

to the orderly functions of the protective organs of the body politic... and the cultivation of a morbid national psychology in which skillful hostile propaganda could induce hysterical behavior and harmful distrust of duly constituted authority."

The Robertson Panel report was classified SECRET, and might never have been discovered except that it was seen in the files at ATIC headquarters by Dr. James McDonald; apparently it had been improperly declassified, for when he turned it back in and asked for a copy, it was not provided, and he was told that it was no longer available as a declassified document. A somewhat amusing side effect was felt at

APRO headquarters, where it was discovered that a "volunteer worker" had been secretly making reports to his superior officer of his observations at APRO. At one time there were as many as three former CIA operatives on the board of directors of the National Investigations Committee for Aerial Phenomena (NICAP).

*COMING: The International Dimension — and some of the things the intelligence agencies fear about UFOs.*

## A NOTE ON "PULSED LIGHT-TRACKS"

*Florin Gheorghită (Cluj, Romania)*

*(Précis from French)*

IN an interview<sup>1</sup> which he gave in 1978, the French investigator Claude Poher made the statement: "It is not at all impossible that the 'UFO Phenomenon', as it is classified at present, may in fact comprise several different unknown phenomena", and in that same year I published an article<sup>2</sup> here in Romania on a certain physical phenomenon that had made its way into Ufology and also into official scientific research, namely the production of genuine photographs, taken in a number of different countries, generally out in the open, and showing pulsed trace-lines of light.

### Theories

Some years ago an *APRO Bulletin* carried a photograph of this type, with the explanation that it was claimed to show "the aerial manoeuvres of UFOs". It had been taken by the American John T. Hopf during the night of December 13, 1966, at Newport, Rhode Island. A similar explanation was offered for a photo<sup>3</sup> taken during the night of November 10, 1979, in Victoria Park, London by S. Chorvat.

### "Ball-lightning"

On the other hand, the photograph of a pulsed light-track taken by chance by the Englishman R. C. Jennings one summer night in 1961 in Yorkshire was published in the Belgian UFO journal *Infoespace* as an example of "ball lightning." However, two investigators, D. W. Davies (of the British National Physical Laboratory at Teddington) and R. B. Standler (of the New York State University at Albany) proved<sup>4</sup> that it was not a case of ball-lightning at all.

### "Pulsed ball-lightning"

A number of scientific writers have published similar photos and called it "pearled (pulsatory) ball-lightning." — a phenomenon which in fact does not exist. None of them was able to explain an elementary physical process — namely how could ball-lightning remain momentarily without light around it (during the drop in its electrostatic potential) and then light up again so many times (???) without the addition of an external influx of energy?

Now the problem of ball-lightning is one that lies within my own field of professional competence, as I have spent many years studying the scientific documentation for this curious phenomenon, which until this day still remains without valid theoretical explanation.

As far as this business of the so-called "pearled ball-lightning" (in French "*la foudre en boule perlée*") is concerned, I have established as a definite fact that there is neither any theory nor any real practical evidence to support the idea that it exists. I have assembled a voluminous photographic dossier of material from ten countries, covering two continents, which demonstrates very effectively that such a phenomenon does not exist in reality!

### "Insects' wings"

There have of course been other absurd explanations which people have put forward. Desiring to refute the theory that photographs of such pulsed trace-lines showed "the movements of UFOs", the German aviation engineer H. Malthaner has supposed that the various "UFO trace-photos" of this kind that

people have taken are simply due to reflections from the wings of nocturnal insects (!?), thereby downgrading considerably the value of the book<sup>5</sup> which he had written in collaboration with a Ufologist.

Some of the photographs which I have been able to assemble, taken by various people here in Romania, make it possible however to rule out all these above-mentioned interpretations, and permit us to arrive at an understanding of at least a part of the physical process involved.

