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Notes and References

1 One might apply this hypothesis also to circumstances surrounding the Velikovsky controversy, such as Shapley's mistaken denial which might have been due to a fugue state rather than deliberate lying. An interesting parallel figure to Shapley was his Harvard astronomer colleague D. Menzel, who thought that ufology was total rubbish — but said so again and again, and collected a vast collection of newspaper clippings on UFO sightings. (I personally doubt the claim of Henry Adams that if Harvard gives nothing else, it

gives calm).

2 Velikovsky (1931), 431. This view was not original with him, of course, but it shows the blend of (presumably) Stekel (1921) on telepathy and Freud's and Jung's use of the concept of energy. Elsewhere in the paper, he guessed that the psychic energy "does not stand in the sequence of known flowing energies" but instead "belongs to another scale" (p.437), a possibility that today's physicists in pursuit of the metal-bender might ponder more deeply. He also applied his hypothesis to orthodox scientific questions, proposing that electro-encephalograms could be used as a means of detecting epilepsy (p.437).

3 It should also be noted that some of Velikovsky's cosmological predictions have been corroborated (see Ransom, 1976), and that this has been acknowledged. For example, Bargmann and Motz (1962), while disagreeing with his theories, granted Velikovsky priority in predicting the emission of radio waves from Jupiter, the extension of the terrestrial magnetosphere to the Moon, and the high surface temperature of Venus.

On the early history of the controversy, see Kallen (1977) and Ransom (1976, Ch. 1); and on recent events, see Ellenberger (1980-81) and Ransom (1976, Ch. 8).

THE RUSSIANS AGAIN

FROM time to time we continue to see these delightful reports in our press that the Russians have had a UFO sighting, or that the Russians have *started to investigate UFOs*. The flurry never lasts for long. Like lightning, somebody or something seems to intervene, and the curtain of silence comes down once more, just as it did recently, as will be recalled, in the case of the Sunday newspaper *New of the World*, which, for a few weeks, was all agog with UFOs, and then dropped the hot potato — and that was that.

This time — in the London *Daily Telegraph* oddly enough — which of all our newspapers is anything but well-inclined towards our sort of subject — on January 31, 1985, in its first, second, and third London editions and most of its Manchester editions, there was a serious and detailed report from Nigel Wade, its Moscow correspondent, to the effect that a 'Green Cloud' had 'stirred the Soviet UFO Dispute'. It went on to describe how, according to the Soviet newspaper *Trud* ("Labour" — long known, incidentally for its partiality towards UFO reports) the four-man crew of a *TU-134* airliner, with a total of 27,500 flying hours between them, while on a night flight from Tbilisi (Tiflis) in Georgia to Tallin in Estonia, had seen, over Minsk, a 'large unblinking star' which seemed to project three beams towards the earth from a height of some forty miles! Then a ray of light was projected on to the aircraft, and the UFO 'flared up, leaving a green cloud in its stead'. The 'cloud' then flashed towards the plane. It dropped below them,

then came up level with them at 30,000 ft., and accompanied them 'all the way to Tallin until the end of the flight'.

Meanwhile, said the *Trud* report, ground-control installations registered 'splashes' on radar. Passengers in the plane also observed the strange object which was accompanying their aircraft. By this time the 'cloud' had itself 'assumed the shape of a plane'. And — horror of horrors — the paper went on to report that the same UFO was seen by the crew of another airliner flying in the opposite direction!

Trud reported a vice-chairman of the Commission on Anomalous Phenomena, Associate Member of the USSR Academy of Sciences Dr Nikolai Zheltukhin, as declaring that "the only conclusion to be drawn is that the aircrew encountered an 'unidentified flying object'".

Meanwhile, of course, the Soviet anti-UFO brigade were quoted as saying it was a case of 'Polar Lights'; 'high solar activity'; 'a reaction between atmospheric gases'; 'satellite launchings'; and even 'collective hallucination'. (They seem to have overlooked what we might term 'piezo-perinatal effects'.)

Dr Vladimir Migulin, director of the Soviet Institute of Terrestrial Magnetism, was quoted as saying that "the Academy of Sciences are doing all the research needed into UFOs". And he was quoted as being most critical of "certain amateur groups" which, in his view, "are interested only in biased search for proofs of non-earthly origins".

