

UFO REPORTS FROM CHINA (1)

Paul Dong

Transmitted to French Ufologist Jean Bastide and published in *Lumières dans la Nuit* No. 217/218 (July-August 1982). Translation from French text by Gordon Creighton. With acknowledgements and thanks to author Paul Dong, Jean Bastide, and Editor and Committee of *Lumières dans la Nuit*.

ON November 13, 1978, China's principal newspaper, the *Jen Min Jih Pao* or *People's Daily* (Peking) carried an article under the title "UFOs, An Unresolved World Puzzle". This was the first article on UFOs ever to appear in the Chinese press. Its author, Mr. Sheng Heng-yen, is one of the editors of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

Almost a year later, China's second-most important newspaper, the *Kuang-Ming Jih-Pao*, carried a second article on the UFOs. Published in the section chronicling scientific matters, the article posed the question of whether the flying saucers might not actually exist. The author of this second article, Mr. Chou Hsinyen, is in charge of scientific programmes in the Central Radio and Television Office in Peking.

Mr. Chou reported that a group of Chinese scientists had observed some UFOs during an expedition they were making in the province of Hupei. The sighting was confirmed by elements of the Chinese National Liberation Army who chanced to be on manoeuvres in that area at the time. The article also mentioned other UFO sightings in other provinces of China.

It was necessary to wait until May 12, 1980, for the next article on UFOs in the *Kuang-Ming Jih-Pao*. This article, of which I was the author, reproduced detailed reports made not only by aircraft pilots but also by scientists, and also by other eye-witnesses of professional status throughout the world, who had seen UFOs.

These three articles in the press aroused the interest of the public throughout the whole of mainland China. And the journal *Space Knowledge* received several hundred letters urging the Chinese Government to launch a project to study the UFO Phenomenon. The appearance of such a request in that journal duly engendered an enormous response from all the Provinces of China, and this induced the Government to set up a study group under the auspices of the University of Wuhan, in Central China. Thus the *Chinese Association for the Study of UFOs* came into being. This body, the first of its kind in China, has correspondents in the Capital, Peking, and in Shanghai and in Kuangtung Province, in the Kuanghsi Autonomous Region, and in four other provinces.

The Association publishes its own journal, *UFO Investigations*, and its membership includes workers, students, teachers, journalists, doctors, and scientific researchers. Although the Association had been founded

in May 1980, it was December 4 of that year before the *New China News Agency* (NCNA) published the fact.

There were two important developments which had led the Government in Peking to authorize a serious study of UFOs. The first was on a summer evening in 1965, when two bright disc-shaped objects crossed the sky above Peking, a city with a population of 8 millions. The second was two years later, when a similar thing was observed over some of the Peking suburbs. In this second case, thousands of people saw a round glowing object with flashing red lights shoot across the sky at a fantastic speed, then stop suddenly, and pause, before darting away at top speed and vanishing

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from sight on the horizon.

This second case of the violation of Peking's airspace by something led numerous observers to suppose that the object must have been some new prototype or secret weapon from the Nationalist Chinese Government on Taiwan or from some other country. One supposition led to another, and the public was soon suggesting a multitude of possible origins for these happenings. Since these unexplained phenomena were endangering the national security the authorities of Peking decided, with a view to allaying the growing fear, to create an academic group for the study of the UFOs. An additional factor that had induced the Chinese Government to decide to study the UFOs was the frequency of the reports of UFO sightings received by them from all the provinces of the country during the decade of the 1970s.

In response to my article of May 12, 1980, in the *Kuang-Ming Jih-Pao*, Mr. Ching Tao, Scientific Editor of that paper, voiced a somewhat different opinion, and wrote: "Far too great an importance has been accorded lately in the scientific field to the problem of the UFOs. Within the total framework of scientific research, unidentified flying objects constitute but a small portion of the wide spectrum of scientific studies. Without the making of a serious study, it is impossible to deny that the UFOs might be the product of hallucinations."

Mr. Hsieh Chu, Editor of *Space Knowledge*, commented along the same lines and wrote: "The existence of the UFOs cannot be denied if one takes into consideration the great number of sightings that have so far occurred in this country."

Both *Space Knowledge* and *Science and Life* have carried reports of UFO sightings.

One of these sightings took place one afternoon in 1970 when a Mr. Chen Yu-fu, a worker in a coal-washing plant in Shansi Province, observed in the sky a luminous round, ring-shaped mass. He said that the object was like a bowl or basin, and as he stood watching it fly over on the western side of the plant's transformer depot, he noticed that it was followed by a smoky trail.