Some of my photos, for example, taken during cold winter nights in the months of December, January, and February, provide for the first time absolute proof that these photos cannot possibly be of *ball-lightning*, despite the way in which the pulsatory traces weave about through the atmosphere. This erroneous supposition about ball-lightning has now been definitely eliminated through photographs of the tracks in the close proximity of humid ground. In such cases all the radiant electrical charges should discharge instantly into the ground (the corona effect starts from an electrostatic or dynamic potential of 30,000 volts and upwards.) One of these photos was taken by Ion Ciobanu at 6.10 a.m. on December 10, 1976, in a street in Iași, Capital of the Romanian Province of Moldavia. (See Fig. 1)

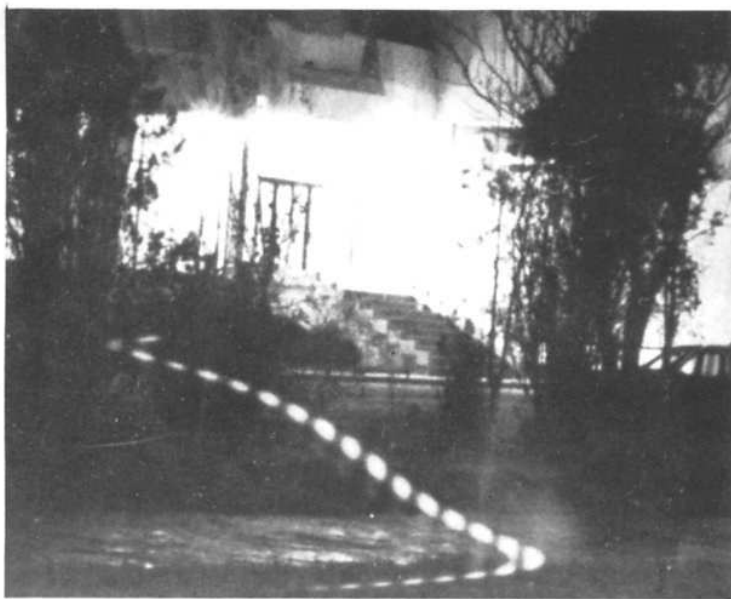


Fig. 1

Other photos, very similar to this, have likewise disposed of the idea of "UFOs performing manoeuvres" — particularly one very interesting snapshot made by pure chance inside his own apartment by the architect Andrei Frentz, also of Iași, on the evening of July 22, 1975. I would mention specifically that the room in question had walls constructed of reinforced concrete — an important fact in the scientific analysis of this phenomenon. (See Fig. 2).

### An experiment

Having learned of the numerous photographs of

this kind that had been produced in England, Germany, Spain, France, Italy, Poland, USSR, USA, Canada, and also here in Romania, I set up an experiment in Iași to carry out a widespread photographic surveillance of the atmosphere. A number of individuals (unknown to each other) had to expose film at half-hour intervals throughout the night. Both black-and-white and colour films were used. The results show clearly that the phenomenon is frequently present, not permanently, but at random.

### Conclusions

We have made a careful study of the abundant documentation that we now have on these pulsatory traces, and I have published my conclusions<sup>6</sup>:-

On only three occasions did the individuals who took the photos actually see, with their own eyes, the pulsed tracks. The rest saw nothing, and were quite surprised to see the light-tracks captured on their film.

The radiation responsible for this phenomenon seems to be of a very short wave-length, indeed resembling secondary radiation.

It does not appear that *cosmic radiation* has anything to do with the phenomenon, seeing that its occurrence is not permanent, and always random.

The most significant photos were taken during periods of very weak cosmic radiation, and of very weak solar and geomagnetic radiation. (I made an analysis in this connection of the Bulletins of the National and Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration of Boulder Center, U.S.A.)

Likewise, the energy emitted by the multitudes of radios and TV sets seems to play no part either in the generation of the phenomenon, for some of our very best and most complicated photos were taken after midnight, when such energy is at its minimal.

These pulsed tracks captured on film seem to be due to the movement of tiny balls of radiant energy, but the nature of this energy, whatever it is, is not electrical.

The fact that these pictures of pulsed tracks often show several parallel lines, with several different "models", indicates that at one and the same moment we can have several similar balls executing "the same programme". All of which, as it seems, is the result of natural forces that are still unknown to us — or maybe under the control of — who knows what! (I received one photo that captured a "game" showing more than a hundred lines traced by these balls, with different models!)

