M.P.'s NEAR-GAFFE (OR HOW A CAT PEEPED OUT OF THE BAG)

"Mr. Harold Wilkinson, Tory Member of Parliament for Woking, was asked at a public meeting at Frimley last week: *'Why is the Government trying to hush up the sightings of flying saucers?'*

The question came from an elderly woman sitting in the front row of a packed village hall. She added: *'Whenever these visitors from Space are sighted, newspapers and television are ordered not to report the fact. Why is the public not kept informed?'*

Mr. Watkinson, who resigned as Minister of Defence in last year's Cabinet reshuffle, replied: *'Before I left the Ministry, I had to sign a large number of papers promising never to reveal certain facts I had learned as Minister of Defence. The subject of flying saucers may be included.'"*

From the files of the *Camberley News* of March 15, 1963.

MAIL BAG

Correspondence is invited from our readers, but they are asked to keep their letters short. Unless letters give the sender's fullname and address (not necessarily for publication) they cannot be considered. The Editor would like to remind correspondents that it is not always possible to acknowledge every letter personally, so he takes this opportunity of thanking all who write to him.

The Salzburg Conference

Dear Sir, — I would like to point out that the *First UPIAR Colloquium on Human Sciences and UFO Phenomena*, held at Salzburg from July 26 to 29 of this year, has clearly demonstrated that there is a growing interest in the psychology and parapsychology of the UFO Phenomenon. At the same time, however, its physical aspects are well recognised and by no means neglected.

Yours sincerely,
Luis Schönherr
Geyrstrasse 55
A-6020 Innsbruck,
Tyrol,
Austria
August 16, 1982

[Readers will find an account elsewhere in this issue of reports that the U.S. Government may be waking up to the enormous importance of Parapsychology and may plan to allocate funds for work in this field. Needless to say, in the USSR, Parapsychology (like Defence and Military Equipment!) seems for a long time past to have been high on the priorities list as far as funding is concerned. — ED.]

Nottingham UFO Society

Dear Sir, — As you and many of your readers are aware, the Nottingham UFO Investigation Society have been, and are still, involved in the investigation of a large number of possible UFO sightings which took place in the early hours of August 31st 1980, around the Ashbourne area of Derbyshire. The UFOIN report file number for this case is 8009.

As yet, despite two years of intensive research, we have still not found an answer to this case, and it remains on file as unidentified. To try to bring this case to a satisfactory conclusion one way or another, we wish to recruit the assistance of your readers, in so much as we would like to obtain details of *any* UFO reports from *any* location in the United Kingdom, with particular emphasis on the west and north west areas, during the time period from 20.00 hours on the 30th of August 1980 to 04.00 on 31st August 1980.

It is hoped that in the interests of scientific research, individuals and organizations will make this information available, free of charge, although we are prepared, if required, to pay for photo-copying of reports and postage.

Any available information should be sent to me, S. W. Henley, Investigations Officer, 443 Meadow Lane, Nottingham NG2 3GB.

Yours sincerely,
S. W. Henley,
July 24, 1982

Exploding Soviet satellites

Dear Sir, — Soviet ocean reconnaissance satellites have occasionally exploded mysteriously. A search of records by Nicholas Johnson shows that one such explosion occurred over Peru before dawn on May 17, 1977 (at 05.17 a.m. local time) as the satellite Kosmos-838 orbited from north to south. No other explosions occurred over populated regions at night. Nobody knows why they happen.

QUESTION: are there any 'UFO reports' from Peru for that morning, May 17, 1977, which could provide a visual description of the mysterious violent break-up of the Soviet satellite?

The precise point of disintegration was 75°W, 09°S, and the satellite's

motion azimuth was about 150 (East of South). Its altitude was 438 kms., velocity 8 km./sec., launch date: July 2, 1976, from Tyuratam; UN Registry Code 1976-63A. Considering its motion, it might have been visible in Bolivia, Chile, and Argentina as well.

Shall be grateful if you will please check your files for possible sightings of this Space event.

