct and recent experience of them. It would be quite easy in all these cases to interpret the observations as due to some strange visitation.

Turning now to some of the examples given in Keyhoe's book, I found them unconvincing and deficient in fact in many cases. For example -

- (1) The mysterious device described on the bottom of page 46 which "flashed by" the Control Tower at Hamilton Field at a speed estimated at between 1000 and 1500 miles an hour. It is quite possible that a space ship might have a soundless propulsion system, but it is quite impossible for a solid body to pass through the atmosphere as fast as that without producing shock waves and a pretty devastating noise. There should at least be some broken windows around to show for it, but the traffic control men appear to have heard nothing. I think therefore that either their height estimate was badly in error and hence their estimate of speed and distance or, as is more likely, they did not see a material body at all but some kind of reflection phenomenon.
- (2) Keyhoe makes a great deal of the sighting by two Pan-American pilots near Newport News on page 58. As in the Hamilton Field case, this is an example of a device travelling at more than 1000 miles an hour at a height of 2000 feet. The most obvious result of such a passage would be the noise it would make together with a certain amount of ground damage along the track. None of this appears to have happened and it seems therefore as if the sighting must have been an optical reflection effect.
- (3) The observation at White Sands Guided Missile Base, on page 46, of a disc travelling at 18,000 miles an hour 56 miles above the earth tallies exactly with a meteor phenomenon.

- (4) The reference to green meteorites observed in New Mexico is very misleading. These were the subject of quite extensive and open investigation and it happens that some of my friends were involved. There was no question but that they were meteorites, the only unusual point being that they were green. This suggested that they were of different chemical composition from the average run of meteorites, hence the careful watch and the efforts which were made to dig one out of the ground.
- (5) In nearly all the descriptions reference is made to the wobbling or shimmering of the saucers as they move along. This is very characteristic of refraction phenomena in the atmosphere and suggests that this is the explanation.
- (6) I found the reference to Dr. Markowitz on page 151 to be a frightfully distorted piece of logic. Any scientist would admit the possibility of inter-stellar flight. The fact that he then observes a body in the solar system which he cannot identify does nothing to prove that space travel is taking place.
- (7) Broadly speaking, I found all the radar sightings referred to in the book quite unconvincing. Most of the phenomena described read exactly like refraction phenomena, are well known to most radar people and can be readily explained in terms of atmospheric conditions. We were all confused by this kind of thing in the early days but quickly learnt to recognize the abnormal effects. There is always a burst of unidentified echoes when new operators are put on to a radar set and I suspect, with all due respect to the people concerned, that the large number of such reports in the post-war period was due to the comparatively large number of trainees who found themselves for the first time with highly complex military or civil equipment.
- (8) Similarly with the visual sightings. As the author rightly states, there have been reports of strange flying machines in the sky for several hundreds of years. The optical phenomena responsible are more easily seen from aircraft than they are from the ground and the increasing number of reports in recent years is probably due to the vast increase in flying and therefore in the number of people likely to see such phenomena.
- (9) One thing which I most decidedly cannot understand is simultaneous visual and radar sightings of high-speed objects in the lower atmosphere. In the upper atmosphere, of course, meteors are seen simultaneously by eye and by radar. In the lower atmosphere it is also possible to get simultaneous sightings of slow-moving objects like a balloon or a small cloud giving rain. But there is no ready explanation of high-speed objects moving in the lower atmosphere both tracked by radar and seen by eye.

The only description I can recall of a case of this kind is that of a B-29 crew on page 144. The description of what went on inside the aircraft reads exactly like what the R.A.A.F. call "finger trouble". The account of individual echoes merging with a "half-inch spot on the scope" moving at 5,000 miles an hour is very much what happens with an abnormal reflection phenomenon. Incidentally, a half-inch spot on the cathode ray screen would correspond to an object about twenty miles in diameter. If this were a space ship, a very ordinary radar set would detect it when it was about half way to the moon and at night the astronomers could see it even further.

Turning now to some more general considerations on the whole problem of saucers.

