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The BRITISH UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

Founded 1962

AIMS:

1. To encourage and promote unbiased scientific investigation and research into Unidentified Flying Object phenomena.
2. To collect and disseminate evidence and data relating to Unidentified Flying Objects.
3. To co-ordinate UFO Research on a nation-wide scale and co-operate with persons and organisations engaged upon similar research in all parts of the world.

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THE BUFORA JOURNAL AND BULLETIN

Volume 1 Number 12

Spring 1967

Editor : J. Cleary-Baker, Ph.D. Editorial Address : 3 Devenish Road, Weeke,
Winchester, Hants.

EDITORIAL

Students of UFO phenomena are fond of talking about 'research' but seem to do little of it in practice. Embarkation on a serious research-programme is always scheduled for some time in the future, when the means are available, or when the files are sorted, all of which means, in effect, when the cows come home !

It would be easy to ascribe this impotence to shortage of funds and lack of suitable instrumentation and there would be a measure of truth in the statement. However, if private research into UFOs has to wait upon the accession of adequate means and money, we might as well all pack up our traps and retire from the field. Such will not be forthcoming until our results in the sphere of research are of a nature calculated to excite widespread interest and support from the public at large.

Perhaps it is frustration which causes some UFO-researchers to bombard politicians with demands for the lifting of an hypothetical censorship of UFO information and the revelation of facts about the UFOs which, in all probability, Authority does not possess. This is the child badgering the all-powerful parent to display his power. Only — what if the parent is as powerless as the child, or almost so ?

Basically, self-styled UFO-researchers do not engage in research activities because they have not a shadow of an idea of how to set about it. It is easier to black-guard Officialdom, or bemoan a lack of computers, than to formulate a practical scientific programme which will be operable within the framework of their limited resources. Let us try to construct such a programme.

Racing and tearing around the countryside in pursuit of every dubious, thread-bare and casual UFO report will get nobody anywhere. The files of all major UFO-research organisations like BUFORA are bulging with good, bad and indifferent reports already. We are in the position of a would-be mariner with enough open water at his disposal to float a battleship, who, lacking the 'know-how,' is incapable of launching a row-boat ! A researcher's first qualification should be to learn how to winnow the grain from the chaff.

Clearly, it is impossible to be selective in the matter of data unless one possess the requisite knowledge of UFO phenomena as a whole. I am continually amazed and disheartened by the ignorance of self-styled researchers concerning their chosen subject. As Vallee has observed :

"The sentimental attachment for such cases as the Mantell dramatic accident or the Lubbock Lights is very evident. Clearly, the groups take it for granted that the most publicized cases are the most convincing, when even a small amount of research would have brought to light an entirely different type of reports."

Exactly ! It is all but futile to try to point out to the average UFO enthusiast — who probably has never heard of such sightings as that at Lock Raven, Maryland, on Oct. 26th 1958 — that Mantell may have been pursuing a skyhook balloon when he met his death, or that the connection between the Lubbock Lights and the UFOs, is, at best, unproven.

Another marked failing on the part of many prominent UFO-researchers is an inability to discriminate between an open-minded attitude towards UFO reports and sheer, undiluted credulity. Dr. Menzel reminds us, very pertinently :

"An open mind does not mean credulity or a suspension of the logical faculties that are man's most valuable asset."

A man may be convicted in a court of law on circumstantial evidence. The fact that evidence which tends to prove that a witness is lying, exaggerating or a victim of delusion may be circumstantial, should not deter a researcher from writing off a report when necessary. A person who comes forward with a UFO report must expect to endure a searching inquisition at the hands of investigators. It is our duty as investigators to return a verdict in accordance with the evidence. Too many 'investigators' bring to their enquiries a 'will-to-believe' which effectively prevents them from rendering a negative decision on any report, however tendentious and questionable. Such persons will write up their findings using the well-known 'Aunt Sally' technique, in which objections are set up and knocked down again and the eventual conclusion is absolutely sure to be, 'UFO'.

If, over the years, a researcher becomes convinced that UFOs are in fact alien artifacts, he should not be afraid to announce his findings, ignoring cheap sneers about, 'people with a vested interest in UFO-denizens,' whatever that may be. He should not, however, permit any other motives than scientific ones to inspire his activities, even then. If you 'know' that the UFO-denizens are extra-terrestrial supermen whose purpose in coming to Earth is to save us from the perils of the H-Bomb, what purpose is served by researching? One does not need to unearth facts if the facts are known already.

My personal view is that UFO-research is too vital an activity to be left to cranks whose only object is to bolster up preconceived notions. Some of the UFO-denizens are probably friendly towards us, or at worst neutral, having been around for a very long time. There are indications that recent years have witnessed the incursion of other and less amenable entities. However that may be — and I am conscious of the danger of over-valuing my own opinions — we cannot afford to relax while the UFO mystery remains unsolved.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 1967.

In accordance with the provisions of Article 8 (d) of the Constitution of B.U.F.O.R.A., preliminary notification is given herewith that the Annual General Meeting of the Association will be held on Saturday, October 7th., 1967, at 6 p.m., in the Kensington Central Library.

Nominations for the Offices of President and Vice-President, also Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer, and for the eight remaining seats on the National Executive Committee, should reach the Honorary Secretary, in writing, not later than Saturday, August 26th., 1967. Resolutions to be debated at the A.G.M., should also reach the Honorary Secretary by that date, for inclusion on the Agenda of the Meeting.

In the event that no rival nominations are received in respect of any of the above listed offices and seats, the members at present occupying same shall be deemed to be re-elected unopposed. An uncontested seat or office falling vacant before the A.G.M., will be filled by nomination and voting at the Meeting.

Only members of the Association in good standing, i.e. in possession of a valid membership-card, are entitled to vote at the A.G.M.

THE FLYING DISCS AND THE USSR

by Luiz Paulo PASTORINO.

(Translated from the review "Sabedoria", of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, issues of November 1966 & January 1967)

Ever since the flying discs have occupied the newspaper headlines, the Soviet Union has maintained a sceptical and complete silence on the matter. On the few occasions when it has said anything, it has only been to deny the existence of the UFOs, attributing them to mere hallucination or even to propaganda on the part of the North-Americans.

Whatever reservations were maintained about the matter, however, the fact is that the presence of UFOs in Soviet skies could not be denied. The chance observations made behind the Iron Curtain (including the countries politically subject to it) were not disclosed. Very rarely there appeared some report or other of an observation, without, however, giving sufficient details; merely recording the passage of a UFO without publishing any commentary upon it.