James Oberg,
Rt. 2 Box 350,
Dickinson, Texas 77539
May 25, 1982

The Marian Apparitions

Dear Sir, — I wonder what Ann Druffel means (FSR 27/3) by 'genuine Marian apparitions'? Does she mean that the *real* Virgin Mary *really* appeared? This is of course compatible with Catholic teaching (Mary having been assumed bodily into Heaven when she died, there's nothing to stop her returning in the body if she chooses), but it begs the question, how to distinguish between genuine and non-genuine appearances. Lie-detector tests would not be easy to apply, and any Dark Force capable of simulating a BVM sighting would have the know-how to buck them anyway.

I wonder, too, does Ms Druffel suggest that it is exclusively the genuine apparitions which yield 'beneficial results'; might not non-genuine visions prove equally efficacious, on the placebo principle? Medieval theologians had a hard time explaining how it was that some witches undoubtedly produced beneficial results such as cures: they managed the trick by alleging that Satan starts by doing good in order to win our confidence, after which he's got us in his clutches and can do what evil he chooses. So Ms Druffell shouldn't let herself be fooled: those short-term beneficial results could be a smoke-screen for long-term malevolence.

The series of articles by G. Cornu currently appearing in LDLN irrefutably demonstrate a correlation between Marian apparitions, solar phenomena, and UFOs. Thus, there was a dramatic increase in Marian visions in 1947, precisely when UFO reports abruptly escalated. Cornu, it's true, doesn't distinguish between genuine and non-genuine apparitions, but it would certainly seem that either (1) who/whatever is responsible for the UFO phenomenon must also take blame/credit for the Marian visions, or (2) the visions are Heaven's counter-measure to UFO activity, UFOs being (as many believe) instruments employed by the Dark Forces as part of the massive arms build-up for the Final Battle of Armageddon.

All this threatens to lure us into the paranoid quicksands of ufology in which so many worthy ufologists have already foundered; yet the basic facts are solid enough. It is the attempt to interpret them in terms of a closed belief-system which is dangerous. Assertions as to what God can or can't do (eg Ms Druffel's assertion that 'he has no need for amusement') are harmless conjectures in themselves, but they can lead to a dogmatic attitude of mind which seeks to force the UFO into this or that traditional scenario. The history of ufology is littered with such attempts, but just as the UFO out-manoeuvres any terrestrial aircraft, the UFO phenomenon dodges any attempt to pin it down within any existing belief-structure.

Yours sincerely,
Hilary Evans,
11 Granville Park,
London SE13
November 27, 1981

The Druffel-Kaneko Debate

Dear Sir, — For the sake of those FSR readers who may have tired of the Kaneko-Druffel controversy in past issues of "Mail Bag" column, I'll try to make this brief. It is interesting that an exchange of letters on a "controversial" subject often results in the participants' views pulling closer together.

Mr. Kaneko charges that I have never studied the Fatima affair and its apparent ufological aspects. I've read about this situation since 1944, and in the current ENCYCLOPEDIA OF UFOs by Ron Story (available from Compendium Books who advertise in the frontispiece of every FSR issue), I wrote the article about Fatima in that encyclopedia. My thinking on the Fatima affair concurs in many respects with Mr. Kaneko's.

Also Compendium Books offers for sale THE TUJUNGA CANYON CONTACTS, a book which discusses the joint ufological/paraphysical factors in a group of South California close encounters and so-called "abductions". I co-authored the book with D. Scott Rogo. Mr. Kaneko's idea of a "Paraphysical Intelligence" concurs closely with many ideas set forth in that book.

I would refer him also to the MUFON UFO JOURNAL, published by MUFON, 103 Oldtowne Road, Seguin, TX 78155. My monthly column in that journal is anything but "parochial and conventional".

Regarding his comments on the AF-CIA joint research on 50-55 computer-analyzed photos of UFOs in flight (none of which have been released to the public), it is entirely possible, as Mr. Kaneko suggests, that these "craft" were photographed in a temporarily physical state, but are not extraterrestrial as we commonly think of the term. The majority of UFOs *do* seem to fall into the class of "temporarily physical", though I think we must *logically* leave room for the possibility that some UFOs exist in our own space-time as we ourselves do, for this would be necessary to explain the crashed saucers and frozen alien bodies which seem to be secreted in the US government private storehouses.

