

# RELEASE OF FURTHER OFFICIAL SPANISH DOCUMENTS ON UFOs

*Juan José Benítez*

Translation from the Spanish by Gordon Creighton

ON the question of UFOs, a subject still controversial and productive of much dispute, many of our scientists have given their verdict. It is a negative one. We, who investigate the subject in depth, are always flabbergasted when we listen to, or read about, personalities and authorities of the scientific world who deny the existence of UFOs because, quite simply, "there are no proofs..."

Recently, in the course of a round table discussion held in the Institute of Civil Engineers in Madrid, university professor Sanchez Tarifa declared that "...all the alleged proofs of the reality of UFOs are false, and there exists not one single piece of proof of them, as has been verified by NASA after an exhaustive study of more than 12,000 cases."

If that professor would read the report of the enquiry conducted by the famous "Condon Commission" and not the report by NASA, he would realize the "more than considerable" blunder that he has committed in making such a statement...

For in the said Condon Report, precisely through the massive total of proofs assembled in it, the reality of the UFOs is already demonstrated.

But, leaving aside those hundreds of thousands of pieces of testimony that have been recorded throughout the world since the 1940s, I would like to cite another chapter, one that is almost entirely unknown to the public at large and, naturally, also unknown to a large proportion of the Official Scientists. I refer to the documents and files held by the Governments of many countries, especially their Air Forces.

## "Confidential"

Obviously, well nigh all of these official reports bear the stamp "confidential", or "top secret", or "restricted." And they are regarded as military secrets.

The journalist and investigator who is the author of these lines has been one of the few and privileged civilians, having been able to hold in his hands so many as 14 official files from the Air Force. To put it more concretely, from the *Spanish* Air Force. The first twelve files were handed to me in person on October 20, 1976 in the old Air Ministry building in Madrid. The other two files came to me in the closing weeks of 1978 and also from the hands of a senior general.

When you read and analyze these files, which total

almost 300 folio pages, it becomes definitely and categorically clear that the UFOs exist and, quite evidently, are a matter of the deepest concern to the Governments of the whole planet.

But, since we are endeavouring to produce some proofs, let us just take a look and judge for ourselves from one of these exhaustive reports, wherein the eyewitnesses offer not the tiniest shadow of doubt. It is no longer — as our hypercritics allege — a question of statements from "poor uneducated peasants and shepherds." In this case the eyewitnesses are military and civilian aircraft pilots and the entire crew of a vessel of our fleet, all of whom observed a large UFO over the Atlantic. Until now, this official file — like many others lodged in the innermost recesses of the archives of the Armed Forces — had been considered "confidential."

Conscious of their grave responsibility, the Spanish Armed Forces have now commenced a gradual but steady process of revealing everything pertaining to this subject.

## Over 70 folio pages

The file consists of over 70 folio pages containing maps, diagrams, and sketches, relating to the appearance of a gigantic spherical UFO over the sea.

The report was compiled in the Headquarters of the Canary Islands Air Force Zone, and bears the official number 02/76. At the foot of the report appears the signature of the Comandante Juez Informador (official reporting judge title of the Commandant of the Canary Islands Air Force Zone).

## The facts

As we learn from the file, at about 1905 hours on November 19, 1976, the crew of a military aircraft of the Spanish Air Force, the crew of another aircraft owned by the Spantax Company, plus the entire crew of the naval training vessel *Juan Sebastian Elcano*, watched a tremendous circular object descending slowly over the waters of the Atlantic Ocean in an area to the west of the Canary Islands.

The sighting lasted until 1925 hours, and was observed not only by the crews of the two aircraft and the naval vessel referred to above, but also by many other eyewitnesses among the civilian population of the Canary Islands.

