

UNDERWATER UFO BASE OFF VENEZUELA?

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During the course of 1972 we received a great number of reports of a concentration of UFO sightings in the Caribbean islands of Santo Domingo and Puerto Rico in the months of August, September, and October, and we have given a first instalment in Salvador Freixedo's *UFOs over the Caribbean* (FSR Case Histories, Supplement 14, April 1973).

We are now much indebted to FSR's representative in Venezuela, Señor Victor Gesua, for a sheaf of valuable press-reports which show clearly that in the last ten days of March, and first few days of April, a similar sort of wave was occurring in his country, which is located on the southern shores of the Caribbean. As will be seen from the digest which I give below of these Venezuelan reports, all the indications seem to point, as so many Venezuelans now believe, to the existence of an underwater UFO base somewhere off their coast.

As the accompanying map shows, the present centre of activities is the coastal area of Venezuela known as El Litoral Central, which is the northward-facing coastline having the Capital Caracas, and its port, La Guaira, roughly in the centre, and located a little to the north of Latitude 10° North.

LA GUAIRA

Great alarm was produced in the population of La Guaira at 4.00 o'clock in the afternoon of March 22, 1973 when two flying objects were seen approaching at tremendous speed from the sea. The objects veered sharply and passed over the area between Naiguata and Carenero. Then, when over La Sabana, in the parish of Caruao, the objects halted, at a height of some 200 metres or so. They were observed with the utmost clarity by more than 3,000 people during the course of their incursion. Press representatives interviewed many, finding not a few who were too terrified to venture out of their homes. All agreed that the objects looked "...very much like what we have seen in science-fiction programmes on the TV".

At first the local Police told the many scared telephone-callers that they were crazy, but once the affair had been reported to the Prefecture, orders were issued for Police to proceed to the area in question, and then policemen were able to see the UFOs for themselves, and to observe the two saucers hanging

there, stationary in the sky.

When the craft had first made their appearance they left bluish trails, clearly visible against the deep blue cloudless afternoon sky. After hanging motionless for between five and ten minutes, they began to emit jets of orange flames, and a distinct whistling sound was heard coming from them. They then separated, one moving off eastwards at a fantastic speed, while the other headed westwards towards Venezuela's great International Airport at Maiquetia.

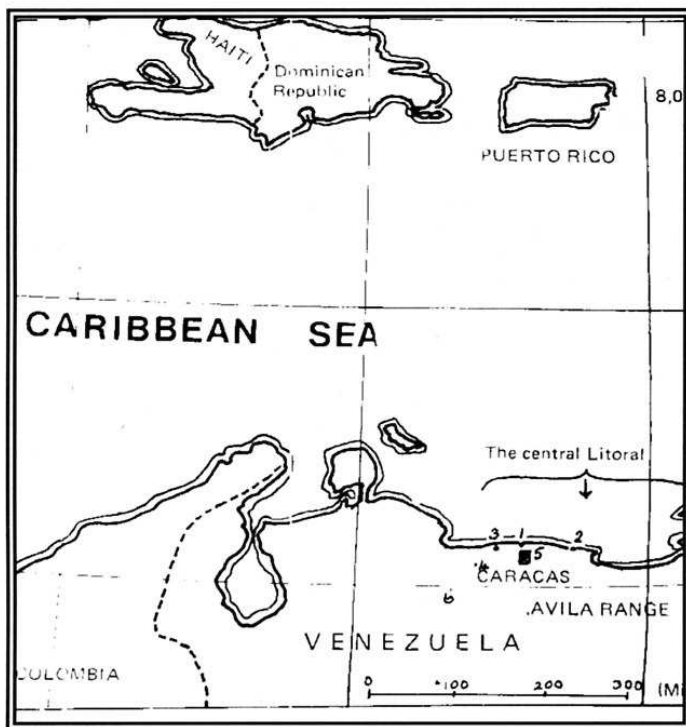
MAIQUETIA

Maiquetia residents had already reported that for many nights past they had been seeing "lights hanging in the air" and "lights that are not stars". After remaining stationary awhile, these would move off and vanish. Furthermore there have been, as was now recalled in the press, previous occasions on which the people of Maiquetia have seen unknown objects passing at great height over the nation's leading airport. The local populace being thus thoroughly conversant with many types of conventional aircraft, the journalists found that everyone interviewed by them was adamant that, whatever it was that they had seen, it was certainly no aircraft.