- (1) I know many of the scientists concerned with defence matters in the United States and know that they completely discount the suggestions made in Keyhoe's book. I also know several of the Canadians, but I do not know W.B. Smith. His ideas on rotating magnets are wild in the extreme and I suspect from his other answers that he is either being misreported or is a rather irresponsible member of the scientific community.
- (2) There are a number of references in the book to scientific matters, for example radio astronomy, in which the facts are not at all clearly brought out. Instead they are given in an obscure way which implies that they support the author's contention. For example, on the bottom of page 159 and the top of page 160 he tries to imply that the source of radio signals received from outer space is unknown and he quotes Grote Reber and Hanbury Brown in support. It happens that Reber is here in the Laboratory at the present time and Hanbury Brown is a very old friend of mine and I am sure they would be horrified to see this. The fact is that the signals received are random noise and carry no intelligence in the usual sense of the term. From the character of the signals, however, it is possible to know pretty precisely how they originate and from where they come. They come either from thermal processes or from random gas discharge phenomena and certainly not from any ordered motion like that in a radio transmitter. From the form of the signals it is possible to measure the temperature of the source and in one special case it tells us a great deal about the distribution of hydrogen atoms through our galaxy, their velocity of approach or recession, and so on.
- (3) I think it is inconceivable that beings who were sufficiently advanced to indulge in space travel would not use light and radio waves for signalling and navigation purposes. If they did, it is also inconceivable that they would have gone undetected. Considering that we have no difficulty in detecting and identifying the radiation from hydrogen atoms floating around at the far end of our galaxy when they have a density of about only 1 per cubic inch, it would be quite easy to receive any kind of signal sent from a space ship.
- (4) I find it significant that no radar echoes thought to be from space vessels have been received from outside the earth's atmosphere. From their very nature space ships would have to spend a fair amount of time just outside our atmosphere before entering and there are radar sets which are easily capable of detecting them doing this. Strange reflections have, in fact, only been received from inside our atmosphere and this makes it likely that they are due to meteors or to refraction or reflection effects.
- (5) I agree that the Air Force have not behaved particularly well on this question. Many of the early sightings were of "sky-hook" balloons which were being sent across the United States at heights of 100,000 feet for meteorological purposes. This was well known



to a great number of people but for some reason the Armed Services wanted it kept a secret. Although I do not have the evidence to hand, I believe it is a fact that the death of Captain Mantell took place when he tried to chase a balloon which was actually at 100,000 feet and moving at 200 to 300 knots. The crash was simply due to the fact the he went up too high and ran out of oxygen. The story was classified in the first place to conceal the existence of the balloons and the Air Force were reluctant to say anything about it subsequently because of the futility of the whole episode. There was also a certain amount of inter-Service friction, as the balloon was actually released by the Navy.

In conclusion I would give as my own view the one which has been suggested many times before, namely that the whole thing can be put down to hysteria and mass suggestion. People certainly see phenomena which they cannot explain. In the old days they put it down to witches and sorcerers; now it has simply changed to saucers from outer space. In this respect books like that of Keyhoe will, of course, do a great deal of good. Like people who used to predict the end of the earth, they build up suspense, make out, as he does, that 1954 is the fateful year - and then nothing happens. The public gradually becomes disillusioned and forgets the whole thing. This, I think, is what will happen in the present case. There will, no doubt, be saucer scares in other parts of the world but I doubt whether we will hear much more about them from the U.S.A.

Yours sincerely,

*E.G. Bowen*

(E.G. Bowen)

CHIEF OF THE DIVISION

Parliament House,  
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

23rd November, 1954.

PERSONAL

Thank you for your letter of 16th November in reply to my enquiry about possible reports of flying saucers in your area. I have appreciated your looking into this matter for me and will be interested in any future reports you might have that are relevant.

R.G.C.

His Excellency Dr. E.R. Walker,  
Australian Ambassador to Japan,  
TOKYO.



AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSION,  
NEW DELHI.

18th November, 1954.

In reply quote No.

My dear Minister,

Thank you for your letter of 9 November regarding flying saucers.

As a matter of fact there has recently been a series of reports about flying saucers from several parts of India and I put aside for you a number of newspaper cuttings on them. I now discover that they were "cleared away" a couple of days ago by a new servant when cleaning my office and have disappeared.

I will see Bhatnagar, or Krishnan, or other Indian scientists, as soon as I can and ask them what they make of the matter. As you say, it does seem that a proportion of the "unexplained objects" are in fact "unexplained" on any rational hypothesis.