However, in line with the criteria at present

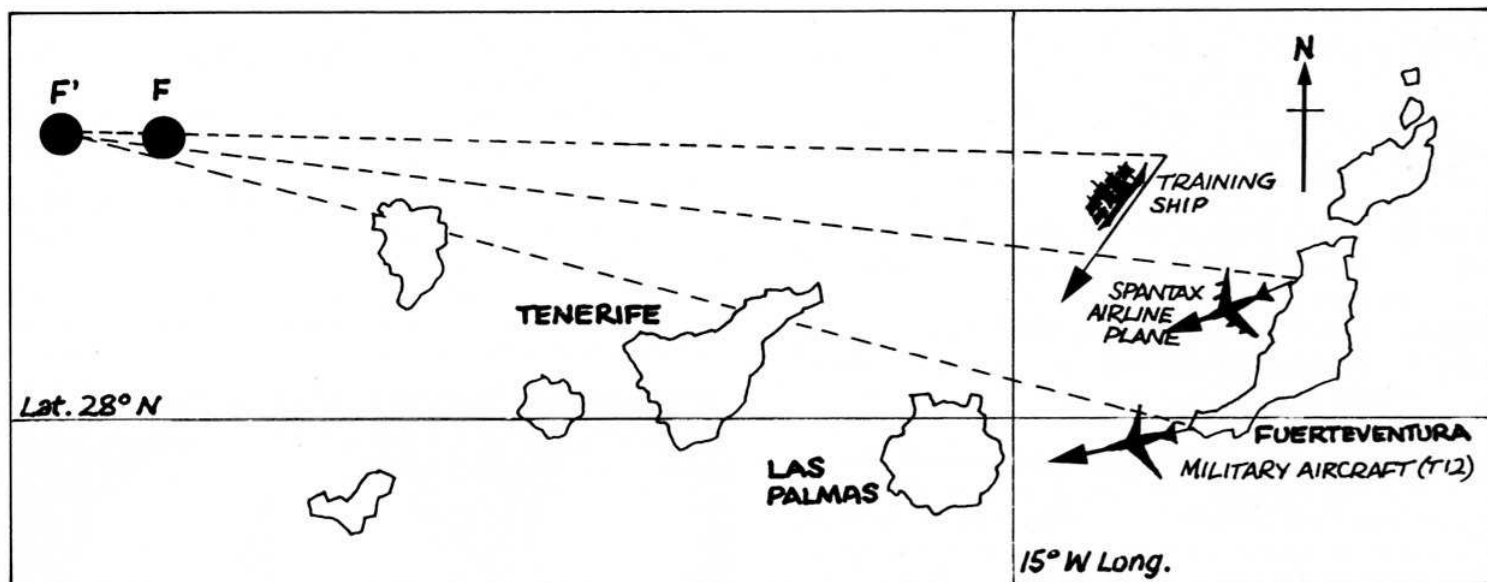


Figure 1: The Canary Islands, indicating estimated position of the phenomenon

employed by the military authorities in the evaluation of eyewitnesses in UFO cases, I shall here refer solely to the version of the story as furnished by those who, in the present official file in question, are described as eyewitnesses of category "A1". This classification, a purely military one, is the top listing in respect of the quality of the witnesses. Category A1 comprises at the present time individuals from the following professions;

military pilots,  
civil pilots,  
aeronautical engineers,  
aeronautical authorities,  
astronomers,  
meteorologists.

Well now, in this exhaustive file on the affair, the first eyewitness interrogated by the Juez Instructor (Examining Magistrate) was Don Carlos Dolz de Espejo y González de la Riva, at that date a General of Division and Head of the Canary Islands Air Zone.

In other words: the supreme authority in the Canary Islands Zone.

The report shows that, at the moment in question, General Dolz was aboard a T-12 military aircraft, No. 461-43, which was flying towards the Air Force Base at Gando, Las Palmas. With him were Comandante Alfonso Ruiz Crespo, his ADC; Lt. Col. José Luis Hidalgo García, second pilot, and Brigadier José Ortiz Minue, also of the Air Force and the engineer officer in charge of the said aircraft.

All of whom, as I have said, are eyewitnesses considered to belong to "Category 1A."

#### The General's statement

The report shows that the statement of Divisional General Don Carlos Dolz was as follows:

#### Description of the object.

1. Size: (If disc-shaped or circular, use the Sun or Moon as a means of comparison): "Three times the normal apparent size of the Moon (full Moon)."

2. Colour: "White at the outset."
3. Number of objects: "One."
4. In formation?: "No."
5. Tail, trail or exhaust?: "Subsequently object increased in size, forming a perfect whitish-grey semicircular halo."
6. Sound: "None."
7. Other details of interest: "The phenomenon lay to the right of our flight route, at about 30°. The sighting lasted a long time, for it remained in sight throughout the whole of our linear flight and was only lost to view when we descended into the layer of haze to take up a holding position prior to landing."