### "Messages"?

In this last-mentioned case, certain scientists advanced the theory that these trace-lines might conceivably be *messages* transmitted by some unknown

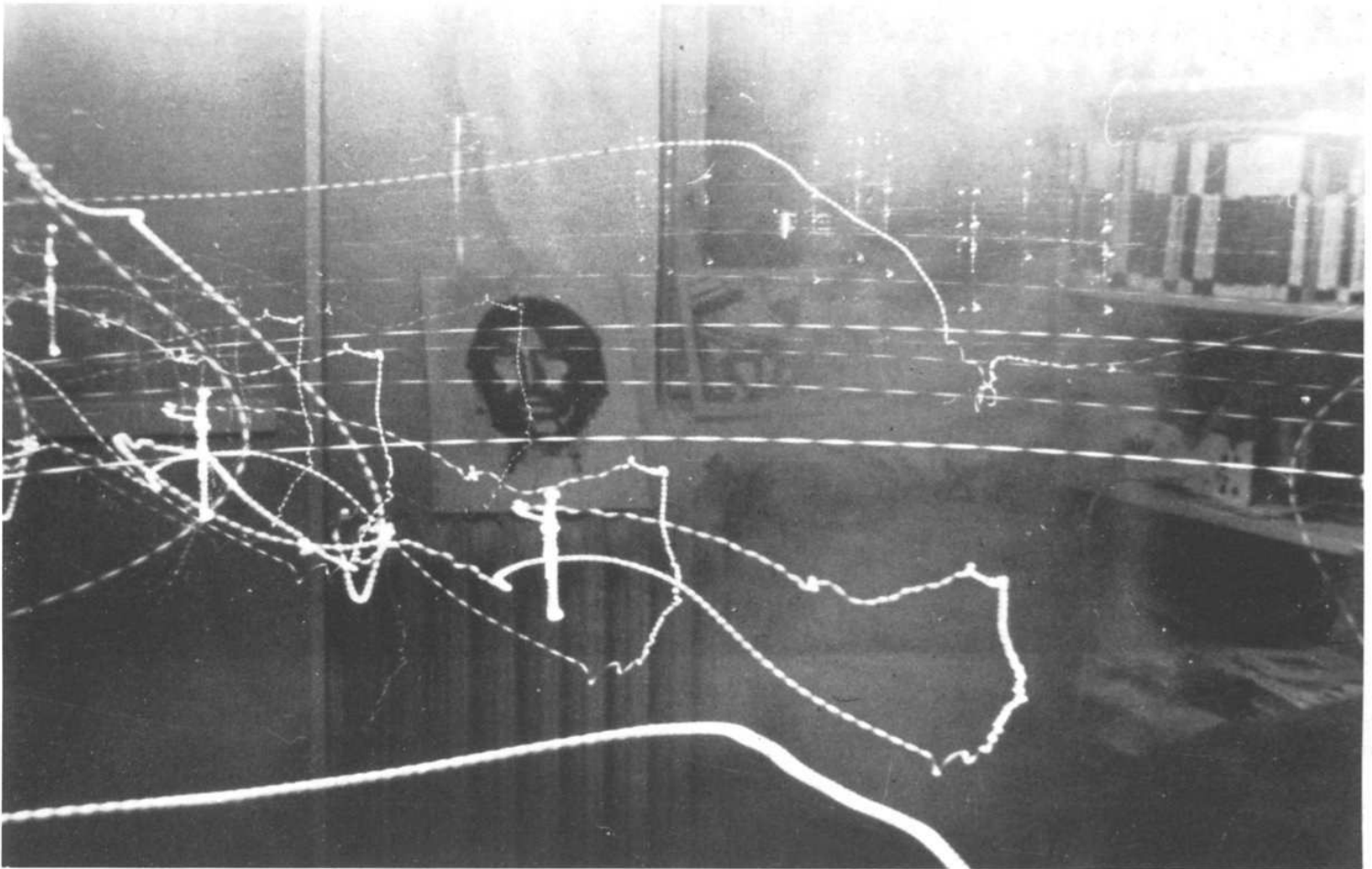


Fig. 2

technology — a theory that one should certainly not dismiss.

The fact that these “balls” “go out” and then “light up again” a vast number of times (some tracks are more than a kilometre long, horizontally) indicates that their energy potential re-establishes itself rapidly and continuously. Should this process be a natural one, then it means that it is a phenomenon of rapid energy absorption and energy transformation that is totally unknown to our Science (being something similar, maybe, to *breathing* in living creatures?)