Yours sincerely,

W.R. Crocker

W.R.C.

File

Previous Reply rec'd

Hm 21/12

The Rt. Hon. R. G. Casey,  
C.H., D.S.O., M.C., M.P.,

Minister of State for External Affairs,

CANBERRA, A.C.T.

# "Flying Saucer" Mystery Is Still Talk Of Town

## CONTROVERSIAL VIEWS ON THE PHENOMENON

"The Times of India" News Service

CALCUTTA

**T**HE first authoritative report on the luminous object in the sky said to have been seen by a large number of people in different parts of West Bengal on the night of October 31 has since come from an officer who was on duty at the time in the Dum Dum aerodrome Control Tower.

According to him, this "flying saucer" or "flying cigar" was a bright white object with a long luminous tail of diffused white light. The officer entered his observation in the duty log book and gave the phenomenon as being about five miles away at a height of about 2,000 feet and travelling at an estimated speed of about 500 knots.

This "bright white light," he further stated, was three to four times brighter than an aircraft's tail light and vanished from view in a haze after a minute. The officer ascertained there was nothing erratic about its flight, the object changing neither height, direction nor speed.

His description largely tallies with the accounts given about it by some members of the public in Calcutta, Deoghar, Cooch Behar and East Pakistan.

Inevitably, the "flying saucer" is the subject of a spate of gossip in tram cars, buses, coffee houses and offices. The correspondence columns of local newspapers also contain a number of letters from readers trying to explain the phenomenon.

### THEORY NOT ACCEPTED

The Rev. Father F. Goreux, who runs a well-equipped observatory at St. Xavier's College, Calcutta, said that the object was certainly not an astronomical one, pointing out that its low speed was not compatible with the movement of an astronomical object. Nor was he inclined to accept the theory of

## W. Bengal Newsletter

a "flying saucer," remarking: "There might be some amount of untruth or bluff in these reports." (In Italy one such hoax has resulted in a court case launched against a newspaper reporter and a group of youths "for spreading false and alarming reports" about the landing of Martians in a "flying saucer.")

Mr. D. V. Rao, Barrackpore Meteorological Officer, has stated that in most cases popular reports of "flying saucers" may be explained away as "condensation trails" of aircraft. The terrific speed could also be an "optical illusion induced by what to the naked eye is a dome-shaped sky."



PERSONAL.

AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY,  
TOKYO.

16th November, 1954.

*Dear Mr Casey,*

Thank you for your letter of 9th November referring to reports from Italy about unexplained sightings of flying saucers. I have not so far heard anything of special interest on this subject from the Americans in Tokyo, but the Italian Ambassador, who has just returned here after a visit of several weeks to Rome, told me there was no doubt whatever in Italy that different parts of the country were being visited by unexplained objects. He said that quite recently a football match with several thousand spectators in Florence was stopped because of the appearance of the so-called "flying saucers" and there was no question whatever of the whole crowd being subject to a mass illusion. Apparently these objects have been observed to arrive at a particular point, remain stationary in the air, depart at great speed and again return to the same neighbourhood. In addition, the Ambassador said that traces of a substance, which appeared to be glass fibre, had been recovered from the air after such appearances. He had not himself seen anything of this kind.

There is no special talk about this matter in Japan so far as I know, but I shall take any opportunity of obtaining further information.

*Yours sincerely*  
*Ronald Walker*

The Rt. Hon. R.G. Casey, C.H., D.S.O., M.C., M.P.  
Minister for External Affairs,  
C A N B E R R A. A.C.T.

RGC/CVH

Commonwealth Offices,  
Treasury Place,  
MELBOURNE, C.2.

15th November, 1954.

----  
I attach copy of a letter that I've just written to Bowen, which I hope won't lead you to the inescapable conclusion that I've gone nuts. However, if you get one of your people to get you copy of the book I mention, I feel sure you will at least be intrigued by it - and you need never admit publicly that you've read it. And if you would care to make discreet enquiries at the top end of the U.S.A.F. as to what its all in aid of - I'd be very interested to know what they have to say about it in private, as apart from the obvious "attitude" that they have to observe vis-a-vis the public.