The main difference between us seems to be that Mr. Kaneko has convictions that a neutral Paraphysical Intelligence is responsible for all UFO manifestations. I feel that the omniscient, omnipotent Being which we in the Western World call God is ultimately the Cause of all phenomenon, UFO or otherwise, but that there are many orders of beings in the scale of creation between Man and God, just as there are many orders of beings between man and inanimate objects. Some of these creatures, superior to ourselves by reason of being less material and more paraphysical, seem to be involved in the UFO phenomenon.

All researchers cannot think exactly the same about a mystery as involved and shrouded as UFOs. Mr. Kaneko is entitled to his opinions, as I am entitled to mine. We are all searching for the truth. I appreciate the chance to correspond with Mr. Kaneko via this column, for it is only by extended conversation that we can see we are all objectively seeking answers, and that the eventual conclusions will probably encompass all our ideas in some way which is not yet fully understood.

With best regards,
Ann Druffel,
257 Sycamore Glen,
Pasadena, CA 91105 USA
August 21, 1982

The Claims of Herr Meier

Dear Sir, — In your Bookshelf No. 14 (FSR Vol. 27, No. 6) you mention *The Meier Incident* by Kal K. Korff of Ground Saucer Watch, and state "Meier's American supporters who originally accepted his wild stories and cleverly faked pictures and are now seen wriggling about trying to unhook themselves." This claim is not supported by facts! Indeed, only recently I met these American supporters, mainly Lt. Col. Wendelle C. Stevens, Thomas K. Welch, Lee J. Elders and his wife Brit Nilsson-Elders. Far from trying to unhook themselves, they arrived here with a movie crew from Hollywood, and they shot a film about Billy Meier.

I also understand they went to Court against Ground Saucer Watch and won their case.

Another recent visitor to Billy Meier was Shirley Maclaine whose new book, *Out on a Limb,* will hit the bookshops in January. I'm sure she will mention her visit and give her opinion about this case.

I have just finished reading a very interesting book entitled *The Prophecies of Pope John XXIII* (original version is *Le Profezie di Papa Giovanni,* by Pier Carpi) which contains the following sensational prophecy — especially if we consider that it dates from the year 1935:-

"The signs are increasing. The lights in the sky appear red, blue and green, rapidly. They will grow. Someone comes from afar and wants to meet the people of Earth. Meetings have already taken place. But those who really saw, remained silent."

Undoubtedly many hoaxers have entered the UFO field, but in view of the above prophecy, I think that among the many hoaxers there may also be a few genuine ones.

Sincerely yours,
Frank B. Stuckert,
Allenbergstrasse,
CH-8712 Staefa,
Switzerland

Grave Doubts about Retrievals of the Third Kind

Dear Sir, — I am very skeptical of Leonard H. Stringfield's allegations about "Retrievals of the Third Kind" (FSR 28-1) for the following reasons:

1) Within our Solar System, the Earth is the only life-bearing planet.

2) Any visits by extraterrestrials coming from other star systems by means of *crashable nuts-and-bolts* spacecraft are precluded not only by Einstein's theory of relativity but also by the impossibility of their ever identifying our Sun among the 250 billion stars that compose the Milky Way galaxy.

3) The UFO phenomenon is worldwide. How come then the alleged UFO crashes have occurred exclusively in or near the United States? What about the rest of the world?

4) If the crashes were indeed real, then the US would have made immeasurable advances in science and technology by studying the crashed UFOs and their dead occupants. The US would then have achieved such overwhelming superiority in all fields over the USSR and the rest of the world that US foreign policy would be entirely different. For instance, the US would not be wasting its time on SALT talks with the USSR.

5) By the very nature of his job, the US President has access to all top-secret information, including any alleged UFO crashes. How then can one explain the patently absurd fact that, in 1977, Jimmy Carter officially requested NASA to activate UFO research? NASA, of course, refused.

6) There is nothing to substantiate the anonymous death threats which L. H. Stringfield claims to have received after delivering his MUFON paper. After all, he is still alive.

7) There is nothing to prove that his "sources" are reliable or even real. It is easy to make them "vanish without a trace", if they never existed in the first place.