Further on, the witness remarks:-

"The object was apparently stationary. At first we took it to be the Moon, although we instantly perceived that it could not be, from its position (about 10° above our flight-level) and also from the fact that it was growing bigger all the time. The circle turned into a semicircular halo which appeared to be positioned on the horizon. In the centre of it there was a bright, bottle-green coloured geometrical image shaped approximately like a barrel, and above that there was another marking, a smaller rectangular shape of the same colour."

Such, in very brief terms, is the gist of the statement made by the Divisional General. But what he and the rest of his crew aboard that military aircraft did not know was that the same object was being observed at the same time by the sailors on the *Juan Sebastián Elcano*.

#### Seen also from the Naval Training Ship

Just at the same moment when the Spanish Air Force plane's crew were beginning to observe the huge disc, other highly qualified professionals were also viewing the unusual scene from the Navy's training-ship.

And the file we are discussing contains a thorough-going and detailed investigation, conducted by the



**Figure 2: Early phases as observed by witnesses**  
**Left:** Point of light bigger than 1st magnitude star.  
**Centre:** Spiral movement 4 complete turns  
**Right:** Vivid white globe of light growing to thrice the size of the full moon.

Judge Informant (in Spanish *Juez Informador*, an officer of the Spanish Air Force) into what was seen by the crew of this Navy ship, which was to the west of the island of Lanzarote and en route to Las Palmas at the time in question.

Not only was the Divisional General in the T-12 aircraft unaware that the crew of the training-ship were also observing the UFO. The latter were likewise unaware of what was being seen by the General and his party, and both the General and party on the one hand and the training-ship's personnel on the other hand were all unaware that people aboard a second aircraft were also observing the scene (see map, Figure 1).

Let us take a glance at the statement made by Lieut. Fernando Gómez Guerra, who was in charge of the training ship, a professional naval officer with twelve years of service.

According to the Air Force file, the meteorological situation at the time was: "A few clouds on the horizon. Sky clear, starry night; calm."

The training ship's position was at 29° 04' N., 14° 33' W (see map) when the UFO was first observed from the bridge. The report says:

"I was on the bridge and in command of the watch on the training vessel *Juan Sebastián Elcano*, accompanied by two midshipmen, when one of the latter drew my attention to the phenomenon (that is to say, I did not see the beginning of it. What I saw is described under Paragraph D 5.5.

"Sunset was at 18.05 hrs, and the sun went down at a bearing of approximately 245.

"The phenomenon started as a bright point of light; then it formed a semicircle of very intense yellowish-white light, geometrically perfect.

"It rapidly increased in size, and the light became more whitish, but without losing the sharpness of its outline. When it had stopped growing bigger it began to lose brightness very slowly, and the luminous effect was gone after ten minutes. The point of light, no longer very bright, continued for about twenty-five minutes longer. Bearing: 270."

This statement by the officer in command of the training ship was accompanied by statements from various members of his crew. With the aid of these statements the Instructing Judge was able to reconstruct the various phases of this sighting.

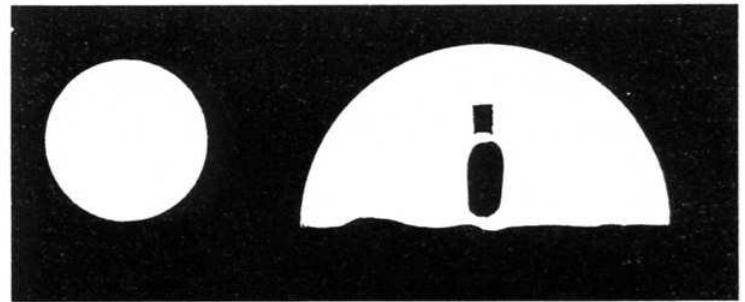
During the initial phase (designated as "phase A" in the official report) the disc rose up on the horizon, like a point of light, larger than a star of the first

magnitude. Then it performed a curious movement — in a spiral — until it had completed four turns (see 2nd sketch in Figure 2).

Then it turned into a brilliant white light, which began to grow until it was three times the size of the Moon.

In "phase B" the light continued in this process of progressive, gigantic expansion, until it covered half of the horizon.

In the final phase, it was like a semicircle, with two geometrical green shapes in the centre. After 25 minutes it began to lose intensity and to fade out.