R. G. CASEY

BF  $\frac{25}{12}$

Mr. Lewis W. Douglas,  
Southern Arizona Bank and Trust Building,  
TUCSON, ARIZONA.

RGC/CVH

PERSONALCommonwealth Offices,  
Trenury Place,  
MELBOURNE. C.2.

15th November, 1954.

I am sending you copy of a small book under separate cover. You'll probably have a fit when you see it. It is called "Flying Saucers from Outer Space". The cover is enough to put anyone off. It was given to me - and I had the greatest reluctance even to start it, but I found that I became strangely interested in it. Maybe you would have the same experience. One naturally regards the title with every scepticism - if not something stronger.

I have seen one or two official U.S. Air Force statements about "Unexplained Air Objects", which are always carefully worded and are at pains to explain that the greater part of the "sightings" are explainable as natural phenomena or on some other grounds. But the inference is that there is a percentage that are not so explainable. It is with this small minority of these things that this fellow Keyhoe deals in this book that I am sending you. It appears to be honestly written (although rather journalisticly) - and he quotes a number of Pentagon people by name - not that they endorse his theory, but they never wipe it or indeed even discount the possibility of it.

Anyhow, I think you will not be as nauseated when you read the book, as you will undoubtedly be from the look of the cover.

- And when you have read it - if you can bring yourself to do so - I'd be interested to know your reaction.

I am,

Yours sincerely,

R. G. CASEY

(R. G. CASEY).

Dr. E.G. Bowen,  
Chief of the Division of Radiophysics,  
C.S.I.R.O.,  
University Grounds,  
SYDNEY. N.S.W.

BF  $\frac{28}{12}$

RGC/EW

Treasury Gardens,  
MELBOURNE. C.2.

9th November 1954

Just a note to thank you for your letter of 27th October. I'm sending the extract from your letter dealing with "unexplained objects" to the heads of a number of our missions, under personal cover, to find if they've had any evidence or views held by responsible and informed people on this subject in the countries to which they are accredited. I've written to Officer (Paris), McClure Smith (Cairo), Copland (Canada), Crocker (New Delhi), McIntyre (London) and Walker (Tokyo) in order to get a geographical spread.

I've read one or two books on this subject and have had the official statements of the U.S.A.F., which are obviously very carefully worded. Like you I am naturally sceptical but there seems to be a proportion of the "sightings" that are not explainable on any rational hypothesis. I'll let you know if anything of interest comes out of the enquiries I have made.

I'll reply to the other principal matter in your letter as soon as I can.

In haste, with best wishes -

I am,  
Yours sincerely,

R.G.C.  
(R. G. CASEY)

His Excellency Mr. Paul McGuire, C.B.E.,  
Australian Minister to Italy,  
ROME.



FLYING SAUCERS

Same letter to Officer, McIntyre, Copland,  
McClure Smith, Walker ✓

RGC/EW

PERSONAL.

Treasury Gardens,  
MELBOURNE. C.2.

9th November 1954

Correspondence to Mr. Tange with c/s

I attach copy of extract from a personal letter to me from Paul McGuire in Rome. It all sounds rather strange and one is naturally inclined to be quite sceptical - although there seems to be some evidence that a proportion of the "unexplained objects" are in fact "unexplained" on any rational hypothesis. This is just a note to ask if you have encountered any evidence or views on this subject held by responsible and informed people in your part of the world.

R.G.C.  
✓

BF  $\frac{19}{12}$

His Excellency Mr. W.R. Crocker,  
High Commissioner for Australia,  
NEW DELHI.

I do not know what you hear of flying-saucers. Personally, I was born sceptical. But if they have no physical reality, they are certainly a political and psychological factor. The air here is filled with them or rumours of them. And both Mrs. Luce and her Air Attache profess to take them seriously. She talked them here on Thursday at lunch. On Thursday evening at a little dinner given on his birthday by the Air Attache, I sat next to her, she next to him. They went at it solidly for two hours. The three or four Italians (Foreign Ministry and Service) were pop-eyed.

Cassady, the Air Attache, says flatly that the sightings are constantly increasing and are up to 50 "unexplaineds" a week. The reports are now sufficiently consistent to establish the prime type as cigar or clipped-cigar shaped, about 70 metres long. They are recorded by various instruments, sufficiently to establish a physical object: i.e. to remove the assumption that they are all effects of atmospheric disturbances, or such. He says that two senior Air Generals of the U.S. Forces have met a saucer in flight. Mrs. Luce mentioned a third General. She says that her brother-in-law saw one closely while walking in New England, "and he hasn't been the same man since"; though he refuses to talk for publication.