8) If his "sources" are indeed real, then he must have been fooled by a grand hoax staged by the US authorities or the UFO phenomenon itself — something akin to the notorious Ummo affair.

Yours sincerely,
Julian H. Kaneko,
18, rue Le Corbusier,
CH-1208 Geneva, Switzerland
September 3, 1982

[Who says the alleged UFO retrievals "have occurred exclusively in or near the United States"? — ED]

Gerald Light

Dear Sir, — Your footnote "13" in *FSR* v 27 4 is incorrect in listing Gerald Light as a "prominent" American. Beyond this one famous letter, originally printed by the Borderland Science Research Associates, nothing is known of Mr. Light. BSRA is a fairly far out group, even by Adamski standards, receiving messages from the "Inner Council" since 1946 through (principally) trance medium Mark Probert. [*Flying Saucer Pilgrimage* by Bryant and Helen Reeve devotes chapters 17 & 18 to the group].

Given Ike's subsequent medical history, a reasonable explanation for "vanishing" would be a slight heart irregularity. Mr. Light's letter is printed — apparently in full — on pages 116-118 of *The Roswell Incident.* You will note that the luminaries are given a scrutiny of "six hours" *after* arriving at the base. This is not the way it's done.

And especially not to Cardinal McIntyre!

There is only room to briefly note how unfortunate it is that the Soviet material is available only through a tabloid lens.

Yours truly,
William H. Banks,
3616 Emerson St., No. 6,
Oakland, Ca. 94610, USA
June 22, 1982

[It looks very much as though ALL material about UFOs is only available nowadays in the USA "through a tabloid lens", because the allegedly more reputable and bigger papers have stopped printing anything on the subject! Maybe Mr. Banks can get this state of affairs altered? Meanwhile FSR, as a forum of discussion, will continue to seek as much ventilation of our subject as possible by publishing UFO reports from as wide an area as possible. It is up to readers to produce their proof that what is said by a tabloid is necessarily any falser than what is said elsewhere. — EDITOR]

World round-up

of news and comment about recent sightings

England

Clent Hills, West Midlands.

At 12.45 p.m. on Sunday, May 30, 1982 a thirteen-year-old schoolboy, Michael Jones, observed a strange diamond- or lozenge-shaped object moving steadily westwards over the Clent Hills, "at about twice their height" (hills are over 1,000 ft. high). Using binoculars he was able to see that its shape resembled "two casserole dishes joined together, the top one silver, the bottom one red". He could not estimate its speed or its distance, but thought it might be about 10 ft. thick and between 20 and 30 ft. long. It was a very warm, clear day, with no wind. He detected no sound from it. The most extraordinary feature of it was that the object was spinning, "moving in various directions as if on a spindle". It gave the impression of being solid, metallic. Total viewing time: a little over two or three minutes.

Credit to percipient Michael Jones and investigator Raymond E. Cox (BUFORA) who visited him and compiled the report.

Canada

La Presse (Quebec, French Canada) of July 24, 1982, reported that Stéphane Lebeau, aged 16, and Michel Cousineau and another youth and a 25-year-old woman named Denise Labre had seen a UFO, as big as a large helicopter, hanging silently or flying around at a height of 200 ft. above a nearby field at 2.00 a.m., at Sainte-Dorothée, near Laval. The object was projecting a powerful beam of white light down on to the field, and it bore all around its edges coloured lights which, flashing in sequence, gave the impression that it was rotating. After emitting a dull sound it then vanished from sight behind buildings.

Shortly after returning to their tent, the youths heard strange sounds which they described as "electronic beeps". Going out again and sweeping the maize field with a pocket torch, they caught sight of a face. François Cousineau then arrived with a more powerful spotlight, with the aid of which an entity was seen again. Said Stéphane Lebeau: "It was five or six feet high, with a huge brown head, and orange eyes, bigger than ours". Movement was heard in the maize, and what seemed like a sudden whirlwind enveloped them in dust. The whole party were seized simultaneously with stomach pains and fled into the house which was close by. Denise Labre, who works at night on ambulances, confirmed to the press that the youths were white with terror.

Credit: R.W.J. Anstee, Montreal.