When the "flap" broke in the press it so happened that two Argentine investigators, Professor Fabio Zerpa and the actress Thelma Stefani — members of the investigation group ONIFE — were in Venezuela on a visit. Interviewed by the local press, they said that, on the basis of telepathic information received by them and their associates in Argentina from extraterrestrial beings via parapsychological channels, they already knew that 1973 was to be another year of massive visitations over both Argentina and Venezuela, comparable to the "bumper years" of 1965 and 1968. In lectures and television appearances they spoke of their parapsychological researches, and said they were about to depart for the mountains, together with a group of Venezuelan doctors, parapsychologists, and university and student elements, in the hope of making contact there with the UFO entities. (Miss Stefani told of having visited Trancas soon after the famous experiences of the Moreno family, and said she saw a deep hole at the spot above which the nearest UFO had been hovering. She said the ground there was dry and parched, and that for long afterwards nothing would grow there, and animals all shunned the spot).

Professor Zerpa told the press that there were already in Caracas many people who had made contact with extraterrestrial beings by means of parapsychology.

On the night of March 23/24, 1973, many people in the streets of La Guaira saw a UFO zigzagging from North to



KEY: 1 La Guaira, 2 Naguata, 3 Catia la Mar, 4 Maiquetia Airport, 5 Macuto, 6 Carayaca

South, emitting great flashes of blue and pinkish light with each lateral lunge. It then became stationary over the Club Playa Azul (Blue Beach Club) for several minutes. The frightened witnesses thought at first that it was a comet or something similar. But, some fifteen minutes later, when it was out over the sea, at an estimated distance of 15 miles or so, they were able to see quite distinctly, so they claimed, despite the prevailing night mist, that the UFO was generating great waves on the surface.

A Spaniard named Ernesto Castejon, resident of La Guaira, told the press that he had been standing at a bus stop near the La Guaira Customs Building when he saw this extremely bright object zigzagging to and fro in the sky. After watching for some seconds in fear and astonishment, he took to his heels. When he looked back, the UFO had gone.

Other reports that night were of UFOs seen travelling at immense speeds over the towns of Todasana, La Sabana, Naguata, and Caruao.

Thelmo Lozano, a fifty-year-old fisherman, reported that the UFOs produced disturbances to radio and television reception. While the luminous objects were overhead, his own radio gave out an intermittent whistle, after which came a noise like a badly scratched phonograph disc, and then, finally a noise such as is caused in the ether by thunder and lightning. In the TV reception he said that the image was totally lost and nothing could be seen but broken vertical and horizontal lines.

Another witness, a lady named Señora Socorro Bolivar, said she had seen some of the mystery objects at 9.00pm over the sea off Macuto. They were "lights, moving to and fro, at all angles, and up and down" and they produced a profound impression on her since she well knew they could be no aircraft.

Other witnesses emphasised the instantaneous

changes of colour, and also said the objects seemed to change shape, becoming oval.

Oswaldo Suarez said he thought the lights invariably arrived flying on a N-S course, "took up positions over the sea", and then vanished at high speed towards either West or East.

On March 26, 1973, the press gave further publicity to the views of the Argentinian investigators, quoting Professor Zerpa, who repeated that this year there would be massive UFO waves, by some 5,000 craft which would be seen in flights of ten. (So he claimed to have learnt, by telepathy.)

Zerpa said that the appearance of so many UFOs over South America was simply due to the fact that they had to enter the Earth's atmosphere by slipping in through the "hole" (over the South Pole) in the Van Allen Radiation Belts.