Henry Luce held a conference of his editors lately to decide whether they should make an effort to knock the whole business on the head. His people said, "And how the hell do you think you can do that? There's too much evidence."

Mrs. Luce and Cassady both said that whatever is there does not belong to the U.S.A., and that no scientists could yet produce the phenomena established, or explain them.

As I said, I was born sceptical and achieve belief only by (I hope) rational processes. I am quite incompetent to judge the technical points Cassady puts. So I dismiss the question of the flying-saucers' existence.

But we cannot dismiss politically the fact that Mrs. Luce and her Attache are talking them.

Mrs. Luce and Cassady may have some political motive for lying. That I doubt. They may be deluded or misled or fanciful (that is much more likely). But, whatever the cause, the fact is that they are talking here of saucers as established or near-established realities.

May I presume to suggest that other posts might be asked whether Americans elsewhere are talking like this.

*Flying Saucers*



RECEIVED  
23 OCT 1954  
MINISTER

MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Parliament House,  
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

28th October, 1954.

*My dear Athol,*

I enquired about this in U.S.A. -  
and got the attached papers - which you  
may care to look at. I'd be glad to have  
back when seen.

Yours sincerely,

*John*

The Honourable Athol Townley, M.P.,  
Minister for Air and Civil Aviation,  
Parliament House,  
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

*Rtd. from Mr. Townley*

*File pls this 2/11*

*(File) 4-20/11*

CONFIDENTIAL

FLYING SAUCER

File  
Hm 21/10

AUSTRALIAN JOINT SERVICE STAFF

EXECUTIVE 1940  
EXT. 17

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

CONFIDENTIAL

Room 1435, Temporary "U" Building,  
12th and Constitution Avenue, N.W.

21 September 1954.

9/DEF

His Excellency,  
The Australian Ambassador,  
C/o Australian Mission to the United Nations,  
4510 Empire State Building,  
New York, N.Y.

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT PROGRAMME

With reference to the telephone conversation of Sunday evening last in which the Minister for External Affairs instructed me to arrange to obtain information relative to the above subject, I have caused enquiries to be made by the Air Attaché and I forward herewith two copies of a release by the United States Department of the Air Force. I consider this document to be most interesting and informative and am somewhat surprised that the matter has been dealt with so thoroughly and technically in an unclassified document. The Air Attaché was told that this was the latest information on the subject, classified or unclassified, issued by the United States Air Force.

2. The United States Air Force have set up a special section to deal with this matter, with headquarters at the Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio, at which reception, collation, and evaluation of sighting reports are continually going on, and I am arranging for any subsequent similar publications issued on this subject to be obtained by the Air Attaché and forwarded by him to the Air Board in Australia who, no doubt, will keep the Minister for External Affairs informed on the subject.
3. The United States Air Force have stated that these publications issued from time to time are the only ones which they are prepared to release as a result of general enquiry and have intimated that should more information be required, it would be necessary for us to forward to them a detailed questionnaire in writing setting out exactly what we wish to know, but they would give no guarantee that an answer to any individual question would be forthcoming even if it were available. Should it be considered necessary for this more detailed information to be obtained, it is suggested that the Air Board in Australia be requested to prepare a questionnaire and forward it for action to the Air Attaché. The Air Board will be better able to formulate and phrase technical questions regarding the information required and the United States Air Force, in common with other United States Services, prefer the enquiry to come on a "need to know" basis from the corresponding Service in Australia; moreover, should any question of classified material become involved, no risk is run by the method I have mentioned of violating the terms of the United States-Australia Security Agreement.

Further information

del  
23/9/54

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CONFIDENTIAL

4. You will, no doubt, be aware that the Royal Air Force have set up a similar body in the United Kingdom to investigate these phenomena.
5. I should be grateful if the enclosures to this letter could be conveyed to Mr. Casey.



(D. H. HARRIES)  
Rear Admiral,  
HEAD, AUSTRALIAN JOINT SERVICE STAFF

Enclosures (2)

CONFIDENTIAL

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
Office of Public Information  
Washington 25, D.C.