**Figure 3: Left, phase "B"; Right, final phase.**

#### **Statement from the Captain of the "Spantax" aircraft**

At the same time the crew of another aircraft, belonging to the "Spantax" Air Line Company, which was flying across the Canary Islands, also saw the appearance of the gigantic UFO. The Air Force file contains two statements from this aircraft, namely from Sr. Pedro Briales Brund, Captain of the plane, and Sr. Manuel Valverde de Armas, his second pilot. The first-named has had 14,000 hours of flying, and is a Major on the Military Staff.

Among the various things they have to say in their statements, there is the following:-

As it grew rapidly in size, it "settled down" on the horizon, forming a perfect semicircle covering a large area of the horizon; in the centre of the halo we could see a number of green rays. From the height at which we were, we could tell that the phenomenon must lie on the other side behind the Islands. When it first started to expand, we had the impression that it was rapidly approaching us."

All these eyewitnesses — the Divisional General, his companions aboard the military aircraft, the Navy officers and seamen, and the pilots of the aircraft of the Spantax commercial air line, are all "Top Category" witnesses in the military scale of evaluation referred to above. All of them — seeing the phenomenon from different positions — agreed completely in the details which they gave of the affair. In brief, every one of them was "a totally reliable" witness to the appearance of an "unidentified flying object" over the Atlantic. And their statements, with their full names, are here in this official Spanish Air Force file. The report uses the term "UFO", and "UFO" is repeated again on many of its pages, right through the report.

Well now, can we arrive at any concrete conclusion or hypothesis? What precisely does the report tell us about this UFO of gigantic size?

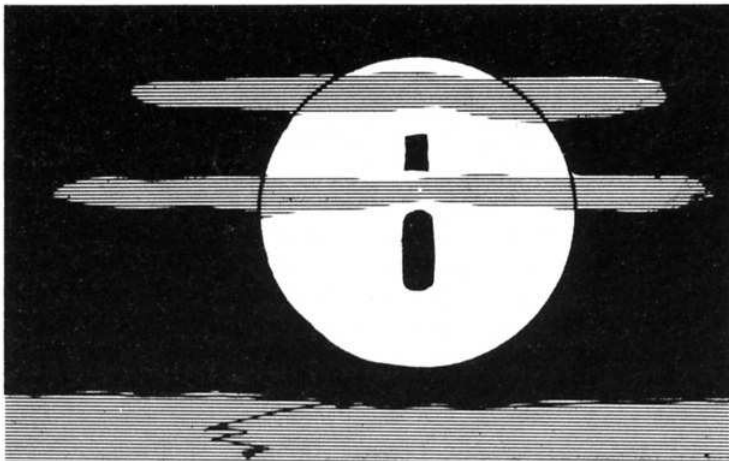
Perhaps the most interesting part of this official document with which we are concerned is the section which deals with all the *possible explanations*\* for what the eyewitnesses aboard a Spanish naval vessel and two Spanish aircraft, as well as personnel of the Air Force Base at Gando, and many civilian residents of the Canary Islands, had seen on that evening of November 19, 1976.

For the length of seven single-spacing typewritten folio pages the Officer dealing with the case carefully and assiduously analyzes — *and discards* — every single hypothesis that might have served to explain the presence, to the west of the Canary Islands, of a disc of tremendous size.

Let us however sum up and examine these various arguments which were listed by the Air Force (who, as I have said, end by ruling them all out). Here they are:-

**A: Launching of a Surface-to-Air Missile or Surface-to-Surface Missile.**

Textually, the Air Force report says: “A missile fired from a submarine, in the darkness of night, causes effects similar to those which we have been studying here in this case, but it is unquestionable that those effects would not be on such a scale as



**Figure 4: Presumably expanding phenomenon before setting down. This was unexplained sketch which was presented as Annex IV.**

this, nor would they last for so long after the firing of the missile.”

“Looking at the matter from another angle, since there is at present no state of war here, any nation desiring to carry out this sort of practice in the vicinity of our Canary Islands archipelago would doubtless have been acting with the consent and authorization of our Government, or, at least, with its knowledge. On the other hand, it would have been a very bad choice of zone, owing to the density of the civilian air traffic existing there, with the consequent degree of risk. For all these reasons we must rule out this hypothesis.”

And the examination continues:

\* See comment at end of article — EDITOR.