Six years later, on September 9, 1976, at about 6.00 p.m., a group of employees of the Kiangsi Number Two Chemical Plant and some residents of the town of Yi-Chun (Province of Kiangsi) observed a copper-coloured metallic object shaped like two cymbals coupled together and rotating on its vertical axis. The eyewitnesses said the object was very clearly visible, in mid-air.

In the following year (1977), Chang Chou-seng, an employee at the Astronomical Observatory in Yunnan Province, observed a UFO over Ch'eng-Tu, Capital City of the far western Province of Szechuan. People over a radius of some 180 kilometres from Ch'eng-Tu, also saw it.

Finally, there was a report that, at 8.40 p.m. on

October 23, 1978, an enormous rectangular UFO appeared over an aerodrome in the north-western Province of Kansu. Its altitude was estimated to be between 6,000 and 8,000 metres, and its length at 1,000 metres (i.e. one kilometre.)

The above is just a sample, selected at random, from the rest, and is quite representative of the sort of reports that were brought to the attention of the Chinese Central Government during the periods of maximum UFO activity. In general, the phenomena observed fall into three groups:-

(1) 80% seem to relate to round, disc-shaped objects.

(2) 10% are large, rectangular objects.

(3) 10% seem to be of cloudy, nebulous form.

Although China is now engaged in an attempt to study the contemporary UFO situation, the problem is not new, and the sightings go back as far as 1947,* at which date most of the country was still under the control of the Nationalist Government. And between 1947 and now very many people have seen UFOs. One of these eyewitnesses, Mr. Chu Fook Tsang, Editor of the *Monthly World Book*, subsequently took part in a study programme on UFOs.

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With a view to arriving at a better comprehension of the nature of these phenomena, China has let its population have access to the information available on UFOs. An important objective of the Chinese Government is to educate the popular masses on this subject. Some steps have recently been taken in this direction, such as the showing on the Chinese Television Service of a film produced in the USA — *The UFOs are Real*, and also the publication of books and periodicals on the subject of UFOs.

It is clear that some progress has been made in this direction, and as proof of this I need only cite the establishment of the *Chinese Association for the Study of UFOs*, which is officially under the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. It is to be hoped that, assisted by the official governmental backing given for a study of the UFO Phenomenon, the Chinese scientific community, whose spheres of interest include this type of study, will not let themselves become dupes of the *a priori* arguments that are at present appearing in the USA.

Note by Editor of *Lumières dans la Nuit*

Mr. Paul Dong, who has sent us this Report via Monsieur Jean Bastide, is a member of the American organizations APRO and MUFON, and is the author of a book about UFOs, recently published in China. He is also in charge of the coordination of UFO research in China with UFO research in other countries.

*Note by Translator

As Mr. Paul Dong observes, the problem of UFOs is not new in China (any more than it is anywhere else), and I myself had a spectacular sighting of one over Chungking, China's far western wartime Capital, in the summer of 1941. For a description see page 168 of *Unidentified Flying Objects*, by Robert Chapman, Science Correspondent of the *Sunday Express*, London. (Pub. by Arthur Barker, London, 1969. Reprinted as paperback, *UFO: Flying Saucers over Britain*, Mayflower Books, 1969). For anyone who studies Chinese literature and Chinese historical records, it is patently clear that no country can offer such a wealth of seemingly Fortean and/or Ufological material over the last two thousand years. G.C.

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BOOK REVIEW

We have received from our friend and colleague Dr. Berthold Eric Schwarz a copy of a most interesting article by him — *Clinical Observations on Telekinesis*, originally printed in Vol.27 of the *American Society of Psychosomatic Dentistry and Medicine*, 1980, and now reprinted in booklet form (123 pages, available from the author at 202 Bellevue Avenue, Upper Montclair, New Jersey 07043).

Everyone who has made even the most cursory study of parapsychological and parapsychical problems knows that nothing in this whole field is more dramatic and impressive than telekinesis — the paranormal control and movement of objects at a distance. Clearly, if such things are possible, then the whole official scientific viewpoint about “reality” and about the nature of the world around us is wrong, and it is not surprising that the opposition attack the very thought of telekinesis with such vehemence! They know indeed that their whole position is imperilled.