ТРУДОВАЯ
ВАХТА

♦ МИНСК. Завершили ремонт почвообрабатывающей и полевой техники предприятия «Сельхозтехники» хозяйства Белоруссии. В исправности такие 90 процентов тракторов. Запчасти для этого понадобилось на треть меньше, чем в прошлом сезоне. Значительное количество изношенных деталей восстановили в мастерские и на заводах.
♦ БЕНДЕРЫ (Молдавская ССР). Ускорила обработку судов компания Бендерского речного порта: в его Варницком грузовой релоне сдан в эксплуатацию новый механизированный причал. С вводом нового причала портослужба получила возможность улуч-

шить организацию работ, одновременно принимая и отправляя различные грузы.
♦ ХАРЬКОВ. Значительно ускорит геологические и маршевые работы изыскания, предшествующие строительству железных дорог, каналов и магистральных трубопроводов, шоссейных дорог, других объектов, позволяют новые технологии и инвентарь, созданные харьковскими специалистами в сотрудничестве с учеными Москвы и Ленинграда. Вскоре на заводе точного приборостроения завершены изготовления первой из партии.

(ТАСС)



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ТРУД

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Сообщаем подробности

РОВНО В 4.10...

Рейс № 8352 Тбилиси — Ростов — Таллин на самолете «ТУ-134 А» выполнял экипаж Эстонского управления Министерства гражданской авиации СССР. Командир воздушного судна — Игорь Алексеевич Черкашин. Окончил Бугурусланское летное училище, налетал 7.000 часов. Пилот 1-го класса. Второй пилот — Геннадий Иванович Лазурин. Окончил Саратовское летное училище и ордена Ленина Академию гражданской авиации, налетал 4.500 часов. Пилот 2-го класса. Штурман — Егор Михайлович Огнев, окончил ордена Ленина Академию гражданской авиации, налетал 3.500 часов. Штурман 2-го класса. Бортмеханик — Геннадий Михайлович Козлов, налетал 12.500 часов. Бортмеханик 1-го класса.

Commenting on the *Trud* report, the *Daily Telegraph's* Moscow correspondent threw in the following four paragraphs:—

“TASS, the official news agency, gave international circulation to the report.

“It is likely to deepen a rift between Russian scientists over the treatment of reported sightings of unidentified flying objects.

“The rift is between sceptical scientists within the Soviet Academy of Sciences and a mixed group of scientists, former Cosmonauts, and laymen, newly set up as the Public Commission on Anomalous Phenomena.

“The Commission was announced last July and said it would study all UFO reports. It published a box-number to which people could send reported sightings, and it says there has been a big response.”

As will of course be observed, the *Daily Telegraph* is at pains in this story to suggest to its readers that there had never been an official body in the USSR investigating UFO reports prior to July 1984.

Letter to “Telegraph”

I therefore thought it opportune to address the following letter to the Editor of the *Daily Telegraph*:—

Flying Saucer Review
Snodland, Kent ME6 5HJ
1 February 1985

The Editor
DAILY TELEGRAPH
135 Fleet Street
London, E.C.4

Dear Sir, — Your interesting Moscow report yesterday about the green UFO allegedly seen over the USSR by the crews and passengers in two airliners flying between Tbilisi and Tallin may convey the impression that Soviet scientists only began to study the evidence for the presence of UFOs in July of last year.

Such is in fact not the case, and the Soviets had a committee (like so many other countries!) secretly studying the evidence from as long ago as 1960 at least. We have been in correspondence for many years with Soviet scientists on these matters, and it is over twenty years since we began to supply the USSR ACADEMY OF SCIENCES (at *their* request) with the international journal which I edit, and which is now in its 30th year of existence.

In the early 1960s the French astronomer Dr Jacques Vallée, who has been a well-known UFO expert for many years, had talks on the subject with scientists in Moscow, and, on his return, when passing through London, he told me that at that date the Red Air Force had *one-and-a-half times* as many good UFO reports on file as the U.S. Air Force (approximately 15,000 to 10,000).

FLYING SAUCER REVIEW has readers and correspondents all over the world, including China, where there is now also a regular journal on UFOs and where the first Chinese book on the subject has just been published. I have translated it.

For the infinitesimally small proportion of the world's population who are capable of taking any interest in these matters we provide a vast body of material, from every part of the globe, such as is available nowhere except through small groups of researchers like ourselves.

Yours faithfully,
Gordon Creighton,
Editor, Flying Saucer Review

Reply

The *Daily Telegraph's* predictable reply to my letter was the following printed pro-forma card:—

Daily Telegraph
Fleet Street, London EC4
Date as postmark

The Editor wishes to acknowledge your letter with thanks.

I wrote back to the Editor of the *Daily Telegraph* that it would never have entered my head to dream that he might publish my letter, *since I knew he would not dare to*, but that nevertheless I was grateful for his reply, as this was precisely the sort of thing I wanted to publish for my own readers.