**B: What was seen was a spectacular reflection of the light of the Sun inasmuch as it was not long after (70 minutes) the recent Sunset.**

“In Annex VII<sup>1</sup> the radius, “R”, of the circle corresponding to parallel 39° in terms of the Earth, is calculated, as well as the Longitude, and thus, the distance “travelled” by it in 70 minutes. This enables us determine the height “h”, at point “B”, of the last solar beam. This penetrates into the Ionosphere but leaves the Troposphere and the Stratosphere in darkness. In the Ionosphere the air is so rarefied that the reflection of a beam of sunlight is impossible, although the ionization of O and N is possible, but this point is studied in section “D”.

“Furthermore, in the event that the reflection of a beam of sunlight were possible, this would only have been a momentary phenomenon and perhaps a moving one, in view of the velocity of 1,703 km. at which a point on that Parallel travels, due to the rotation of the Earth. For the phenomenon to have remained stationary for the space of 20 to 30 minutes we would have to suppose that the rotation of the Earth had been suspended for this period of time.”

As we see, the Air Force report could not be more exhaustive and more fully documented.

**C: They witnessed the fall of a Meteorite.**

In this chapter, the Air Force files says, *inter alia*:- “The entry of a meteorite into our atmosphere causes the latter to become incandescent through friction, and, consequently, becomes visible. For such a meteorite to reach the surface of the Earth it has to be of sufficiently large size, as otherwise it would have been turned to vapour before it got there. If the meteorite fell into the sea it is to be assumed that an explosion would result, not only because of the high velocity of the meteorite, but also because, it being incandescent, its sudden cooling by the water of the sea would cause such an explosion, with the following effects: a wave surge, luminosity, columns of water vapour, etc. In the darkness of the night, and at the distance calculated in Annex No. II<sup>2</sup> only the luminous phenomena caused by it would be observed — both its descent and its explosion — but both of these would last only the briefest space of time owing to its velocity, and to the fact that, if not vapourized by the impact, it would go straight to the bottom of the sea. At the very most, therefore, the phenomenon would be visible for a few minutes, but never for two hours.”

Moreover, concludes the Report: “Only an imaginary observer located right at the point of impact would observe the meteorite as being perfectly circular; in which case naturally there could be no question of taking any subsequent statement from the witness! In view of this analysis of the situation, we must also reject this hypothesis.”

**D: What was witnessed was a Phenomenon resembling a Polar Aurora.**

In this section, the Air Force make a complicated scientific analysis, which would be too lengthy for me

to reproduce here. Let us therefore just note the final paragraph of that analysis:-

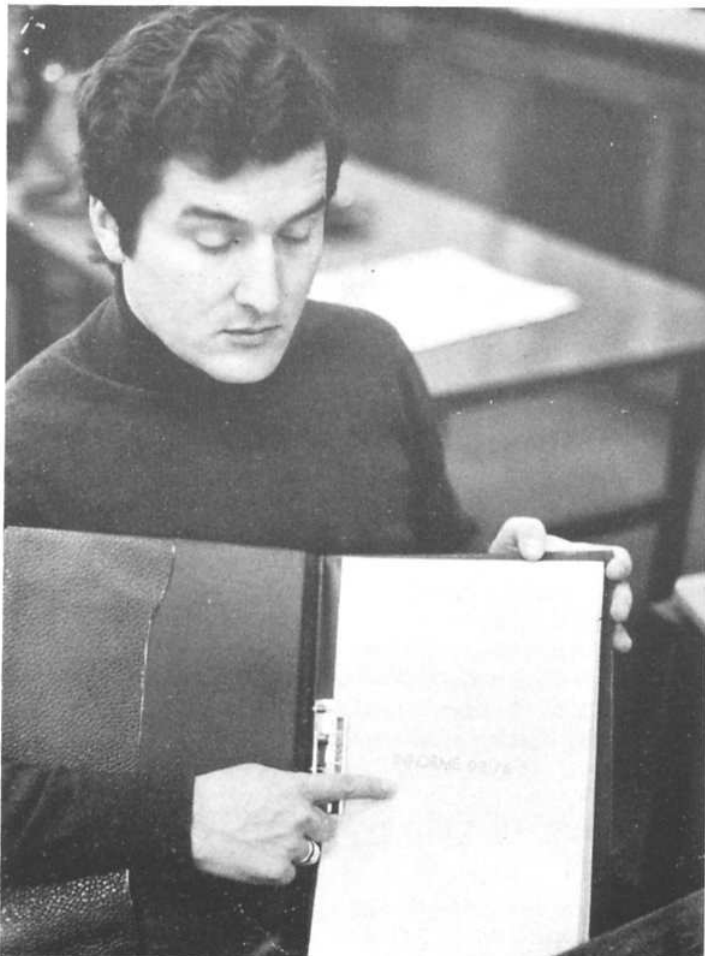
“The Earth’s magnetic field diverts the radiations towards the Poles, and when these radiations pass through the Ionosphere they meet the ionized gases which, like a gigantic “Neon” tube, produce a glow, thus creating the famous Polar Aurorae. This is the reason why this beautiful spectacle is only visible in very high latitudes on our globe. And this is a powerful reason for the impossibility that phenomena of this type could be seen in the latitudes with which we are concerned in this case.”