He claimed to have learnt, telepathically, that the UFOs originate from a region distant some 4,000 light-years from Earth, but that it takes them only two years for the journey, in which they make use of Mars as a way-station and as a jumping-off point for their inspection flights to Earth.

Discussing the widely held belief about underwater bases, the press interviewed a Sr. Julian Hidalgo Montezuma, a night-watchman, who said he recently saw UFOs over Macuto and Naguata. He said he had seen several "orange lights," tubular in shape, "like our rockets", rise up out of the water far out at sea and vanish into the sky. On other occasions he had also watched them emerge and then fly off eastwards along the Venezuelan coast. Sometimes he has seen them emerge several times in one night and, like many others in Venezuela, he advanced the view that there might be a vast submerged "mother-ship" out there.

During the night of March 25/26, 1973, the craft were seen again over La Guaira and various other coastal towns. Some witnesses spoke of seeing UFOs rise out of the sea and fly southwards over Venezuela. Others spoke of seeing them flying from East to West.

At 6.30 pm, from near the great Maiquetia International Airport, witnesses saw a luminous UFO at great height over Macuto. It then came over the Airport, halted there for about half a minute and then made off rapidly towards the El Avila Range (southwards from Caracas and La Guaira).

One witness, Pedro Pena, who lives close to the Airport and so is well acquainted with aircraft, said that he saw a UFO which was at first of a bright light-green colour. Then it became an opaque orange while stationary over the Airport, finally turning to a vivid white as it moved off and vanished. He had the impression that it was rotating.

Carmelo Panfri Salazar, a municipal sanitary employee, also said he saw a UFO rise up out of the sea and move south towards El Avila Range. Nor, he added, was this the first time; indeed, anybody could see it happening, any evening, between 6 and 7 pm. He said the craft rose from the sea far out, opposite the La Guaira Marine Passenger Terminal, and headed at incredible

speed southwards towards El Avila Range.

Salazar concurred with Pedro Pena about the colour-change sequence, running from red via orange to vivid white, and also on the apparent change of shape to oval, as mentioned by the night-watchman Montezuma.

Pedro Pena's statements were backed by fellow-witnesses: his brother Carlos and his friend Luis Pérez, and Salazar's were backed by Donato Garcia who, from a window of his flat saw "a thing like a saucer" emerge from the sea.

On March 28, 1973, it was reported that sightings had now been going on for about ten days at the Maiquetia International Airport. The public were now growing alarmed, and consider the Airport to be under surveillance, perhaps because it is now so much busier with large jet aircraft. The underwater base theory is mentioned as being ever more widely held. It is also widely believed the UFOs frequently land in out-of-the-way places and lonely beaches, especially on the eastern side of the Venezuelan coast, where charred sand and stones have been found. The reporters of the newspaper *Ultimas Noticias* visited one of these spots, on a very stony beach. It struck them as notable that the putative landing-site was totally devoid of stones, as though these had all been blasted outwards towards the periphery. The ground there looked "as though it had been swept by a blow-lamp".

At another place on a beach an enormous hole, described as a "UFO nest", was found, with lots of dead crabs, seemingly killed by some radiation effect.

However, a powerful tidal surge from the sea a few nights later erased all traces of some of these alleged sites, and when reporters got there, nothing more could be seen. (At both sites, witnesses had recently seen stationary UFOs at a height of some 200 metres, for periods of about ten minutes.)

One of these witnesses, Sr. Ruperto Mata, said the UFO looked as though it was made of aluminium, and much resembled the idea of a flying saucer as given in the papers. From its underbelly it emitted what seemed to be light-green flames. These flames changed to bright orange when the craft made off at high speed, and then became a vivid white before the craft vanished from sight.