U.S. Air Force Summary of Events and Information  
Concerning the Unidentified Flying Object Program.

The Air Force feels a very definite obligation to identify and analyze things that happen in the air that may have in them menace to the United States and, because of that feeling of obligation and pursuit of that interest, the Air Force established an activity known as the Unidentified Flying Object Program.

This program was established in 1947 when unidentified flying objects were being reported in various parts of the United States. The reports of sightings reached a peak of 1,700 in 1952 and dropped to a total of 429 in 1953.

From a survey of the volume of sightings received by the Air Force, it has been determined that over 80 percent are explainable as being known objects. Generally, sighted objects fall in the category of: balloons, aircraft, astronomical bodies, atmospheric reflections, and birds. All reports of unidentified flying objects result from either radar or visual sightings.

Explanations pertaining to sightings reported from military and civilian radar facilities are as follows:

1. Temperature inversion reflections can give a return on a radar scope that is as sharp as that received from an aircraft. Speeds of these returns reportedly range from zero to fantastic rates. The "objects" also appear to move in all directions. Such sightings have resulted in many fruitless intercept efforts.

To possibly bear out the theory of temperature inversion reflection is an incident which occurred in January 1951 near Oakridge, Tennessee. Two Air Force aircraft attempted to intercept an unidentified "object" and actually established a radar "lock" on the object. Their altitude at the time was 7,000 feet. The unidentified object, according to their radar, appeared to be at an elevation of 10 to 25 degrees from this altitude. Three passes were made in an attempt to close on the object. In each instance the pilots reported that their radar led them first upward and then down toward a specific point on the ground. (One scientific theory holds that light can be similarly reflected from a layer of warm air above the earth. If this proves to be correct, many visual night sightings could be accounted for.)

2. Ionized clouds have caused some unidentified radar returns. Thunderstorms are identifiable by radar and radar returns have also been received from ice formations in the air, balloons, ground reflections, frequency interference between other radar stations, and windborn objects. Obviously, such returns are very difficult to identify, especially when they occur during darkness.

3. The radar screen has picked up birds and in one case a flock of ducks. Flight interceptions proved these phenomena.

An explanation of known types of visual sightings are as follows:

1. Present-day jet aircraft, flying at great speeds and high altitudes, are often mistaken for unknown objects by the untrained observer. Sunlight reflections from the polished surfaces of aircraft can be seen plainly even when the aircraft itself is too distant to be visible. The exhaust of jet aircraft emits a trail and often this is seen rather than the aircraft itself.

MORE

2. Weather balloons account for a substantial number of sightings. These balloons, sent to altitudes of 40,000 feet and higher, are launched from virtually every airfield in the country. They are made of rubber or polyethylene, swell as they gain altitude, have very good reflective qualities, carry small lights when launched after dark, and can be seen at very high altitudes.

3. In addition to the ordinary weather balloon, huge 90-foot balloons, which sometimes drift from coast to coast, are used for upper air research. These balloons also have a highly reflective surface and are visible at extreme altitudes.

4. Frequently, unusually bright meteors and planets will cause a flurry of reports, sometimes from relatively experienced observers. At certain times of the year, Venus, for instance, is low on the horizon and will appear to change color and move erratically due to hazy atmospheric conditions. Since the stars are charted and most of their characteristics known, many cases are traced to them. Meteors on the other hand are of rapid single-direction movement and are only visible for a few seconds. Meteor activity is more common at certain times of the year than others, and reports of UFO's have shown a tendency to increase during these periods.

5. Some cases arise which, on the basis of information received, are of a weird and peculiar nature. The objects display erratic movements and phenomenal speeds. Since maneuvers and speeds of this kind cannot be traced directly to aircraft, balloons, or known astronomical sources, it is believed that they are reflections from objects rather than being objects themselves. For example: suppose we would hold a mirror in hand under a light, causing a reflection on the ceiling. Only a slight, quick movement of the hand would result in erratic movements and phenomenal speeds of the reflected beam. Reflections may be projected to clouds and haze both from the ground and air. Many things which are common to the sky have highly reflective qualities, such as balloons, aircraft, and clouds. Accurate speeds are also difficult to determine due to the inability of the reporter to judge distance, angles, and time.