We got to know, for example, through the publication "Australian F.S. Review" of a news item which had appeared in the USSR and which had read: "Three discs over Moscow, admits the Soviet Air Force".

The "UFO-Nachrichten" of August 1959 declared that the Civil Radar Post at the Vnukovo Airport of Moscow revealed the observation of three flying objects in the form of discs, in the outskirts of the city. The altitude of flight was estimated at 800 metres. The Soviet Air Force determined the position of the objects and sent up jet interceptors, which failed to maintain contact with them. It was briefly mentioned that it was a matter of an "optical illusion" or "atmospheric reflection".

That communiqué is very unusual, seeing that the source of information is the USSR. On the occasion of each great "invasion" of flying discs noted in the West, mainly in the USA, the USSR published a laconic text in which it denied the existence of the flying discs. But the report published in the Australian review demonstrates one curious fact: we can observe the preoccupation of the Soviet authorities with seeking to investigate the fact by means of jets despite their denial that the UFOs exist; it is logical that this should also have occurred on various occasions in the U.S. The American military authorities are making a systematic study but publishing little or nothing about this, going so far even on some occasions as to deny the existence of the flying discs.

But in the Soviet case, they have taken the same attitude of investigating the problem because of the violation of their air space. If they failed to make contact with the strange objects; if these were not identified as being planes or weapons of a foreign power (in which case there would obviously have to be a diplomatic protest); if they could not be classified as "hallucinations" or "atmospheric reflections", what motive would the USSR have for not investigating the problem? Because it thinks the flying discs are "mere optical illusions" or even "products of American hysteria"?

We cannot accept the laconic Soviet explanation and we must not believe that there is not rigorous investigation on its part, just as there is in the U.S. and other countries. It is perforce official and owing to the Russian political system of government, the result never comes to light —

We were surprised, therefore, when in the May issue of "Flying Saucers" (published in USA by Ray Palmer) we came across an article signed by Robert Pinotti, in which he summarises the data of an Italian scientific writer, Alberto Fenoglio. In it are to be found surprising revelations concerning observations of UFOs behind the Iron Curtain. The particulars were given to him anonymously by Soviet citizens. The position of two of them is outstanding: one is a Soviet diplomat and the other a Soviet engineer. Let us see what the article says:

The USSR, with all its war preparations, atomic installations, air and missile bases, has been observed by UFOs, just as have the USA and other points of our planet. The Soviet authorities know it and are pre-occupied just as much as the Pentagon in the USA. Also the personnel of the Soviet Air Force and pilots have been confronted with great discoid objects, mysterious balls of fire and immense flying cigars in the sky and thousands of people in the towns have now observed them. The UFOs — those mysterious flying objects of unknown origin — have frequently been picked up on the radar screens behind the Iron Curtain. In the Spring of 1959 they caused alarm and near panic spread among the radar personnel and the Air Force when the discs appeared, remaining for over 24 hours, in the skies of Sverdlovsk, General Headquarters of the Missile Tactical Command.

The pilots of the Soviet Air Force have already opened fire on the flying discs, just as American, British and Canadian pilots have done.

These occurrences in the Soviet Union serve to demonstrate the great interest awakened in our world, from all angles and in all parts, by the mysterious crews of the flying discs. Although we conjecture that flying discs are present in Soviet skies, we could not guarantee this because of lack of material and the silence about the problem on the part of the authorities.

"In 1961, near Irkutsk, a machine in the form of a rocket, with four feet, was seen grounded. The machine and two of its occupants — beings from other planets — were photographed by a doctor from a nearby laboratory."

From this report we may assume the presence of members of the crew outside the machine, of crew members who, perhaps for the purpose of some investigation, were in the neighbourhood. These data coincided with many other cases which have occurred in nearly all parts of the Earth. In Brazil, for instance, we know of similar cases: the case Ararangua SC is one of them. On 18 November 1957, two workmen surprised, near their property, two UFOs which had landed there, and the presence, outside them, of their crews, who, on finding themselves surprised, ran to their machines and disappeared. Intention of investigation? Why not?

"In 1961, a little mail-plane, carrying correspondence and four passengers, disappeared when the flight-table indicated that the machine was flying over the central plain of the USSR. The plane was found, intact, two days later, near Tobelak (Siberia). Everything on board — machine, radio, luggage, etc., — was in perfect order. The tank contained fuel for two hours flying. The four on board had disappeared without trace. At a distance of 100 metres from the plane there was an immense circle 30 metres in width, in which the grass was burned and the soil disturbed. The Flying Disc had landed there."

In this unusual case, we must first observe the size and capacity of the UFO to pick up a plane. Then the care involved in returning the plane in spite of the fact that it did not return the four passengers.

An equally singular thing happened in the United States when, on 23rd November 1953, the pilot Felix Moncla and radar operator R. R. Wilson had their plane "swallowed" by an enormous UFO, a fact confirmed by the ground radar control. The witnesses of the occurrence could do nothing and to this day there has been no news of the two pilots or even of the plane. A space "kidnapping"? Where might those two pilots be now? Might they have died? . . . but, the plane? With what purpose in view was the kidnapping carried out?

The USAF tried to deny that there had been any fusion with the disc, saying that "the F.89 had simply suffered some accident and that the other "blip", the cause of the alarm, was only a Canadian DC.3 travelling off its course and inadvertently flying over American territory. This possibility was denied by the Canadian government. Besides, a DC.3 rarely exceeds 300 km/hour while the strange object was doing over 900."

(Cf. A. Simoes : Os Discos Voladores : Realidade e Fantasia, p.118).

The statements issued by the authorities, under pressure from the Press, which was anxious to know whether the "fusion" of the two "blips" had in fact occurred, were to the effect that "the operators were mistaken and did not see what they said they had seen." (idem, p.115).

We have to ask : whether there was a UFO present in the Michigan sky ; whether, a plane equipped with radar went up to investigate ; whether, while it was approaching, it was "swallowed" by the UFO, a fact verified by the ground radar operators but denied by the authorities ; where the pilot and the radar operator are ; where the plane they used is.

