

South American Republics are Watching the Skies

By Charles Bowen

RELATIVELY few South American UFO cases are well-known to researchers in other parts of the world, yet the number of incidents in that continent probably outstrip those from the rest of the world put together. The 'great' cases of the last twenty years are familiar to most of us. There are, however, many others which are scantily reported, hundreds which are reported, but pass unnoticed, and—here one can only hazard a guess—hundreds more which are never reported. And those which pass unnoticed by news media in other countries. I venture to suggest that many of these incidents would cause a furore if they happened, say, in Britain, or France, or the United States.

Why then is so little known of the saucer scene in South America? Obviously one major difficulty is the physical one of obtaining reports: then, of lesser importance, there is the language barrier: finally, and probably most significant of all, there is the fact that details of many of the cases go out on the agency tapes, yet very few seem to reach the columns of foreign newspapers, particularly in the English-speaking world. So, despite the fine efforts of people like Drs. Buhler and Fontes, of Christian Vogt and of CODOVNI, very little finds its way into the records outside the South American countries.

In the past this REVIEW has done much to improve upon this unhappy state of affairs, but it is only recently that we have had the chance to do better, thanks to the splendid services of our representatives, Senor Oscar Galindez in Argentina, and Nigel Rimes in Brazil. An immediate result has been a golden opportunity for Gordon Creighton to demonstrate his indefatigability, for during the last eighteen months something approaching 700 reports in Spanish and Portuguese have passed through his hands, not to mention occasional items in French, German and Russian. Now that all these have been translated and 'processed', an amazing picture is emerging. Although this is far from complete, a more comprehensive account than has ever before appeared is being prepared for our readers.

There are a number of 1965 incidents, situations and items of comment which I feel should be

brought to the attention of our readers *before* the appearance of Mr. Creighton's main article.

A preliminary study of the reports reveals certain trends, namely the freedom with which most of these cases are discussed (and not only in the newspapers), the number of incidents which are witnessed by large groups of people, and the number of *multiple* sightings reported. In fact, one is inclined to feel uneasy when one learns the effect that all this is having on some of the republics and their peoples.

Changes in public reaction

With so many incidents, it is hardly surprising that there has been a large number of photographs. [We are trying to obtain reasonable prints of some of these.] "Not many people are laughing these days" says columnist Rich O'Hara in the English-language *Buenos Aires Herald* of July 21, and he attributes this change of attitude to the spate of photographs. Mr. O'Hara describes the object in one picture, taken by professional photographer Raúl Rodriguez of La Plata, as being like "an artist's conception of one of those future space stations", and he scoffs at the 'explanations' which "just about strained all probability". He closes his piece with the words of H. G. Wells at the conclusion of his *War of the Worlds*: "**Watch the skies . . . Keep watching the skies . . .**"

Such a vigil would certainly be rewarding in South America, and in fact, on June 18, the *Freie Presse* (German-language newspaper of Buenos Aires) said that 50 per cent of the thinking public of Argentina was now convinced of the UFOs' reality.

Buenos Aires and Rosario

Typical of the *mass* sightings were those over the Argentine cities of Buenos Aires and Rosario on the night of July 16. Telling how **thousands of people** saw UFOs overhead, *La Razón* of July 17 reports that there was a great hubbub. In Rosario one object was seen stationary, and a cupola was observed. There were waves of phone calls to police, air authorities and newspapers. A similar flap had begun in Buenos Aires at 6.40 p.m. and lasted for more than an hour. A reddish UFO with a white band hung over the capital for fifteen minutes before vanishing southwards. Just

before 7 p.m., channel 13 of the local TV announced that "for reasons of technical difficulties" transmission was interrupted. Simultaneously a great elongated UFO with an intensely luminous part was observed overhead.

The 16th was just one of many UFO-busy nights over Buenos Aires in July.

Deltavolant and Disaster

The sky was clear and bright at about 4 p.m. on July 20 (date subject to confirmation), when many people living in the provinces of Antofagasta and Atacama in northern Chile saw a pale blue conical, or triangular-shaped UFO. This object, which was huge, and at a great height, later underwent a series of changes in its apparent shape, until it appeared finally as an elongated tube. When first seen, its colour was predominantly pale blue, but it had an orange tip: as the shape changed, so the colour changed to a vivid green, with an orange-coloured section. The UFO then gave out a series of tremendous explosions, and very soon afterwards an area of no less than 2,900 square kilometres up and down the coast of Chile was devastated by the most fearful hurricane known in that country's history. Thousands were made homeless and the Government declared a state of emergency, such as is customary in the case of earthquakes. Ten thousand temporary shelters had to be provided for the afflicted, and there was much fear and talk in the area, for the people believed that the disaster had been caused by the strange sky object.

We feel nothing but sympathy for the unhappy victims of this catastrophe. Maybe there was a connection between the natural disaster and the sighting of the UFO, and it is not surprising that such a conclusion should be arrived at by the people in northern Chile. However, if the UFO did cause the hurricane, it was not necessarily a *deliberate* act. In Father Felices's article about the giant flying triangle over Valladolid (see *FLYING SAUCER REVIEW*, November/December edition, 1965) we are told that the area of that particular object was calculated as being in the region of a square kilometre—a veritable flying city!

The reports indicate that the Antofagasta/Atacama object was of a similar kind, and from the eyewitnesses' accounts, it is not unreasonable to suggest that it was experiencing extreme mechanical troubles which culminated in the vast explosions. If this was so, then it is quite likely that immense heat was generated, indicated by the intense colour changes; heat so great that it could have caused a sudden upward surge, or convection of air, which would result in a hurricane-force inrush of winds to fill the violently-created depression.