Sweden

According to a report in the autumn of 1980 in the Swedish newspaper *Norrländska Social-Demokraten,* on the night of September 5/6, 1980, two fishermen were out in their boat off Likskär and Sandöklubben (Luleå Archipelago, at top of the Gulf of Bothnia, north-eastern Sweden) when a huge glowing sphere appeared and appeared to land at Klubbviken after flying around in the sky over their boat a number of times. They spoke of seeing a row of glowing windows. Subsequently they found huge tracks on the beach at Klubbviken, like the tracks of a caterpillar tractor, but the strange part about it was that these tracks began suddenly in the sand and ended suddenly, (as might be expected of something that had come down there from the sky and taken off again). The fishermen said a small piece of rock fell in their boat and Swedish geological authorities have ruled that it is of volcanic origin.

Credit: Ake Franzén of Skärholmen, Sweden.

Maine, USA

"Killer UFO prowls sky above terrorized farming community."

Under this headline the *Weekly World News* (August 2, 1982) published in California, carries an article by Joe Berger about events allegedly occurring in a hilly, lightly populated rural area around Starks, in Somerset County, Maine, (far N.E. of the U.S.A.). Bud Hendsbee, aged 54, a veteran member of the police force, claimed a UFO "as big as a house and ablaze with blinding lights" had forced his pickup truck off a hill, and said the thing had been hanging around in that area for months past. He said: "Whatever it was, it was the most incredible thing I have ever seen. It made damn sure we didn't get over that hill! It hovered there in the air and beamed a light at us that was so bright it lit up the whole hill. Every tme we started up the hill, it came right at us and drove us back. It was something I hope I never run into again."

Hendsbee, a Somerset County sheriff's deputy for 23 years, was driving home with his wife from a restaurant when they saw the terrifying craft. "When we came to this hill on Route 43, we saw this glaring ball of light hanging there, very still, in mid-air. The beam came through our windshield so bright we could barely see. Three times we tried to go over that hill, and every time it wouldn't let us by. It was about as high as the top of a power-pole, but the light was so tremendous that we could not make out the actual object itself. Finally, we managed to turn around and head for home another way — and, believe me — we were happy to get out of there."

Somerset County Sheriff Bill Wright said he was certain that Bud Hendsbee and his wife Helen were telling the truth about their encounter. He said: "I know these people too well, and I know they'd never make up a story like that — I wouldn't even consider the possibility. Bud doesn't drink, won't touch a drop of it, and he's too old to smoke wacky weed, so I'm sure what he said happened really did happen. We've been getting reports like this for some time now."

A few hours later, Kimberley Landry, a 24-year old nurse and mother of two, died when her speeding car crashed off the road in the same area into heavy trees. Investigators believe a UFO may have been pursuing her, for otherwise why on earth would she have been wearing sunglasses in the dead of night? The dead woman knew the road well and

had not been drinking.

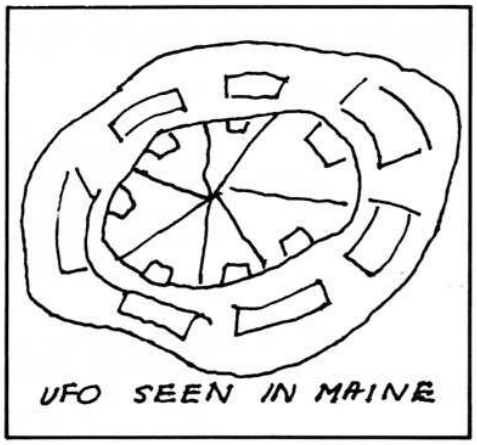
According to Robert Gribble of the National UFO Reporting Centre (Seattle), for months past encounters with UFOs have been frequent in the hilly, sparsely settled areas of Maine. Lloyd Haggart, an electronics engineer and member of the Paranormal Phenomena Research Group agreed and said: "The practical data and the technical data all seem to indicate that these are legitimate UFO sightings".

An ironworker, Kenos Henry, says that the terrifying UFO has zoomed so often over his home that he is now too frightened to stay in it after dark. "The thing just doesn't want to leave me alone, and it has my dog scared to death," said Kenos, aged 26. "One night it came right over my house so close that I felt like I could almost reach out and touch it. It was big, and looked like two half-spheres with bright lights that seemed to stretch up and down. Those lights had a silver centre, and as it got real close I could see it also had spinning red and blue lights. I ran to my car and got out of there and never looked back. I know people are going to say that I'm nuts, but I'm not crazy, and I wasn't drunk. I know that thing was there."