The next night, UFOs were seen over Maiquetia and Catia La Mar. Most of the witnesses said they rose up out of the sea, and then flew from East to West, over Naiguata and Caruao, to the Maiquetia International Airport, after which they made off southwards to the Carayaca Mountains and the El Avila Range. One observer, Rafael Tovar, a sanitary employee, reported having seen an oval object, of apparent size of some 30 cms. (diameter), silver in colour, with an orange light on its rear part while the front was a vivid white. It passed over the Airport at great height, towards Catia La Mar.

Braulio Muñoz, a Customs employee, described a similar object, moving from East to West and seen by him when right over the Airport.

On March 30, 1973, the papers carried an account of the experiences of Armando Silva of "La Salina", near Carayaca, who told the press that on March 28/29 he and his wife had had a strange experience at their country

house, which is near the seashore. On the evening of the 28th, they had seen two elongated bluish objects flying at great height. Then, at about 1.00am on the 29th, they had both been awakened by a sensation of enormous heat. The wife went to the balcony and looked out towards the sea, and beheld "two long blue flying things like capsules, not very big; they were the same as we had seen the previous evening. They were of a vivid blue colour, and so close that I am absolutely sure of what I saw. When they came nearer to the shore they shone as brightly as the sun. One of them dropped into the sea, submerged, and then came out again. The second one also dropped into the sea, lay still awhile, and then moved nearer to the first one", (From Señora Silva's letter to the Editor of *Ultimas Noticias*, Caracas newspaper.)

Señora Silva said her sighting of these two objects lasted about fifteen minutes, and ended when she watched them both take off from the water and vanish in the sky at a staggering speed.

After the craft had departed the temperature in their house seemed to return to normal and the Silvas were able to sleep again.

The account given by the husband is even more interesting, for it seems that while his wife watched from the balcony, he went out of the house to take a closer look. As he described it to the press: "I was terrified when, at one of the small windows on the strange little object that came down from the sky and fell into the sea a few metres from the shore, I saw a tiny figure, like a five-year-old child, and wearing on its head what looked like a great gourd. I cannot say for sure that it was an intelligent being, since I only saw half of its body and its head which, as I say, looked like a gourd. Nor did I see any arms. And I didn't wait to see whether it made any movement, for I took to my heels and ran into the house, where my wife was watching, from the balcony, the two things which had come down from the sky and were bobbing up and down there in the water".

On March 31, *Ultimas Noticias* reported that on the previous day their La Guaira office had received ten 'phone calls from some of the many hundreds of people who had seen UFOs passing overhead, principally from West to East, but also on more irregular courses than previously. This spectacle, now a regular feature in the lives of the La Guaira populace, occurred between 6.30 and 8.00pm on March 30. All reports said the UFOs arrived from the West (Caruao area), flying at a considerable height, their apparent size being about 40 cm. (diameter). They were in Indian file, and in this formation they passed right on over the Maiquetia International Airport and then vanished towards the Carayaca Mountains. Half an hour later they were seen returning, on an East-West course, over the sea, and some time later they made a third appearance, now flying from South to North, coming from El Avila Range, and finally vanishing out to sea, presumably to that under-water base or "submerged mother-ship" in which so many Venezuelans now believe. The colours of the craft varied between green, orange and vivid white.

On April 1, *Ultimas Noticias* reported that, ac-

ording to their La Guaira office, matters had been just the same on the nights of March 29 and 30, the public being now alarmed, with much talk of a threat to Venezuela and of an impending invasion of the Earth by ultraterrestrial (sic) beings. As before, the objects were appearing from the West and flying eastwards over the Maiquetia International Airport. One witness, Sr. Jesus Rojas of Maiquetia, said he watched one UFO for an hour as it flew around over La Guaira, passing over the Airport at least three times. Then it plummeted almost vertically, and from a great height, into the sea right off the port of La Guaira.