Auriphebo Simoes declares that the Moncla case was a repetition of the Mantell case. However, no official version of the case exists, or if it does, it has not been divulged. It is he who says that the case occurred after Ruppelt had left the USAF "Project Bluebook". His famous account of the UFOs only reached the public two years after the F.89 incident, but Ruppelt does not mention it, "even from hearsay". (idem, p.116).

Trans. by Eric Biddle.

PERSONAL COLUMN

RADIO ENTHUSIASTS URGENT. Any member of BUFORA ready, willing and capable of adjusting, repairing and maintaining radio equipment please contact Mr. Edgar Hatvany, 19 Richmond Ave., East Bedfont, Middlesex, as soon as possible. (FELtham 7405). Ex Army and other radio equipment is to be installed in our Mobile Research H.Q. at the earliest opportunity.

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ELECTRONIC DATA - PROCESSING OR PANACEA?

Malcolm Bull

Outside the field of electronic data processing there is a vast army of laymen who see the coming of the computer as a many-sided event, one facet of which is a mythical ability of the machine to do anything. Before going any further it is as well to point out that a computer is capable of doing no more (and very much less!) than a human worker — in fact, most digital computers are limited to performing three operations only — addition of data, relocation of data within itself, and simple comparison of two sets of data then following certain prescribed courses of action subsequent to these operations. The power of the computer lies in its speed, a typical operation being performed in a few millionths of a second.

It is the job of the programmer and systems analyst to produce a list of sequential operations for the computer to perform in order to execute any particular task, be it payroll calculation, designing a motorway or printing a list of prime numbers.

Quite clearly the electronic computer is an ideal tool for the study of sighting reports, but since the programmer must know the job initially there must be some idea of what is needed from the reports and how we are to study them. We cannot, of course, feed the details in and expect the machine to produce an answer on its own — we must tell it what sort of answer we want and how to arrive at that answer. Basically, therefore, we must be able to handle the analysis of reports by human means before handing the processing over to the computer.

Thus, before thinking of accessing a computer we should devise a method of analysing the data in order to produce the most useful, indicative and valuable results. The chief reason for considerable pre-planning and analysis is the high cost of computer time, for if we are to spend many pounds on an hour's use of the machine this time should be spent as wisely and fruitfully as possible.

In the Second Number of the BUFORA Journal the author wrote an article outlining two statistical tests which would form good foundations for an analysis of the type which would be both useful to the ufo-researcher and practicable on the computer. I do not pretend that the two methods described there are the only (or even the best) tests which might be exercised in the present field, but they do offer a basis of study.

Much of the analysis yet done in the subject could be better achieved by means of punched cards and a sorting machine. This machine could produce details such as the number of green objects seen in Cambridge in the period 1950-60, by sorting out cards relating to sightings falling into all three categories. The use of a computer to produce such results would be quicker and much more expensive, but, in the author's opinion, quite unnecessary. The power of the computer opens the door for much more extensive investigation.

The punching of data into cards is a major problem, and those sightings already on file would take several weeks to transfer to punched cards. Even before we strive for this stage the difficulty of standardisation of sighting details should be studied(1).

No doubt there are other programmers and systems analysts amongst the members of BUFORA who have their own ideas about analysis of sighting reports, and it is essential that these should combine their talents for the present problem —

if not to go to the stage of writing the program, at least to investigate the best method to achieve the best results. If there are any interested persons I should be pleased to hear of them, their ideas and suggestions with a view to producing a report on a workable scheme for the analysis of ufo-sighting reports by electronic data processing methods.

Reference : (1). W. T. Powers : Some Preliminary Thoughts on Data Processing
F.S.R. Vol. 12 No. 4 Page 21.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Elm Dene,
253, Huddersfield Road,
Halifax,
Yorkshire.

18th. January, 1967.

The Editor,
B.U.F.O.R.A., Journal,
Sir,

Several members of the Association have made adverse comments about the 1966 Annual General Meeting. While we feel that many of these were unjustified, there is no doubt that there is room for improvement. As a branch we have discussed the following proposals and hope that they will serve as a basis for comment from other members.

Suggestions for future Annual General Meetings

- (1) That the A.G.M. be held as an extra meeting in the annual programme. This would make it possible to hold it earlier — say in mid October.
- (2) The whole of the meeting be for members only and the Association bear the cost, no charge need be made, except perhaps for the refreshments.
- (3) The business to include reports by ALL SECTIONS of the Association with an opportunity for members to ask questions and offer criticism.
- (4) That an item be included in the agenda for policy and general discussion. Members have had very little chance in the past few years to influence policy. The last opportunity for this type of discussion was at the Birmingham meeting three years ago.
- (5) That there be no extra speakers.

In the past few years the business of the A.G.M. has had to be rushed because of the second meeting. This has meant that people wishing to speak have not been able to do so.

Any speakers who may have been invited to the A.G.M. could be included in the programme of the Annual Conference.

Yours etc.,
T. WHITAKER
Hon. Sec.,
Halifax Branch of BUFORA

I couldn't agree more with Mr. Whitaker! — Editor.

NOTES & QUOTES

UFO 'OUT IN THE '45?'

I am indebted to a BUFORA member, Mr. S. E. Priest of Southall, for the following extract from page 335 of John Prebble's book, 'Culloden': 'In August 1748, before the Town Council of Aberdeen, eleven men and women swore to the truth of a vision which they said they had seen in a valley five miles to the west of the City. On the fifth of that month, at two o'clock in the afternoon, they saw three globes of light in the sky above, which they first took to be weather-galls but which increased in brilliance until twelve tall men in clean and bright attire crossed the valley.' Then followed an account of a vision of the Battle of Culloden, in which the Highland Army turned the tables on the redcoats. (Culloden was fought in 1746, i.e. two years earlier).

MORE VANISHING AIRCRAFT.

In a letter from a valued lady-correspondent in Florida, Mrs. Helen G. Hartmann, dated January 18th., the following paragraph occurs: 'As I am typing this, the news programme is on the T.V. Three planes have disappeared: one en route from Puerto Rico to the Nassau area, one in the western Caribbean and one over the Florida Keys. No trace has been found but the search continues. It does begin to sound familiar, doesn't it?' Indeed it does! A great deal of time and money has been used up in attempts to discover the cause of the repeated losses of aircraft in this haunted area. Perhaps, with the more open-minded attitude towards the UFO mystery gaining ground in scientific and official circles, an answer may be sought along what is, to us, a familiar track.

"CONTACTS & "OPERATORS".