Three other young adults — Arti Corrieri, Mike Daigle, and Lisa Preble, all residents of Starks, Maine, also encountered the mysterious phenomenon near the very spot where the Hendsbees had their ordeal. Said Mike Daigle, a 25-year-old sawmill worker: "Its lights were terrifying, and it wasn't going to let us up that hill — and I have no idea why! We were shaking in our boots when that unbelievable beam of light focused on us. We left in a hurry, because, whatever it was, it wasn't playing around."

One woman resident of the small town said that almost the entire population of the place had seen the bizarre craft, but that many are reluctant to talk about their hair-raising experiences. "They are afraid they will be ridiculed," she said.

Credit: Gerald Garces, of Rialto, Calif., who expresses much anxiety about this report and links it with the Brazilian report (FSR Vol.27, No.5, page 5) that four hunters had been killed by UFOs.



Comment.

This is the sketch made by one of the young witnesses in Maine, as reproduced in the newspaper quoted from above. It may be thought somewhat reminiscent of the drawing by the Brazilian bank official Filomeno Bida de Oliveira after he had had a particularly nasty experience with one of these things which came and hovered about 50 metres above his head when he was on a fishing expedition in the State of Minas Geraes on August 17, 1965. (See *Mysterious Physiological Effects of Flying Saucers,* in FSR Vol.13, No.4).

Incidentally it may be of interest to some readers to know that Starks is not so very far from the spot where, on the night of September 19, 1961, Barney and Betty Hill had *their* little frolic. (With a team from Plesetsk, no doubt.) Like FSR reader Gerald Garces, I have no great predilection for UFOs, judging by what I have learnt about them so far. So, for Mr. Garces' sake, and for the sake of all the good folk of Maine, I only hope that the gentlemen from CSICOP are right. If CSICOP are right, the next time something unpleasant turns up over Maine the people there will be able to sleep on peacefully in the blissful knowledge that it is only those pesky Soviets from Plesetsk at it again. – G.C.

Japan

The *Daily Yomiuri* (English-language paper in Tokyo), August 5, 1982, carried an AFP report from Jakarta that a retired Indonesian Air Force pilot had seen two "flying saucers" hovering over the Galungung Volcano in Western Java on the night of July 22, 1982.

The pilot, Lt. Col. J. Sumarsono (ret.), aged 66, told the daily paper *Terbit* that he saw the two radiant reddish-yellow objects in the evening, coming in at a fast speed from the direction of Jakarta. They hovered for about ten minutes over the Galungung Volcano (which is still active) before disappearing rapidly.

As he watched the two objects from his home at Bandung, he said large numbers of other people also came out of their homes and observed them.

Credit: Y.J. Matsumura, CBA International, Japan.

Tibet

According to a UPI report from Peking in the *Sunday Sun-Times* (Chicago ?) for September 13, 1981, Chinese officials believed a UFO seen over Tibet on July 24 of that year might have been identical with one seen a few hours later above San Diego, half way around the world.

Said a Chinese Xinhua News Agency report of August 5 from Washington:– "The observation of the identical UFO on the opposite side of the Earth on the same day provides a clue for exploring the UFO Puzzle". The report went on to say that a bright object surrounded by a ring of blue-white light had been seen over Tibet some 11 days earlier. The light of the object was said to be of variable brightness, dimming and then flaring up again. The Chinese agency quoted the UFO Education Center (sic) in Valley City, Calif., as reporting that an American technician witnessed a similar object on the same night. "It was round or slightly egg-shaped in the centre, with well-defined Saturn-like rings", he was quoted as saying. "The ring closest to the craft was an intense blue-white, something like hot metal".

The Chinese said the two reports from the two locations, Tibet and USA, "were similar in terms of shape, colour of the light, estimated diameter of the rings, sound, and duration of the observation".

Credit: Pierre G. Rothstein, Skokie, Illinois, USA.