#### **E: The Eyewitnesses observed a Nuclear Explosion in the Ionosphere.**

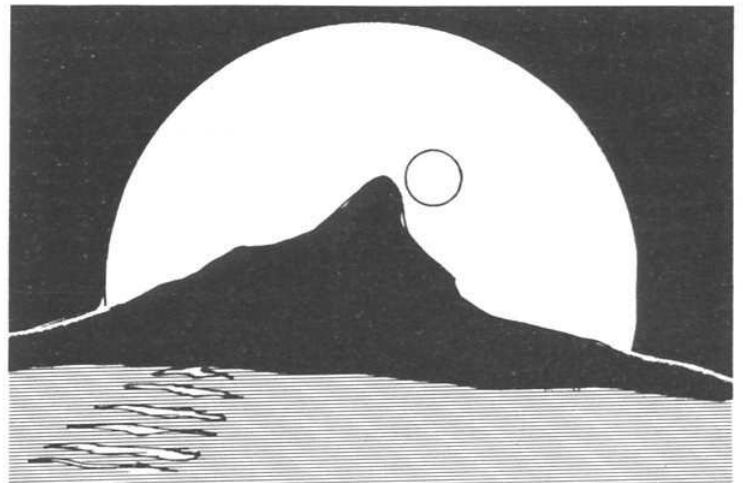
The possibilities in favour of this final hypothesis are described as being even more remote, seeing that any sort of atomic explosion – and in the vicinity of the Canary Islands – would have had catastrophic results.

Discussing this theory, the Report says:

“An explosion of this type would produce a light comparable to the light of the Sun. The spectacle would have resembled the Sun rising in the West, with orange, red, or yellow colourations following upon a few seconds of the most vivid light. And all the eyewitnesses in this case are in total agreement that the light seen by them, although vivid, remained white for the whole time, even when its intensity was



**J. J. Benítez shows one of the Spanish Air Force official files, “Report No. 02/76”**



**Figure 5: The phenomenon as seen from Guia, Eastern coast of Grand Canary – Annex VI**

diminishing. They also are in agreement that the light was not dazzling, and that it was pale, like the colour of neon gas.”

The Air Force Reporting Judge also analyzes various other possible explanations, such as sonde balloons, after-burners of jet aircraft, St. Elmo’s Fire, etc., but all of them are fundamentally inadequate to account for what the General and the other military personnel had observed.

The Reporting Judge prudently abstains from pronouncing any opinion as to the nature of the UFO, though he does say, textually, in the course of his conclusions:

“If we study jointly the three reports issued up to now, Nos. 1/75, 1/76, and 2/76<sup>3</sup> we would have to face seriously the necessity of having to consider the possibility of accepting the hypothesis that a craft of unknown origin and driven by an energy likewise unknown is operating freely in the skies above the Canary Islands.”<sup>4</sup>

That then, in brief synthesis, is the gist of this new official Spanish Air Force Report dated November 1976.

After examination of these concrete proofs, one asks oneself: what other arguments can still be produced against the existence of the UFOs?

#### **Notes**

1. Not sent to FSR
2. Not sent to FSR
3. The judge is here referring to three other official files on UFOs, writes Sr. Benítez.
4. My emphasis – G.C.