In a recent issue of his 'SBEDV BOLETIM', the well-known and respected UFO-researcher Dr. W. Buhler, of Brazil, charges: 'Renowned research personnel, for example Peter Norris, (Australia), Richard Hall, (Washington), Cleary-Baker, (BUFORA), are still pronouncedly against the discussion, in the open, of contacts.' I am not in a position to speak for Mr. Hall or Mr. Norris and I lay no claim to renown in this or any other field of scientific enquiry, but I have to state that Dr. Buhler quite misunderstands my position. A contact claim devoid of the usual elements of fraud and/or self-delusion will always receive my closest attention. I have a file of ample proportions on "operator" reports. If I write little on the latter it is because I feel that there is not yet evidence enough to aspire to reach firm conclusions. Our subject is too cluttered with vague speculations and aëry-fairy hypotheses as things are — I have no wish to add to the confusion.

THAT PETITION!

BUFORA is attacked in a letter reproduced in the Isle-of-Wight Society's, 'UFOLOG,' on the ground that it has declined to support the so-called 'National Petition' for the release of UFO information to the public, which is sponsored by the Midland Interplanetary Society, now renamed, I understand, N.I.C.A.P. — G.B. Certainly this Association will not support the Petition officially, for reasons made plain in my Editorial in the Autumn 1966 issue of this 'Journal.' However, it is untrue to suggest that BUFORA has ever sought to prevent any of its members who may wish to do so from supporting the Petition as individuals.

'GUS THE GREMLIN STRIKES AGAIN !

He has done it again ! 'Gus, BUFORA's own resident little green man, has been sitting on my shoulder as I typed, or on the shoulder of the compositor when the last issue of the 'Journal' was being set up in type — I don't know which. Suffice it to observe that the mischievous little has transposed a couple of figures so that a quotation from John Evelyn's Diary appears dated for 1964 instead of 1694. Gremlins ! Eugh !

BUFORA MOBILE HEADQUARTERS.

At the time of writing, (28th. February), a suitable vehicle has been purchased and Mr. Arnold West is in process of fitting it up for use. This has been a cherished dream of mine since LUFORA days and I am glad that I was able to interest Mr. West in assisting me to implement it. There is still need for contributions, in the shape of cash or items of equipment, to enable the vehicle to be got on the road as soon as possible.

SUGGESTION FOR SKY-WATCHERS.

Learn the constellations. If the course of a suspected UFO is plotted against the starry background by several groups of observers at posts many miles apart, parallax will probably cause the object to be seen at different distances from bright stars as it passes them, as viewed from each vantage point. These discrepancies, plus a long baseline, may enable useful data to be gleaned. Nothing useful can be accomplished by scores of persons herding together at one point. That is why most skywatches so far undertaken have proved to be abortive.

AS OTHERS SEE US !

A researcher at the University of California's School of Criminology, Berkeley, after spending three years as a member of various UFO clubs, has issued a report in which he alleges that 'flying saucer enthusiasts' are often elderly, in poor mental and physical health, have low levels of formal education and often come from a lower middle-class background. One day, perhaps, a report will be issued on 'researchers' who are arrogant, self-complacent, too-clever-by-half and treacherous towards those who accept them as friends and colleagues.

GHOSTS & UFOs.

A letter in 'Woman,' issue of 31.12.1966, gives an account of a vision seen three years running near Otterburn in Northumberland, being the apparition of a crowd of ragged soldiers and perhaps having a connection with the Battle of Otterburn, fought near the scene of the vision in 1388. On all three occasions, the engine of the witness's taxi died. This is reminiscent of the behaviour of automobile engines in the vicinity of UFOs. Perhaps the soldiers were not 'ghosts' but actual men, viewed through some sort of 'warp-in-time.' If so, my idea that time may sometimes be involved in UFO operations, as well as space, receives a crumb of confirmation.

J. C-B.

EINSTEIN AND THE UNIFIED FIELD THEORY

by John Crabtree

After the recent Congress, during which the Cambridge Group came, perhaps for the first time, into close contact with members of BUFORA, I should like to clear up one misconception that seems to be widely held in the Association.

Of course, a Unified Field Theory would be very beautiful and useful. At the end of the first stage of the Scientific Revolution at the turn of the century, it also seemed that this might well be the answer to the problems of Physics. However, it is important to realise that this attitude was fostered more by allegiance to the old regime of things rather than by any genuine physical insight. To understand the state of affairs fully, we must go back and review the ideas of the "Classical" physicists.

At the end of the 19th century, the atmosphere of any science department was one of complacency. Basically, all the real work of discovering had been done, and now all that was left to do was tie up one or two loose ends. No-one really expected anything to go drastically wrong — after all, everything had been explained in such reasonable intuitive terms. What else could atoms be, but hard bouncy spheres; and of course the Universal Gravitation Theory and Maxwell's unified theory of Electricity and Magnetism covered everything so plausibly that there could not possibly be any doubt about the validity of the basic assumptions that led up to these conclusions or could there?

Planck and Einstein were very soon to bring the whole splendid edifice toppling to the ground. The theories were correct in most ways, but it was the tiny subtle fringes that exposed the underlying structure. No more could anyone postulate any basic "Unified Theory" because the tiny flaws which might occur were now known to lie just beyond the power of the instruments of the time. So they built bigger and better instruments, and since that day things have gone from bad to worse. Far from finally resolving the inconsistent points and constructing the Unified Theory at last, scientists found more and more that did not agree with their theories: more and more to lead away from any Unified Theory. And so, today we find ourselves with a vast accumulation of uncorrelated phenomena, enough to keep all our physicists busy for a long time to come before any hope of a Unified Theory could be entertained.

From a different angle, the mathematicians, philosophers and cosmologists have examined the problem of a "Unified Theory of Matter" in detail. Initially, Einstein conceived the idea and wasted a large proportion of his life trying UNSUCCESSFULLY to prove it. This can be construed as a hang-over from the old 19th century attitude. As the implications of Relativity and Quantum Theory were further investigated at the beginning of this century, it gradually became obvious that in the context of this new step forward in mathematical thinking, the Unified Field Theory had no place, and was indeed a mere anachronism. Unfortunately for the layman, this advance also involved the final and irrevocable step away from "Common Sense" into the realm of mathematics. The old theory had suffered too long from the fetters of having to appeal to the common man. In order to go ahead, it had to take this final step and cut itself off from the limited understanding of most ordinary men.