6. Brilliant flashing lights that sometimes appear red and white in color have been reported by observers. This type has been traced to a new lighting system of commercial airlines and military aircraft. Atop the tail section of these aircraft highly reflective red and white flasher type lights have been installed and are many times misinterpreted by the ground observer.

In the analysis and investigation of the radar and visual sightings described, there are some yardsticks which have been established from experience and trends to measure and attempt to determine the source of UFO's. Some of these are general in nature and are subject to change as new scientific and factual information is received. It should be remembered that any object viewed from a great distance appears to be round. Nearly all the sightings reported are described as round and would tend to indicate that most of the objects are at a greater distance from the observer than is generally estimated.

Another misconception centers about photographs of unidentified flying objects. At best the majority of photographs have proven non-conclusive as evidence to this program mainly due to type cameras used. Also, it might be mentioned that because still photographs can be so easily faked, either by using a mock-up or model against a legitimate background, or by retouching the negative, they are worthless as evidence. Innumerable objects, from ashtrays to wash basins, have been photographed while sailing through the air. Many such photos have been published without revealing the true identity of the objects.

More attention is given to moving pictures of unidentified flying objects since they are more difficult to retouch. However, only a very few movie-type films have been received by the Air Force and they reveal only pinpoints of light moving

across the sky. The Air Force has been unable to identify the source of these lights because the images are too small to analyze properly. Since ownership of these films remains with the persons taking them, the Air Force is not in a position to give them out.

The difficulty of evaluating reports of all types is based largely upon the lack of basic data surrounding the sightings. The drop in sightings during 1953 is largely due to the increased accuracy and the completeness of reports being received. To be of value, a report should include such basic data as size, shape, composition, speed, altitude, direction, and the maneuver pattern of the objects. Without such information, it is almost impossible to establish the identity of the object sighted. In addition, a recent study has shown a direct correlation between the number of sightings reported and the publicity given to "saucers" by the nation's press.

The Air Force took a further step in early 1953 by procuring Videon cameras for the purpose of photographing this phenomenon. These cameras were distributed to various military installations. This type camera has two lenses, one of which takes an ordinary photograph, and the other has a diffraction grating which separates light into its component parts. This aids in determining the composition of the object photographed. A small number of photographs have been received from this camera; however, only light spots of no detail have been indicated in the photos to date. As more photographs are taken by these observers, it is believed that a great deal of the mystery will be lifted from the program.

8 The Air Force would like to state that no evidence has been received which would tend to indicate that the United States is being observed by machines from outer space or a foreign government. No object or particle of an unknown substance has been received and no photographs of detail have been produced. The photographs on hand are, at best, only large and small blobs of light which, in most cases, are explainable.

It may be concluded from the above and from past experience that no new significant trends have developed out of these cases. There was an increase in public interest which occurred simultaneously with the publication of various books and articles on the subject; however, this trend has been noted several times previously.

In order to overcome the lack of basic data, and to standardize all reports, a detailed questionnaire is now submitted to each person reporting an unidentified aerial object. It is felt that the information thus obtained will lower still more the number of unexplained sightings.

For observers who wish to report unidentified aerial objects, the Air Force would welcome the information. Attached to this report is a brief basic summary form. It would be appreciated if observers would send the completed form to the nearest Air Force base.

If and when new developments turn up in this program, the Air Force will keep the public informed.



PLEASE SEND TO YOUR NEAREST AIR FORCE BASE

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

TIME OF SIGHTING: \_\_\_\_\_

SIZE: \_\_\_\_\_

SHAPE: \_\_\_\_\_

COMPOSITION: \_\_\_\_\_

SPEED: \_\_\_\_\_

ALTITUDE: \_\_\_\_\_

DIRECTION OF TRAVEL: \_\_\_\_\_

MANEUVER PATTERN: \_\_\_\_\_

COLOR: \_\_\_\_\_

SOUND: \_\_\_\_\_

LENGTH OF TIME OBSERVED: \_\_\_\_\_

SKY CONDITIONS: \_\_\_\_\_

VISIBILITY: \_\_\_\_\_

GROUND DIRECTION OF WIND: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME, AGE, MAILING ADDRESS OF OBSERVER: \_\_\_\_\_

REMARKS: (General description of what you saw) (use back if necessary)

EAGLE-A  
CONTRACT BOND  
COTTON CONTENT U.S.A.