#### **Comments by Charles Bowen**

1. Senor Benítez writes that “... all the possible explanations” are dealt with in the Spanish Air Force document. Nevertheless I can see no mention of the possibility that the phenomenon could have been a sighting of our old friend the “Upper Atmosphere Barium Cloud Experiment.” Perhaps someone who has access to such data could run a check for us that there were no rocket launchings near, or within sight of, the Canary Islands on November 19, 1976.

2. All said and done, however, this incident should be of considerable interest to our contributor in the Soviet Union, V. V. Rubtsov, who recently sent

FSR a piece entitled *Scientists observe phenomenon over South Ural, Russia* in which was described the observation of a similar manifestation.

# "FLOATING" ENTITY AT REDDISH

*David Rees*

David, who prepared this report especially for UFOIN and FSR, was co-founder with Jenny Randles of the Northern UFO Network in 1973. He now acts as news editor for the associations monthly publication Northern UFO News. He also organises his own group in the Stockport area, known as MAPIT (Manchester Aerial Phenomena Investigation Team) and is editor of their popular newsletter 'SKYWATCH'.

Data: late August 1976 North Reddish, Stockport, Greater Manchester CE3 A level A.

MY attention was drawn to this case in February 1978 (18 months after its occurrence). It came in the wake of intense media publicity throughout the town of Stockport following the general release of the film *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* in Britain. The date of the events is significant because it pre-dates the CE3 experiences in other parts of Britain that were to strike during the period November 1976 to May 1977. As will be seen there are many parallels, and as the parents of the children involved attest to the story being told at the time we have confirmation that this was not purely based upon publicity for these other incidents.

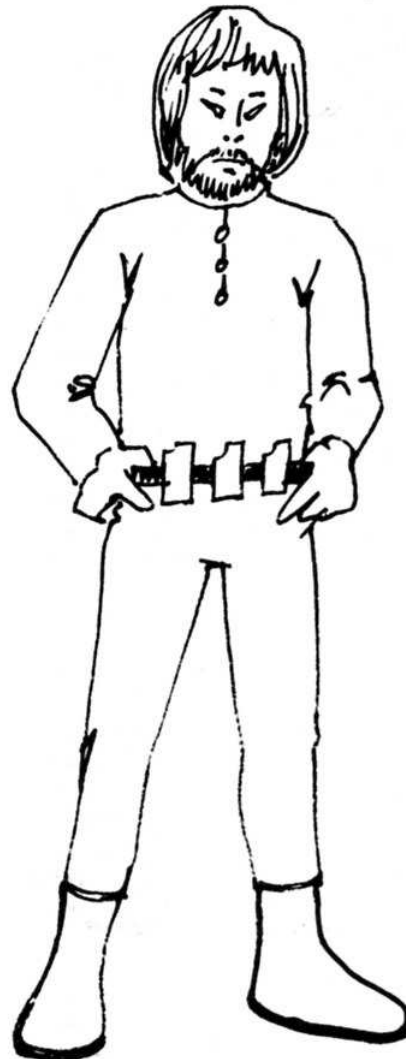
The area involved, North Reddish, is a district of Stockport which is heavily urbanised, with quite a bit of industry. It is close to the borders with the city of Manchester. The children involved were playing on an area of waste ground just off Longford Road West. To their left was an old railway line, beyond which was the club house for a golf course. To their right was housing. Before them was a new primary school and a small reservoir.<sup>1</sup> The OS Reference of the site is SJ 888945.

Three children were involved in the events, two of whom are twins who, at the time, were ten years old. Their parents have requested no publicity so we shall refer to them as Susan and John Harris. The other boy, whom we shall call Paul Smith, was refused permission to talk by his parents.

We are certain that the events took place during the last two weeks in August, when the children were on summer holiday from school. The time was between 12 noon and 1.00 p.m.

The children were playing on the waste ground, around a hut which had been constructed for them by a neighbour. Susan was tired and thirsty so she went into the hut to make herself and the boys some orange drinks. The boys remained outside playing by some bushes. Suddenly the boys saw a flash of silver pass before their eyes, and heard a crackling noise coming from the direction of the bush.

Looking in that direction they saw a strange figure emerge from within the bush. He was wearing a silverish one-piece suit, seemed human in appearance but had a short grey beard and long yellowish hair.



Our artist's impression of the "Man" based on the children's sketches. Note facial features reminiscent of the Winchester "occupnat," also the one-piece suit and pouches in which he deposited his collection of soil samples.