Of course there are always sceptics, and there will always be men who cling stolidly to their mechanical preconceptions. In my opinion, the attitude of a man who says "I cannot grasp relativity, so it must be wrong" is pronouncing on the same lines as a monkey, which seeing a car go by, says to itself "I do not understand how that car goes along: therefore it does not go along! So, now it is time to shoot down this misconception. THERE IS NO UNIFIED FIELD THEORY, linking electromagnetism, and gravity, and no immediate prospect of one. Further, cosmologists believe that such a thing is probably impossible anyhow. So, when the professionals who comprise many of the greatest brains in the world have tried and failed, it is highly unlikely that any man in the street may justifiably say "I know better". Let us therefore hope that we shall cease to hear those odious words, and turn to more fruitful and honest speculation.

EDITORIAL COMMENT :

BUFORA JOURNAL is a forum for all points of view within the Association. I have, therefore, no hesitation in printing John Crabtree's article, although I disagree strongly with much that it contains.

Classical Physics, with its conception of atoms as ball-like particles acted upon by forces, provided little basis for any Unified Field Theory, in that it enshrined an invincible idea of a duality of Force and Matter. Einstein's work on the Unified Field Theory was designed to bridge the gap between Relativity and the Quantum Theory, or, in other words, to link gravitational with electromagnetic forces by resolving both into manifestations of a more basic underlying reality.

It is well known that Einstein failed to construct a satisfactory Unified Field Theory but it by no means follows from this that his efforts were wasted. The work of astronomers on developing the heliocentric conception of the solar system was not wasted because no conclusive proof of the conception was obtained between the time of Copernicus and the first measurements of stellar parallax in the early 19th.-Century.

Even less does it follow that the failure of present-day Science to construct a Unified Field Theory means that no such Theory is possible. To maintain the contrary is to fall into the attitude of complacency which John Crabtree condemns in the scientists of the late 19th.-Century. As for Physics having cut itself off from, "the limited understanding of ordinary men," one recalls the pithy description which the late Wilbert Smith applied to much of the scientific theory of our day. He called it, "a mathematical monstrosity!" Wilbert Smith was a scientist himself and he may not have been wholly wrong.

J. C-B.

BOOK REVIEWS

At the modest price of 6/-, a paperback edition of Mrs. Coral Lorenzen's classic, 'The Great Flying Saucer Hoax,' is now on sale at the bookstalls. It is issued in the U.K. by The New English Library, Ltd., Barnard's Inn, Holborn, London, E.C.1., with the title, 'Flying Saucers — The Startling Evidence of the Invasion from Outer Space.' Highly recommended.

J. C-B.

"UFOs AROUND THE WORLD."

Edited by Ed. J. Babcock &
 Timothy Green Beckley,
 15 Tyndall Road,
 Kendall Park,
 New Jersey, 08824,
 U.S.A.

This is a mimeographed publication with an Introduction by Colman Von Keviczky, formerly of the United Nations Secretariat. Other contributors include Professor Oberth, Jacques Vallee and Frank Edwards.

Every contribution is of interest to the UFO-researcher and if I do not attempt to summarise the contents of the book it is because space limitations preclude comment on the wide variety of topics involved.

A pity that 'UFOs AROUND THE WORLD' could not have been printed. Let us hope that we may eventually see it reissued in a format worthy of the contents and contributors.

J. C-B.

**"THE REFERENCE FOR OUTSTANDING
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UFO Information Retrieval Centre Inc.,
 P.O. Box 57,
 Riderwood/Maryland, 21139,
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A very valuable contribution indeed to UFO literature. Thomas M. Olsen has collected 160 outstanding UFO reports as originally published. A numerical value of reliability is formulated for each case: the reports are presented in chronological order and cross-indexed by date, geographical location and source.

Highly recommended as an invaluable addition to the bookshelf of the serious researcher.

J. C-B.

"OTHER WORLDS THAN OURS." by C. Maxwell Cade

Published by the Museum Press, Ltd.,
 39 Parker Street,
 London, W.C.2.

Price 30/-

The author has produced a lively and readable introduction to the problem of life on other worlds and one which covers a great deal of ground. There are chapters on the evolution of stars and planets and on Radio Astronomy and a fascinating discussion of robotic 'intelligence' and potentialities.

I do not share Mr. Maxwell Cade's predilection for Bug-Eyed Monsters as extra-terrestrial denizens. Life is adaptable only within certain limits. The higher one ascends in the scale of being, the narrower the range of adaptability becomes. If life has evolved elsewhere in the universe, it is reasonable to assume that it will have done so in conditions basically similar to terrestrial ones and through a correspondingly similar ladder of forms.

Chapter Nine, 'Folklore & Flying Saucers,' makes rather puzzling reading. After making common cause with the late Dr. C. G. Jung in a defence of the 'Royal Art' of Astrology, Mr. Maxwell Cade goes on to write in much more hesitating fashion concerning UFOs. He does not, in my opinion, discriminate sufficiently between the scientific study of UFO phenomena and the crankeries which have bedevilled that study.

Notwithstanding occasional obscurities and a tendency to indulge in too-sweeping generalities on the basis of inadequate evidence, the book is well worth a perusal and I recommend it to readers of the 'JOURNAL.'

J. C-B.

"PIECE FOR A JIGSAW." by Leonard G. Cramp.

Published by the Somerton Publishing Co. Ltd.,
Newport Road, Somerton,
Cowes, Isle-of-Wight.
Price 27/6

More than twelve years have elapsed since BUFORA's Vice-President first made his mark in the field of UFO-research with the publication of his first book, 'Space, Gravity & The Flying Saucer.' This new publication is timely in that Mr. Cramp's work has recently come under fire from various quarters, in the main, no doubt, because of the scientific retreat, during the last decade, from the conception of a Unified Field Theory, following the late Albert Einstein's failure to construct such a Theory successfully.

Critics may still cavil at Mr. Cramp's theories and at his continued championship of Antony Avenel's, 'Unity of Creation,' Theory. This book should at least convince them that they have an opponent worthy of their steel. It is a detailed exposition, complete with mathematical demonstrations, of the author's conception of UFO propulsion in terms of 'Anti-Gravity.'