Other Soviet reports

Some of the other material that has come in during the past year or so from, or about, the USSR, is so curious and so interesting that, although of course none of it can be confirmed, I think it will be a good thing to print it, naturally with all due reservations, in a forthcoming issue.

If the old adage is true that "*there's no smoke without fire*", then it looks as though some pretty odd things are also happening in Russia, and I do not see why our readers should not be informed about these reports.

G.C.

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"GREAT CROSSES" OVER ROME AND WASHINGTON, D.C., IN NOVEMBER 1954

Gordon Creighton

IT seems to be a well established law that the true pioneers shall never get the credit. In Italy, for example, one of the very real pioneers in Ufology was my colleague, the Italian diplomat Dr. Alberto Perego, who did far more in the early years than many of those whose names we have heard trumpeted so much of late but he, so far as one can see, is totally ignored and forgotten by the Ufologists today, even in Italy.

For some years one of Dr. Perego's postings was as Italian Consul at Belo Horizonte, State of Minas Gerais, in Central Brazil, just a little later than the time when I was H.B.M. Consul at Recife, Pernambuco, in the North-East of Brazil. There was a vast amount of UFO activity in those days over our respective areas of Brazil, and it is not surprising that both Perego and I gathered a lot of the Brazilian material from that first UFO phase over the Western Hemisphere (1947 to 1951 or 1952).

In the early 1970s, after his retirement from Government work, Dr. Perego was the Director of a UFO Study Group which he had formed in Rome and which was known as the *Centre for Electromagnetic Aviation (CISAER)*. He wrote at least three books,¹ none of which, so far as I am aware, was ever translated from Italian and all of which were, like himself, generally ignored.

As everyone no doubt knows today, the summer and autumn of 1954 were notable for a remarkable UFO Wave over France,² in the course of which many hundreds of reports appeared in the French national and regional press, including accounts, as the final estimates show, of no less than 200 actual landings of UFOs, in some 40 of which the occupants (all small) of the craft were seen and encountered by French witnesses, often at very close quarters. Aimé Michel dealt with this Wave in his classic book *Mystérieux Objets Célestes*, 1958, (subsequently issued in expanded translation in the U.S.A. as *Flying Saucers And The Straight Line Mystery*).

All of these events happened thirty years ago, and in accordance with the Divine Ordinance, a very large number of those French eyewitnesses are now no longer in this world, which fact, so Aimé Michel informs me, has greatly facilitated the launching of a campaign, now under way in France, to prove that the whole thing was massive hallucination or fraud. I need not add that we see the evidence on all sides that a similar campaign is being conducted in the U.S.A. and Britain and other countries. The fine new theories — *piezo-electricity and perinatal traumata* (which for

convenience I prefer to 'telescope' as "*The Piezo-Perinatal Theory*") now have the "best people" all agog, and it seems safe to predict that "good money" will be available for anyone willing to support the cover-up by putting out this sort of stuff.

Much might be said regarding what lies behind all this, but such discussion could be more than a little dangerous.

The famous "French Wave" of 1954 did not end in France, since the entities responsible for such phenomena are apparently oblivious of what we call our "national frontiers". The result was that the Wave proceeded to spill over into Northern Italy, and culminated in some remarkable goings-on over Rome and the Vatican in the month of November.

We gave Dr. Perego's account of these matters in 1973, in *FSR Case Histories No. 15*, but have no hesitation about running his story again now in view of the fact that a remarkable American "parallel", only published in 1979, deserves to be examined.

I give below my translation of Dr. Alberto's account of what he saw over Rome in those early days of November 1954, and after that I give an abstract of the American account.

I. THE GREAT "CROSS" ABOVE THE VATICAN IN 1954

DR. ALBERTO PEREGO

Now that we have had plenty of opportunity to see the ridiculous conclusions reached by the Condon Commission, I suggest that an opportune moment has come for us to consider what happened in the skies over Rome on Saturday and Sunday, November 6-7, 1954. For the occurrences of those days constitute a mass sighting of the very greatest importance, and yet one which is still totally unknown to many serious and eminent students of our subject, largely perhaps because my own Report on the matter at the time and my three books¹ were published in Italian (all now out of print) and have never been translated into English. And no reports of the phenomena of November 6 and 7 ever appeared in the Italian press.

Until August 1954, whenever I heard of stories of "Flying Saucers" I thought that these machines were secret aircraft developed by the Great Powers, and shared the common opinion of astronomers that any hypothesis as to the possibility of interplanetary aviation was quite absurd.

During August and September 1954 the Italian