

Today's Weather: Sun and clouds. High near 70. Winds south 10 mph. Tonight, cloudy. Low in mid 50s. Tomorrow, cloudy and warm, possibly rain. High in the low 70s.

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J. ANTONIO HUNEUS / SCIENCE FRONTIERS

Is Reagan's Preoccupation With an 'Alien Invasion' of the Earth Just Rhetoric?

First in a two-part series.

Ronald Reagan is the first president of the United States to talk about the possibility of an alien invasion from outer space. He has done so not once or twice but in at least three speeches to date.

The President first disclosed this interest in "an alien threat" during a December 4, 1985 speech at the Fallston High School in Maryland, where he spoke about his first summit with Soviet General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev.

According to a White House transcript, the president remarked that during his 5-hour private discussions with Gorbachev, he asked him to consider "how easy his task and mine might be in these meetings that we held if suddenly there was a threat to this world from some other species from another planet outside in the universe. We'd forget all the little local differences that we have between our countries..."

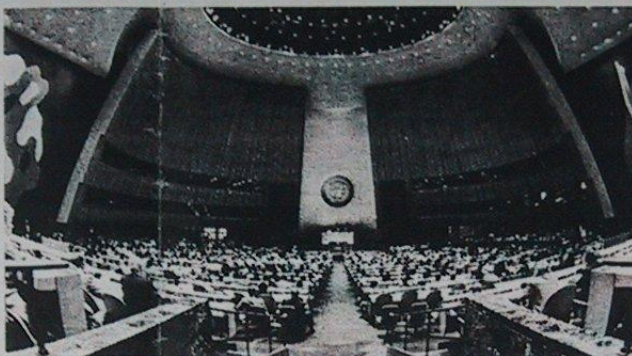
Except for one headline or two, people didn't pay much attention. Not then and not later, when Gorbachev himself confirmed the conversation in Geneva during an important speech on February 16, 1987, in the Grand Kremlin Palace in Moscow, to the Central Committee of the USSR's Communist Party. Not exactly a high school in Maryland! There, buried on page 7A of the *Soviet Life Supplement*, was the following statement:

"At our meeting in Geneva, the U.S. President said that if the earth faced an invasion by extraterrestrials, the United States and the Soviet Union would join forces to repel such an invasion. I shall not dispute the hypothesis, though I think it's early yet to worry about such an intrusion..." Notice that the General Secretary doesn't say this is an incredible proposition, he just says that it's early to worry about it.

If Gorbachev elevated the theme from a high school to the Kremlin, President Reagan upped the stakes again by including the "alien threat" not in a domestic speech, but in a full session of the General Assembly of the United Nations. Towards the end of his speech to the 42nd session on September 21, 1987, the President said, "in our obsession with antagonisms of the moment, we often forget how much unites all the members of humanity. Perhaps we need some outside, universal threat to make us recognize this common bond."

"I occasionally think," continued President Reagan, "how quickly our differences worldwide would vanish if we were facing an alien threat from outside this world. And yet, I ask, is not an alien force already among us?" The president now tries to retreat from the last bold statement by posing a second question: "What could be more alien to the universal aspirations of our peoples than war and the threat of war?"

Unlike the off-the-cuff remarks to the Fallston High School, we must assume that the president's speech to the General Assembly was written very carefully and likewise, it merits some close examination. I am afraid I



PRESIDENT REAGAN SPOKE OF AN 'ALIEN INVASION' here at the 42nd General Assembly of the U.N. Reagan rhetorically asked whether there is "an alien force already among us."

must disagree with the president when after telling us about a possible "alien force among us" he adds that war and the threat of war are alien to the people's universal aspiration for peace. Sure, war may be alien to peace, but both war and peace have existed since the dawn of mankind, and are not at all alien!

President Reagan has told us that he thinks often about this issue, yet nobody seems to be paying attention. These days, the media seems to be more concerned about Nancy Reagan's interest in astrology. When the President mentioned last week in Chicago for the third time the possibility of a threat by "a power from another planet," the media quickly dubbed it the "space invaders" speech, relegating it to a sidebar in the astrology flap. The remark was made in the question and answer period following a speech to the National Strategy Forum in Chicago last May 4, where Reagan adopted a more conciliatory tone towards the Soviet Union.

"I've often wondered," the president said once again, "what if all of us in the world discovered that we were threatened by an outer — a power from outer space, from another planet?" And then he emphasized his theme that this would erase all the differences, and that the "citizens of the world" would "come together to fight that particular threat..." Earlier on, when he was addressing Soviet-American relations, the president said that "go on with a better relationship between the countries — that is absolutely essential." This acquires perhaps a deeper meaning when seen under the light of all the president's previous statements about an alien

threat becoming a catalyst for world unity.

There is still a fourth, unofficial, similar quote from Ronald Reagan about this particular subject about which he really seems to like pondering over. This was reported in the *New Republic* by senior editor Fred Barnes. The article described a luncheon in the White House between President Reagan and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze during the Foreign Minister's visit to Washington to sign the INF Treaty on September 15, 1987. "Near the end of his lunch with Shevardnadze," wrote Barnes, "Reagan wondered aloud what would happen if the world faced an alien threat from outer space. Don't you think the United States and the Soviet Union would be together?" he asked. Shevardnadze said yes, absolutely. "And we wouldn't need our defense ministers to meet," he added."

So the President thinks a lot about this and nobody seems to care. Well, almost nobody. For one man in particular, these statements are like music to his ears.

Colman von Keviczky has been convinced for over 20 years that the earth is indeed facing a potential alien invasion. He is a retired major with the Royal Hungarian Army, who was employed by the United Nations in the mid-60s and later became an internationally known

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UFO researcher and lecturer. He has collected all kinds of official military documents from many countries on what he calls "the UFO Galactic Forces" and has written countless memorandums and letters to the United Nations, the U.S. Congress, and many other institutions trying to prove his point.

Von Keviczky's latest opus magnum are four thick "Dossiers" citing 140 "Classic [UFO] Cases," accompanied by 300 declassified documents anywhere from the Pentagon to the Soviet Academy of Sciences. The "Dossiers" were mailed earlier this year to UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar, the U.N. Outer Space Division, and about 60 Missions of the most important nations. Copies of the documentation can be obtained from von Keviczky's organization in Queens, ICUFON (Inter-Continental UFO Network).

The major points out that President Reagan's remarks are very similar to what was seen, in 1955 and 1962, as two cryptic statements made by General Douglas MacArthur. The first appeared in *The NY Times* Oct. 8, 1955, on the occasion of a press conference at the Waldorf-Astoria by Naples mayor Achille Lauro after a meeting with MacArthur. Lauro was a close associate of the General and acted as his spokesman. Lauro said that MacArthur "believes that because of the developments of science all the countries on earth will have to unite to survive and to make a common front against attack by people from other planets."

Then, in his famous farewell speech to the West Point Academy on May 12, 1962, Gen. MacArthur told the Corps they were facing "a new world — a world of change... of ultimate conflict between a united human race and the sinister forces of some other planetary galaxy."

The Reagan, Gorbachev, and MacArthur speeches are only a tiny fraction of the strange UFO collection of disturbing incidents regarding "UFO invasion" amassed by von Keviczky over the years. In this series' second part, we'll review that documentation to see if there is any real substance to this "alien invasion" President Reagan is talking so much about.

J. Antonio Huneus is a freelance science writer who has written frequently for publications in North and South America.