The salient fact which impresses itself upon the mind after perusing the book is that Mr. Cramp's theories FIT THE FACTS OF OBSERVATION very well indeed. This, in itself, may prove nothing. At anyrate, it ought to preclude a summary dismissal of the work as running counter to current scientific ideas. An accepted idea is of no value if it does not conform with the facts of observation. An heterodox approach may be of value if it does fit them. Too many scientific men, nowadays, seem to favour Procrustean tactics in that they have a habit of trying to mutilate fact in order to cause it to conform with theory, instead of *vice versa* which is true scientific method.

I wish that Mr. Cramp had devoted a little space to the colour changes associated with UFOs. These are dealt with in Plantier's, 'La Propulsion des soucoupes volantes par action directe sur l'atome.' It could have been wished, indeed, that the author had devoted a little space to a comparison of his theories with those of Plantier and Oberth, which run along similar lines.

I find myself wishing that Mr. Cramp had omitted the last chapter of his book, 'Vindication of a Scout Ship,' which is simply an attempt to demonstrate that the celebrated Adamski "three balls" saucer is technically conceivable within the framework of the ideas which he has advanced. For my own part, neither the Adamski photographs nor Mr. Cramp's 'orthographic projections' designed to establish their authenticity have ever carried much conviction to my mind. (I am, incidentally, the 'learned gentleman with a mental block,' who receives a rather severe handling in this section of the book, albeit my basic reservations on the subject of Adamski have nothing to do with the aero-dynamic qualifications, or lack of them, manifested in his 'avuncular' pattern of flying-saucer).

These are minor criticisms. The Vice-President has produced a remarkable book which has taught me a number of things I did not know before. It is very well produced and a bargain at the price.

J. C-B.

ASSOCIATION JOTTINGS

THE JUNE 24th. SKYWATCH.

In the face of renewed criticisms I hold to my statement published in the Autumn '66 issue of this 'Journal.' 'BUFORA National Skywatch Day' is a perfectly apt description of an event organised on a Nation-wide scale by the Association on the date in question. It represents, of course, our contribution to what has come to be designated in some quarters, 'International Skywatch Day.' Silly and malicious suggestions that BUFORA has some sinister intention of 'hogging' for itself the worldwide publicity attendant upon the anniversary of Kenneth Arnold's famous sighting, lead me to wonder whether we have to do with serious UFO-researchers or hysterical schoolgirls. Girls! No scratching if you please!

CRITICISMS — FAIR & UNFAIR.

It will be a sorry day for BUFORA if ever its elected representatives shy away from legitimate and constructive criticism. It is greatly to be regretted, however, that spokesmen of the Member-Societies occasionally assail us, or permit outsiders to do so through the medium of their publications, before consulting the National Executive Committee and ascertaining the true state of affairs in the matter scheduled for comment. The fact is that none of the Member-Societies make full use of the rights and privileges which they possess and which are set out in the BUFORA Constitution. It must be observed that the affiliation-fee for a Member-Society is nominal almost to the point of being farcical. Also that the Constitution guarantees a Member-Society against interference in its internal administration by BUFORA's Committee. Surely it is reasonable to tolerate a similar autonomy on the part of the Committee in the management of the Central Organisation, in that BUFORA is a society in its own right as well as the pivot of the complex of Member-Societies?

WHO CAN JOIN BUFORA?

Mr. John Harney, Editor of 'MUFORG BULLETIN,' suggests that any group or society can affiliate with the Association on payment of the small fee laid down in the Constitution. This is incorrect. Groups have been refused admission and a recommendation of an adverse nature by the National Advisory Council would almost certainly be adopted and acted upon by the Committee. An individual applicant would not normally be refused membership unless he or she was known to advocate opinions concerning UFOs directly at variance with the Association's Aims.

CREDULITY VERSUS CONVICTION.

An assumption that 'UFO-denizens' exist may be a product of credulity. It may, however, be a conviction arising out of years of study of the UFO phenomenon. Naturally, some individuals convince easily and others require an almost impossibly high standard of proof. Given that an investigator has become convinced that the UFOs are alien craft, I do not think he can be blamed for basing his future activities upon that premise. One cannot remain forever on Square One!

NEW VOLUME — NEW LOOK !

The Association has now been in existence for nearly three-and-a-half years in its present form and this is the twelfth and last issue of the first Volume of the 'JOURNAL.' Let us hope that we shall be able to make further and more rapid progress in the years ahead. For all its faults and flaws, BUFORA has brought into UFO-research in this Country a greater measure of unity than any of which researchers elsewhere can boast. Critics should bear this in mind before they take up the brickbats !

J. C-B.

UFO ACTIVITY IN BRAZIL DURING 1965

(Extracted from, 'BULLETIN UFO AMATEURS, S.B.E.S.D.V.',
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Bulletins Nos. 48 to 50)

Jan. 8th Campinas (Sao Paulo state) Two luminous balls encircled by blue rings.

July 2nd 8.30 a.m. Vila Protazio Alves (state of Porto Alegre) On "A" Avenue, No. 49, was observed a silvery metallic ball, twinkling, very fast, with a luminous trail. (DIARIO DE NOTICIAS, of Porto Alegre, 4th August).

July 7th at 21.00. Sarandi (R.G. do Sul). Jorge Geisel observes an FS manoeuvring. (DIARIO DE NOTICAS, 9th July).

July 15th at 11.30. Santa Ana (Sao Paulo). An object with luminous ray observed in telescope. (DIARIO DE NOTICIAS, 17th July).

July 19th at 16.00. Pirapora (Minas Gerais) Marcio Maya Bijo (student at Sao Agostinho College, Belo Horizonte), descending the Sao Francisco river in a canoe, sees an object in the sky motionless for 4 minutes, which later ascends at fantastic speed. (DIARIO DE MINAS, 4th August.)

July 19th at 20.00. Carazin ho (R. G. Sul). Adilon Oliveira, an adolescent, sees two FS resting on the ground and five members of the crews. (JORNAL DO BRASIL, 4th August).

July 21st at 19.30. Conzonhas (Airport of Sao Paulo) A FS detected by the military radar at an altitude of 1 to 1.5 kms, speed 70 km.p.h., was observed with the naked eye by A. Reytzel. A Viscount received the order to fly over the spot. (DIARIO DE PERNAMBUCO, 23rd July.)

July 21st at 21.15. Prudentopolis. (Paraná state) Roberto T. Roth saw a brilliant object passing noiselessly at great speed from East to West. (ESTADO DE SAO PAULO, of 30th July.)