Flying Saucers.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

TELEPHONE: 740.  
TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS:  
"SOLAROB," CANBERRA.

IN REPLY  
PLEASE QUOTE

NO. DFM/DM.....

COMMONWEALTH OBSERVATORY,  
MOUNT STROMLO,  
CANBERRA.

17th March, 1954.

Rt. Hon. R.G. Casey,  
Edington,  
BERWICK. VIC.

Dear Mr. Casey,

Replying to your telegram I quote D.H. Menzel,  
Professor of Astrophysics at Harvard, in his book "Flying  
Saucers" (Putnam 1953).

Of the early (1947) reports of "saucers", he says  
(p.12):-

"Most of the objects proved to be bright meteors."

Of later reports he says (p.256):-

"Most of the reported saucers are slowly moving meteors.  
The Air Force official files contain many references  
to some of the most commonplace fireballs.

Flying-saucer enthusiasts have made much of an unusual  
meteor display that occurred on 9 February 1913. A  
great procession of slowly moving meteors moved  
diagonally across the United States and Canada, from  
Saskatchewan to Bermuda (Fig. 81). It caused, as usual,  
great consternation among the superstitious. The  
records clearly show that the objects, which various  
people estimated at hundreds or thousands, were truly  
meteoric, though they moved with exceptional slowness."

For your information I should add that a "fireball"  
in this context means simply a bright meteor. The shower  
referred to (9 Feb. 1913) is undoubtedly the Aurigids. These  
appear to be slow because they are overtaking the earth in its  
travel round the sun.

I know Menzel well; also F.L. Whipple of Harvard,  
who is one of the world's leading authorities on meteors. Both  
have access to the U.S. Air Force files on saucers.

If there is any aspect of saucers and meteors on which  
you would like more detailed information I would try to get it  
for you from one or other of these two scientists.

Yours sincerely,

*D. F. Martyn*

(D.F. Martyn).

P.S. If you are interested in reading Menzel's book and  
have any trouble locating it I'd be very glad to  
post our copy to you.

*Richard*

## EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

For Mr. Casey :

### Press release on Flying Saucers.

I was not satisfied with the cable that I got back from London saying that there didn't appear to be much sense in your statement, so I forwarded a complete copy of it to Dr. Blount who is known to you and who is now No.2 in the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research.

I have just had a letter from Dr. Blount and he forwarded your statement to a man called Mr. Turney of the Directorate of Scientific Intelligence, who deals particularly in such matters. Turney replies as follows :-

"I have not previously seen the statement and I can find no trace of it or anything like it having been received in D.S.I. from one of Brookes' friends.

Mr. Casey's statement is entirely sensible, if not very original. There is no doubt whatever that meteors or meteorites account for many, perhaps most, of the reported sightings of flying saucers at night; we have ourselves had a number of excellent examples in reports received from members of the public. The apparent correlation between the sightings in Australia and periods of meteoric activity is interesting, though one is chary of accepting a correlation as significant without seeing the data on which it is based. If the figures are available I should be glad to see them; they might be useful in breaking up the waves of belief in the flying saucer myth which are occasionally generated."

Dr. Blount says if we want to get in touch with Turney, his name and address is :-

G.L. Turney, Esq., O.B.E.,  
Directorate of Scientific Intelligence,  
Ministry of Defence,  
Metropole Buildings,  
Northumberland Avenue,  
LONDON, W.C.2.

Dr. Blount adds that we might like our attention drawn to a book recently published on the same subject. It is entitled simply "Flying Saucers" and is by Donald H. Menzel, Professor of Astro Physics at Harvard. It is published in London by Putnam and Company Ltd. in 1953.

You might like to write to Turney direct if you are interested in following up the subject any further, and send him any figures. Alternatively you might wish me to forward it on for you, which of course I would be delighted to do.

I must apologise for getting you a nonsense answer from London initially and hope that the above re-establishes our faith in their commonsense.

Would you like me to get the book by Menzel?

I don't suppose one should make any mention of what Turney has to say without first getting his clearance, because he is a Public Servant who probably tries to avoid the light of day.

A.B.