On April 2 the paper published a report of the previous day from La Guaira, containing a statement by a Customs agent named Celestino Pérez Pérez. "It was about 11.00 pm, and I had just finished work in connection with cargo being unloaded from a ship, when I saw a glowing object drop into the sea right opposite the Marine Passengers Terminal. I can't rightly claim that it was a 'flying saucer,' but I can definitely say it was no aircraft such as we here are used to seeing every day of our lives at the big International Airport near here. For on two occasions I have seen accidents, in which big aircraft fell into the sea, and each time when they did so they exploded as they hit the water and the sea was covered with flames over a big area. With what I saw, it was nothing like that. The object came down as though it was well under control and its crew were going down on to the sea-bed".

As has been made clear already, a large proportion of the coastal population of Venezuela are now convinced that "something is going on out there", and that there is a UFO base, maybe in some vast submerged "mother-ship" lying deep under the waters of the Caribbean, from which machines are coming to "photograph" and make a general reconnaissance of their country.

I have the strong impression that, apart from Ivan T. Sanderson and Toni Ribera (whose excellent books, still not available in English, were the first to deal at length with this problem of the UFOs in the sea) the rest of us have perhaps not yet thought nearly enough about two elementary facts, namely that (1) the greater portion of the surface of our planet consists of sea, not to mention the innumerable deep lakes, rivers, and pools, and (2) that we still know far less about the great Watery Depths of our own planet than we know about the Moon. When assembled, the mass of evidence which points so dramatically to the systematic utilization of these watery areas by the mysterious Other Intelligences (OINTS as Ivan Sanderson liked to call them) begins to look overwhelming. Such, in my belief, it is, and so, for the convenience of students of our subject, I give below a bibliography of material relating to Venezuela, Puerto Rico, and the Caribbean, to be consulted in connection with the current wave in Venezuela, and material relating to what may prove to be one of the great key-factors concerning the OINTS and their UFOs, namely the *sea*, and *water* in general.

As I hope to describe in a subsequent article, there

are indications of some astonishing things now going on in the depths of our oceans. It may well be that, in these days when both the American and the Russian governments are engaged in such massive programmes of sea-bed exploration, this activity is not being undertaken by them solely as part of the Cold War (which, make no mistake about it, still continues, despite all the eyewash) but is also designed to yield fresh information about the OINTS who are here in our midst and have their hiding-places in the Great Deeps .

If we have heard of only one or two UFOs seen emerging from the polluted Mediterranean and none, to the best of my recollection, from the equally polluted Black Sea or the dying Caspian, perhaps this means that the OINTS like their environment sweet.

NOTES

1. The reports supplied by Sr. Victor Gesua, and written by Atilano Hidalgo (the paper's correspondent at La Guaira), Ernesto L. Rodriguez (correspondent at Maiquetia), and Pedro Lira, appeared in the Caracas newspaper, *Ultimas Noticias* for March 23,24,25,26,27,28,29,30,31 and April 1,2,3, of 1975.
2. For previous cases in or near Venezuela, see the following:
 Horacio G. Ganteaume:
UFos active over Caracas Skies: in FSR Jan./Feb. 1961. p.23.
"Puerto Rico and Venezuela Sightings", in World Round-up, of same issue, p.27.
"Virgin Islands: awesome spectacle," *ibid.*, p.29
"UFO Causes Death," in: World Round-up, FSR, May/June 1962, p.26
"Hundreds see Saucer (Caracas)" in: World Round-up, in FSR, Jan/Feb. 1964, p.29
"Five more UFOs (British Guiana)," in: World Round-up, in FSR, March/April 1965, p.28.
"New Landing (Caracas Report)", in: Stop Press, back cover, FSR, Sept./Oct, 1965.
"Air Force sightings near Caracas," in: World Round-up, FSR March/April 1966, rear cover.
"Did object kill rider?" in: World Round-up, FSR, Nov./Dec., 1966 rear cover.
 Brian Stross: *The Ihkals*, FSR, May/June 1968.
 Gordon Creighton: *Middle American creature reports*, (*ibid*).
 Charles Bowen: *More unusual Humanoids*. ("Are they 'crackers' in Caracas?", (*ibid* (p.18)
 Horacio G. Ganteaume: *Landing at San Pedro de los Altos*, FSR, March/April, 1969
 Salvador Freixedo: *UFOS over the Caribbean*, FSR Case Histories Supplement 14, April 1973.
"Red and blue UFO (Puerto Rico)," in: World Round-Up, in FSR Nov./Dec., 1970, p. 31.
"Caribbean Islands: The Ra 2 sightings," (*ibid* p.30.
 Gordon Creighton: *"Men in Black with red ties flee in saucer,"* in *South American Round-up*. 1971- Part 1.
 FSR Case Histories Supplement No.11, June 1972 (p.9) *"Diamond-shaped UFO (Grenada, West Indies)"*, in World Round-up, FSR, May/June 1973, p.30.
 Gordon Creighton: *"The Humanoids in Latin America"* (Cases 9,11,12,14,15,18,48. In *The Humanoids*. Edited by Charles Bowen (Neville Spearman, London). ■