July 22nd at 00.15. Conzonhas (Airport of Sao Paulo). FS observed by military radar. (DIARIO DE NOTICAS, 23rd July.)

July 24th 21.35. to 22.00. Icaraí (state of Niteroi). FS observed from Icaraí, flying in the direction of Cristo Redemptor, making brief halts now and again. Observation lasting half an hour. (O GLOBO DO RIO, 26th July.)

July 25th L.Machado (Guanabara) Round yellow object, flying slowly. (DIARIO DE NOTICIAS DE PERNAMBUCO, 28th July)

July 27th Guarerapes. (Airport of Recife). Dark green saucer, motionless for a minute, then orange, then departs towards Ibura. (DIARIO DE PERNAMBUCO, 28th July).

July 27th Braz at Sao Paulo. A blue, red and yellow object which, climbing, descended and stopped. (DIARIO DE NOTICIAS, Pernambuco, 28th July).

July 27th Brasilia Above installations of the SHEEL at Brasilia, a luminous FS remained for some minutes, at a height of 200 metres. (CORREIO BRASILIENSO, 28th July).

July 27th Belo Horizonte. Ulvio B. Alexo observes a whitish light, which goes out and comes on again with a greenish colour. (O DIARIO of Belo Horizonte, 28th July.)

July 30th at 16.30. Penha. (Guanabara). Carlos Rodriguez Amenick, 1040, Avenida Braz de Pina, sees a white light, more intense than a star.

July 31st at 06.00. Anapolis. Bizarre object describing circles and disappearing. (CORREIO BRASILIENSE, 1st August.)

July 31st at 16.00. Jaragua (Sao Paulo) Luminous object observed by several persons. (DIARIO DE SAO PAULO, 1st August.)

July 31st Tijuca (Gb) Very luminous round object observed on the water. (DIARIO DE NOTICIAS, Porto Alegre, 31st July.)

July 31st ? A round object, of different colours, motionless at 100 metres from the ground, later rises rapidly to a great height, disappearing in the direction of Guaranja. (O GLOBO, 3rd August.)

August 1st at 8.30. Gramado (R. G. Sul) Hans Shapp sees a large luminous object, "like a closed fan", with luminous rays now red, now orange. (DIARIO DE NOTICIAS, Porto Alegre, 3rd August.)

August 1st at 1500 to 16.00. Drinhos (Sao Paulo) Genesio Souza, 635, rua Narcissio Migliarte, sees an object in the form of a plate accompanying a plane of the VASP, on its way to Prudente. (FOLHA DE SAO PAULO, 2nd Aug.)

August 1st or 2nd 20.30 to 20.50. Torres (R. G. Sul) Observation of an object moving at great speed, with a luminous trail. (DIARIO DE NOTICIAS, Porto Alegre, 3rd August.)

August 2nd at 6.15. Rio de Janeiro Manoel Alves and Elton Alves see an object red, greenish, twinkling, performing various evolutions. (DIARIO DA NOITE, Sao Paulo, 2nd August.)

August 2nd at 8.30. Lagoa Vermelha. (R. G. do Sul) Frei Humberto de Fernando da Cunha sees an object with wing and tail (? Delta), which is not a plane. (O JORNAL, 3rd August.)

August 2nd at 09.00. Sapxiranga (Porto Alegre) Joaquim Shell, rua Bugues de Caxias 95, sees a round object with the colours of the rainbow, at great height, N.-S. direction, reversed at 180°. (CORREIO DO POVO, Porto Alegre, 2nd August.)

August 2nd (morning) Igrejinkas (R. G. Sul) A policeman (René Gomes) sees a FS at 500 metres. Diameter 5 m. Throws out blinding rays. (DIARIO DE NOTICIAS, Porto Alegre, 3rd August.)

August 3rd at 07.30. Tujuca (Gb) Observation lasting ten minutes of a round object in the form of a plate, in slow flight, of strange luminosity, low altitude. (JORNAL DO BRASIL, 4th August.)

August 3rd Astorca (N. Paraná) Ivona Oliveira and Osmarina Parecida see 18 FS in the form of a triangle, guided by a larger silvery object with greenish light emanating from the upper part, performing evolutions over the city. (ESTADO DE SAO PAULO, 3rd August.)

August 3rd Vittoria (Minas Gerais) Above the Mochca hill in the town, evolutions of a FS with a powerful light varying between yellow and blue, which hurt the eyes of observers. (JORNAL Estado de Minas, 5th August.)

August 4th at 17.30. Brasilia (Minas Gerais) Commandant Cecchi and Sr Ogar, on board an AVRO plane see a FS observed also by the Control Tower. A round object, luminous, which also flies over Taguatinha. A GACETA of Sao Paulo, 8th August.)

August 4th at 22.00. Cachoeira do Sul (R. G. Sul) At Trapux Joao Erondo dos Santos, from his garden, at 30 m. from the house, sees a FS 50 m. in diameter descend. An impact is heard, as if it had touched the ground but no trace remained on the soil. It soon rises again. Wide area of the ground lit up. (JORNAL DO DIA, Porto Alegre, 5th August.)

Between 1st & 7th August at 12.00. Curitiba A silvery machine, with bluish crossings. (O JORNAL, 8th August.)

Between 1st & 7th August Maccio (State) Joaquim Texeira sees a FS silvery, with a "headlight" of brilliant colours. (O JORNAL of 8th August and CORREIO BRASILIENSE of 10th August.)

Between 1st & 7th August Uressanga (Sta Caterina) Some flying spheres with trails of green flames are observed by several persons at 400 metres in vertical flight. (A GACETA, Sao Paulo, 8th August.)

Between 1st & 7th August Campina Grande (Paraíba do Norte) Luminous machine with lights going from dark green to orange observed flying at high speed by Dr Gilvan Barbosa and the lawyer Evandro Cunha Lima (DIARIO DE PERNAMBUCO, 8th August.)

Between 1st & 14th August Bairro Paraiso dos Barbeiros (Belo Horizonte) The student Humberto Araujo da Silva nearly bumped with his car into a FS resting on the road. Type similar to that of Father Gil in New Guinea. (DIARIO DE MINAS, 14th August.)

August 7th Amparo (Friburgo, state of Rio) Municipal Councillor Celso Fley sees two FS with cones on the upper part. Colour : orange. Altitude : 2 kms. (ULTIMA HORA, Rio, 12th August.)