No accounts have been seen which indicate the

fate of the UFO. This omission is understandable, for who would stand to watch an object in the sky when faced by the full destructive force of an onrushing hurricane?

Santiago scare

After the affair in Antofagasta and Atacama, it is not surprising that when UFOs were seen over Santiago on August 8, police stations, newspapers and radio stations were jammed with phone calls. There was much talk of an 'invasion', talk which spread swiftly throughout the continent, and into Central America too, and some of the measures taken by the authorities could not be expected to kill the rumours.

Aerial action

It seems that several of the Republics have contributed air force units to form a joint Aerial Police Patrol. Aircraft and crews have been provided by Brazil, Chile, Peru, Venezuela and Mexico, and the force is briefed to **stop landing attempts by flying saucers!** The news was given in the *Noticias Populares* of São Paulo, Brazil, in its edition of September 10, and in Peru it caused a tremendous sensation. The report told that a number of saucers had already been encountered, and that most of them had easily eluded their would-be assailants by making a rapid ascent to beyond 15,000 metres. This, however, is not always the case, for on September 6 a number of pilots manoeuvred into positions from which they could fire on some of the objects.

The authorities, we gather, are extremely worried, for they do not know what to say about the 'invasion' by flying saucers.

If credence can be given to the reliability of this report, then it is indeed a worrying development. Generally, so far, the intention of the unknowns has not been *openly* hostile, and the danger of this kind of behaviour is that it could encourage retaliation.

Ration dump?

The 'invasion' scare received a hefty boost when two shining metal capsules were found half-buried in the ground by a party of ten inhabitants of Huancavelica, Peru (250 km. from Lima, the capital). One was damaged, and the farmers found inside it thousands of pills of various colours. They also found a kind of soldier's water-bottle ("cantil" in the Portuguese account, taken from *Noticias Populares* of September 15) containing a fatty liquid. There were also slices of a substance which looked like gelatine. One of the men, bolder than his companions, tried some of the pills, and shortly afterwards proclaimed that he felt completely 'full'. In a surprisingly casual way the newspaper account goes on to say that the local authorities were aware that beings 80 cms. in

height had landed in the district a few days before, and there was speculation that this was food that had been left for them by UFOs.

Alarm in Ecuador

The governments of some of the smaller states are no longer hiding their fears that an 'invasion' is imminent. Ecuador, for example, has been the scene of "Alarm, panic and commotion" (*Noticias Populares* of São Paulo, October 16). The towns and upland Andean regions have witnessed hundreds of saucers flying overhead, and an announcement on channel 6 of the Quito TV service recently stated that a large part of the population was at that moment watching a luminous object, certainly not a satellite, as it passed overhead. An eleven-man team had set off to climb the volcano Recu Pichincha, east of Quito, to investigate happenings up there: the team included photographers, reporters and army signallers.

Failing lights and Aerial shocks

This preview account of the 1965 scene in Latin America closes with an important incident in Mexico, one which readers will be quick to associate in their minds with an event some six weeks later in the United States.

The newspaper *Ultima Hora* of September 24 told how, on the previous evening, the important town of Cuernavaca, 75 km. south-east of Mexico

City, suffered three failures of electric power and lights. The cause—a huge, luminous plate-shaped object—was photographed, and the picture appeared along with the accounts of several witnesses who included the Governor of the City, Emilio Riva Palacio. He, and other officials, were at a private cinema show when the light and power supply failed: as they emerged from the cinema, the whole party saw the UFO. The intense light from this object lit up the valley around Cuernavaca.

Shortly afterwards, Cuauhtemoc Betanzos, a pilot of Mexican Airways, saw the same UFO over Lake Tequesquitengo. Although on a routine flight from Mexico City to Acapulco, he attempted to approach the object, but it caused his aircraft to suffer a series of "crazy and fearful shocks".

There is little doubt that the pattern of South American events has changed considerably during the past twelve months. I have attempted to capture some idea of the feeling of apprehension and even alarm that pervades the scene, particularly along the vast Andean mountain chain. Some South American Republics need no warnings from H. G. Wells: with mounting hysteria, it seems, they are already frantically watching the skies.

[*Gordon Creighton's full account of the 1965 scene is scheduled to appear in our May/June issue.*]

Comment on the Valensole Affair

Our medical consultant has a few words to say about Aimé Michel's article which appeared in the November/December issue of the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW

By Dr. Bernard E. Finch

AIME MICHEL has produced an excellent account of the Valensole affair. However, he is not exactly correct in assuming that the weapon of the extraterrestrials acts only on the reticular formation.

This substance is a mixture of grey and white matter (cells and axons) situated in the brain stem and broken up into various portions called the reticular centres. These centres control the "vital services", i.e., breathing, heartbeat and muscle tone, etc. Injuries to parts of the reticular system are liable to cause tremors, involuntary movements and various rigidities.

True temporary paralysis of *voluntary* muscles could quite easily be brought about by a lesion of the "pyramidal fibres" or motor pathway. If the lesion involves the pathway from the spinal cord to the voluntary muscles, then there is a flaccid paralysis (or lower motor nerve lesion) and the

person would fall down limp. If the lesion involves the pathways from the cerebral cortex to the spinal cord, then there is spastic paralysis and the person becomes rigid.

My own view is that the force field affects the motor cells situated on the outer surface of the cerebral cortex. These cells are situated in a line running from the ears on either side to the top of the cranium. The sensory area is behind the motor area. The force field therefore produces its effect on all the surface cells of the cerebral cortex, and its effects wear off as it penetrates into the brain tissues, the effect disappearing a few millimetres inwards. This dampening effect is produced due to the thickness of the brain tissue, and as the more vital centres are deep in the brain, they are not touched by the field at all.

Hence surface cells receive the brunt of the field, resulting in spastic paralysis and sensory changes