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UFO CIRCLES IN THE SAND?

© By IRENE GRANCHI (President of C.I.S.N.E. UFO Research Society, Rio De Janeiro), FSR Consultant.

“Circles in the sand”? *Why not?* And made by UFOs? Well no. Of course they *have to be* man-made don't they, and not produced by UFOs? And most folk no doubt will leave it at that and dismiss the subject.

But the appearance of circles in the sand, and not seen to have been made by man, is something deserving of some thorough research. And in the *two cases* which I am about to present, there is a whole lot of evidence to suggest the full probability that they really were the results of UFO activity.

In the early hours of October 19 1993, before dawn, a retired Brazilian woman teacher, Ms. Aleida Machado, was walking along the beach at Icaraí, near Niterói, in the state of Rio de Janeiro, where she lives. She was going to see some fishermen who were about to put out to sea. *Suddenly her foot encountered some very hot sand.* She looked down and beheld a great number of concentric circles sculpted in the sand, which she at once attributed to the action of UFOs.

She felt that this should be made public, so she called the Press. But, as she soon discovered, to her dismay, that wasn't a good idea at all.

The people from the Media duly arrived - among them *TV Globo* - and filmed everything, and in the midday news broadcast the event was announced and disseminated throughout the entire country.

However, by contacting the Media, Ms. Aleida had of course also unwittingly alerted other forces - quite terrestrial ones - whose main interest would lie in suppressing such disrupting information.

Something clearly had to be done, and quickly! So, on the very next day, a 62-year-old man named Fernando Teixeira appeared on the scene, called the Press, and demonstrated - or attempted to demonstrate - that *he* was responsible for having made the sand circles! He proceeded to make two or three circles with his foot. (*But not 34 or so as there had been on the beach!*)

This was duly filmed, and shown nation-wide on the evening news programme of *TV Globo*.

Nobody really bothered of course to interview the man properly, but I was told that he had given some quite contradictory statements. He said that he habitually made such sand circles. (*But where? and when? Nobody ever seems to have seen them!*)

Early on that same day, *TV Globo* telephoned to me and invited me to their studio to watch their programme on the monitor. As I watched, I felt impressed by the perfection with which the circles had been incised in the sand at Icaraí. Had the sand been *wet*, then conceivably some talented human might have managed to contrive it somehow.



Fig. 1. Aleida Machao and the circles in the sand

But the sand was compact and dry. And what a vast difference there was between those circles on the beach and the old man's effort shown on the TV later on the same day! His work looked decidedly amateurish.



Fig. 2. Fernando Teixeira says "Oh yes! I make them regularly"

Naturally the Media had no difficulty in convincing the average Brazilian viewer that the man's handiwork shown in the evening programme was the "real thing", and that what had been shown in the morning, from the beach, was *not!*

I was given no chance to rebut any of this or to state my case. But, as time went by, I managed to gather sufficient data to indicate that Ms. Aleida Machado's initial interpretation was very likely thoroughly justifiable. This lady *deserves* justification. To such a degree was the poor woman ridiculed by the