August 10th 02.30 to 04.30. Tejipio (State of Pernambuco) Edi Robeiro and some inhabitants of Rua Falcao de Lacerda see 3 FS turning and

descending (for a period of 2 hours), with variable colours — dark green, red, light blue. (DIARIO DE PERNAMBUCO, 11th August.)

August 11th Araguari (Trieng) Minas. The Director of the D.A.M. at Gioania, Edesio Daher, sees a FS "with wings which were retracted at times." (O JORNAL, 12th August.)

August 11th Maracãna (Gb) A luminous FS flies over the region of Maracãno. (O DIA, 12th August.)

August 12th Central do Brasil (Gb) Observation of a motionless luminous object, which later went off at high speed. (O DIA, 13th August.)

August 15th Bairro Cascadura (Gb) From the Rua Itamurați an object in the form of a plate was seen to perform evolutions for the space of 8 minutes. (ULTIMA HORA, Sao Paulo, 16th August.)

August 16th at night Vila Madeiro (S.P.) The policeman Joao Batista Goncalves observes the evolutions of a FS over the town. The FS later headed southwards. (ULTIMA HORA, Sao Paulo, 2nd ed. 17th August.)

August 19th Bairro Tamamarinheira (State of Recife) Hundreds of people saw a luminous round object, motionless at a height of 1000 metres, with an intense light of changing colours. The object subsequently performed some evolutions and finally gained height in a zigzag fashion. Observed for 12 minutes. (DIARIO DE PERNAMBUCO, 20th August.)

August 23rd Niteroi Joao Abud, juridical councillor of the Secretariate of the Interior and of Justice at Rio, sees a FS of considerable dimensions, with rays of a red colour. (O FLUMINENSE, 26th August.)

August 30th Bairro Engenho do Meio (Recife) An intensely brilliant object moves from side to side, disappearing over the horizon. (DIARIO DE PERNAMBUCO, 1st September.)

September 2nd at 05.50. Sorocabana (Sao Pailo) Circle of light descending "obliquely" while losing speed. DIARIO DE SAO APULO 3rd Sept.)

September ? at 04.40 Sao Paulo Mario de Lurdes Tomazini sees with fear in the Rua Ministro Firmino Whitcacker an enormous yellow FS motionless over the State Bank building and calls his brother (ULTIMA HORA, Sao Paulo, 2nd edition.)

(To be continued)

REGIONAL INFORMATION OFFICERS

All details of recent UFO sightings from whatsoever source they may arise should be sent immediately to the Area Information Officers listed here. Local investigations may then be possible while the incidents are fresh in the minds of witnesses. An immediate telephone call to Information Officer concerned or to Central Information Office, London, (cost refunded) is recommended.

Cumberland, Durham, Northumberland, North Riding of Yorkshire : Tyneside UFO Society : W. D. Muir, 72 Greystoke Avenue, Jesmond, Newcastle-upon-Tyne 2. Tel : Day : Gosforth 5-7111 Ext. 679. Evening & night : J.L. Otley : Newcastle 3-8025

Lancashire, Wirral Peninsula (Cheshire), Isle of Man, Anglesey, North Wales: Merseyside UFO Research Group : R. Donnelly, 2 Buckfast Close, Liverpool 10. Tel : John Harney, Eastham 2146.

Cheshire, Derbyshire, Staffordshire, Leicestershire : Direct Investigation Group on Aerial Phenomena : A. Tomlinson, 24 Bent Fold Drive, Unsworth, Bury. Tel : Whitefield 4560 ; (or Tel : Mrs. J. Nelstrop : Bramhall 4802.)

Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire, East & West Ridings of Yorkshire : Halifax Branch : J. M. Stear, 2 High Park Crescent, Heaton, Bradford 9. Tel : Bradford 41842.

North-east half of Gloucestershire, Herefordshire, Shropshire, Worcestershire, Wales south of and including Cardiganshire & Montgomeryshire : Cheltenham Flying Saucer Group : A. R. Cole, Ellesmere, 7 Okua Rd., Charlton Kings, Glos. Tel : J. Whitaker : Cheltenham 53864.

Warwickshire: Stratford-on Avon UFO Group : J. D. Llewellyn, 63 Masons Rd., Stratford-on-Avon, Warwickshire.

Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Huntingdonshire, Norfolk, Northamptonshire, Rutland, Suffolk : Cambridge University Group for the Investigation of UFOs : Easter term : 20th April to 10th June : A. C. H. Durham, Clare College, Cambridge. Vacations : J. A. Popple, 10 Kingsmead Road, Waterbeach, Cambs. Tel : (all year round) Waterbeach 660 or (day) : Cambridge 55691.

Oxfordshire : Oxford University UFOs Study Group : R. N. Ball, Wadham College, Oxford.

Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, South-western half of Gloucestershire, Somerset, Wiltshire : British Flying Saucer Bureau : G.F.N. Knewstubb, A.M.Brit.I.R.E., A.Inst.E., 27 Station Road, Shirehampton, Bristol. Tel : Avonmouth 2288.

Hampshire, Isle of Wight : Isle of Wight UFO Investigation Society : Mrs. K. Smith, 'Ringlemere', Colwell Rd., Colwell Bay, I.O.W. Tel : Freshwater 2435

Surrey : Croydon UFO Research & Investigation Society : H. Roberts, 47 Brigstock Rd., Thornton Heath, Surrey. Tel : THOrnton Heath 8480.

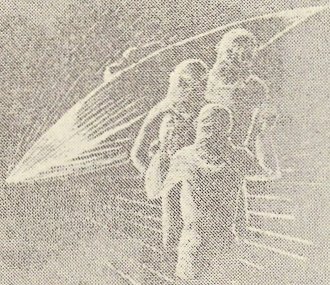
Scotland : Scottish UFO Research Society : Glen Chandler, 11 Lismore Crescent, Edinburgh 8. Tel : Abbeyhill 3025.

Northern Ireland : T. Thompson, 23 Mountainvale Rd., Newtownabbey, Co. Antrim.

London, Essex, Hertfordshire, Kent, Middlesex, Sussex, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire : Central Information Office : Ken Rogers, 1 Vicar's Moor Lane, Winchmore Hill, London, N.21. Tel : LABurnum 2482 : Personal enquiries answered 8.30 - 10.30 a.m. & 8.00 - 10.30 p.m. weekdays ; reports taken at all times. (alternative : Tel : E. Hatvany, Felton 7405.)

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