It is not often that an eminent physician is prepared to publish his ideas on these controversial matters, and Dr. Schwarz's contribution is most valuable. In his summing-up he says:—

“Historically considered, Medicine has a stake in these murky areas of research. Hippocrates brushed away superstitious cobwebs from the ‘sacred’ disease epilepsy. Johann Weyer, sixteenth-century Dutch physician, and the true founder of modern psychiatry, introduced a commonsense medical approach in refuting the superstitious claims and pernicious effects surrounding so-called witches and devils; and Weyer applied up-to-date and entirely humane methods in unmasking the spurious miracles of a young girl who claimed she stayed alive and in good health for a long period of time without food. Freud once wrote that if he were at the beginning of his scientific career rather than at the end, he would have devoted his life to psychical research. Jung, throughout his career, enriched many of his volumes with a wide variety of psychic matters and, near the very end, his eyes still looking forward to the future, grappled with the *pièce de résistance* of the mind-matter interface problem: *flying saucers*.

The time is over-ripe for a new cadre of psychiatrists to tackle these enigmatic and frustrating, yet time-honoured psychic experiences — *telekinesis* in particular — that will not go away. They still happen, and they might hold promise for a new, revolutionary theory of the mind.” — G.C.

FLYING SAUCERS

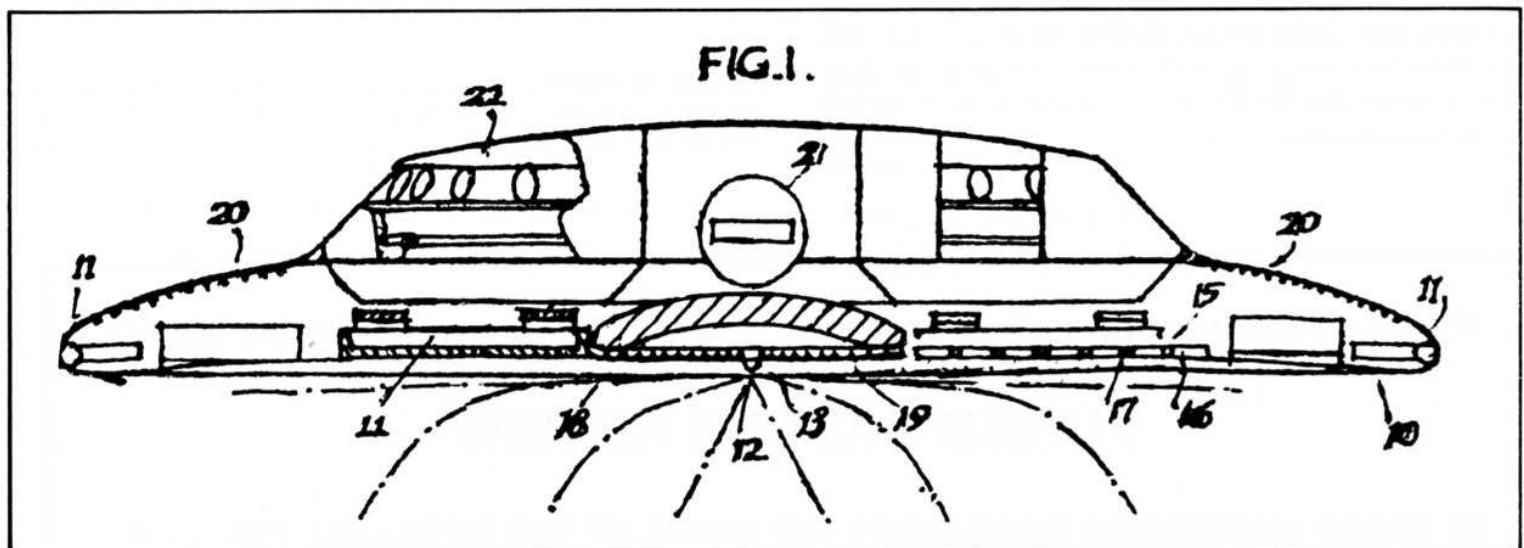
by courtesy of British Rail!

An item in the *Sunday Telegraph* for June 27, 1982, reveals the fearful truth that for some years past British Rail have secretly had on their drawing boards a 120 ft.-wide “flying saucer”, to be powered by a nuclear reactor and a series of laser beams. (Patent No. 1310990, now gathering dust in the Patent Office be-

cause, beset by all its other problems, British Rail “has had to abandon its bizarre project to build the world's first flying saucer” (sic)!

Personally, in view of their general record, the travelling public should perhaps be mighty glad to hear that British Rail have dropped the scheme?

Credit: Mr. Michael Lambert of Ilford, Essex, (who points out that, had this contraption ever got built, it would promptly have been used to explain away all the UFO sightings there have ever been!)



British Rail's Flying Saucer: a drawing in the Patent office