Should there be any truth in the idea that the transmission of some sort of *messages* is involved, then it seems that the distant source is also using other very interesting techniques that are still unknown to Terrestrials.

Further and more analytical studies of the films that have been made of this interesting phenomenon

will assuredly yield very useful supplementary clarifications to add to our knowledge.

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#### Note

We have seen a great many of these curious photographs, taken a few years ago in or around London, and frequently attributed to “UFO activity”. — G.C.

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# EXTRACTS FROM PAUL DONG'S FEIDIE BAI WEN BAI DA (QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON UFOs)

Published by Deli Shuju, Hong Kong, 1983. (Translation from Chinese by Gordon Creighton)

For the ordinary member of the vast Chinese public, who knows nothing whatsoever about UFOs or about worldwide interest in them over the past thirty years, this is an excellent little introduction. It describes very briefly some of the work done in the U.S.A. by NICAP, CUFOS, MUFON, APRO, and other organizations, Dr. Hynek, Donald Keyhoe, the Lorenzens, Walter Andrus, and Dr. Jacques Vallée and others. It also covers the UFO scene in France, and the work of Aimé Michel, Jean-Claude Bourret, LDLN and other French UFO publications, the famous radio statement of the French Minister of Defence in 1974, etc. It also gives details of a few famous French cases, such as Valensole.

(It mentions FSR but once, and contains nothing whatsoever about Britain or any British contribution ever made to Ufology.)

Of the 114 pages, 24 are devoted to 36 photographs, of which some 26 are of UFOs; all however but one are from Japan, USA, Europe and South America and I think that all of these are well known. There are a total of 23 pages on Ufology in America, including the U.S Air Force and its *Blue Book* and other Projects, the Condon Commission, etc. Some 19 pages deal with France, and 11 pages are devoted to a translation of a talk given on Ufology in Spain on Radio Sevilla by Ignacio Darnaude Rojas-Marcos on December 28, 1977.

Finally, there are a total of 15½ pages of text on Ufology in China. Since most of the questions asked and answered are of the most elementary kind, we need not concern ourselves with them here. I therefore give below a full translation of only those passages which are of value to us because they indicate what has been happening in China. As the reader will see, Ufology in China is about the same as Ufology elsewhere. (Where there do seem to be differences, as for example in the apparent absence of close-encounter cases or vehicle-stoppage cases, we may safely assume that military control and tight censorship are the governing factors, as they are, to some extent or other, in every other country too.) — EDITOR

## 1. Chinese UFO Photos

At least seven or eight exist. A few are not very clear, and three are good. One of them, taken in Taipei, Capital of Taiwan, on the evening of August 1, 1973, by Mr. Chi Zhong-Jie shows two UFOs. Another was taken in the small hours of August 24, 1973, in a valley in Chang-Ping County (Municipality of Peking) not far from the Great Wall, and shows a bright object; and the third, shaped like the spokes of a wheel, was taken either in the North of China or in Shanxi Province. (Twenty-six of the photos in the book show UFOs, but only one of them is from China, namely the Taipei photo of August 1, 1973.)

## 2. The UFO Situation in Taiwan: A Few Striking Examples

The Case of the Taipei photograph already mentioned above. At 11.47 p.m. on the night of August 1, 1973, the middle school student Chi Zhong-Jie saw two huge round objects stationary in the sky towards the west, making no sound, and silvery-white in colour. He at once went inside his house and got his camera and took a picture — a remarkable clear one, which I hold to be China's "No. 1 UFO photo" as regards quality.

At ten minutes after midnight on October 29, 1979, about ten residents of Taipei saw a gigantic round saucer flying from the south towards the west. It halted for a moment, very low. It was surrounded by a

ring of small apertures emitting bright red light. The case created a sensation in Taiwan, and the well-known local newspaper, the *Lianhe Bao* reported it under the headline "FLYING SAUCER VISITS TAIWAN".

## 3. Have Chinese Air Pilots Ever Encountered UFOs?

Yes, there have been cases, but I have very little information on them. A good example is that of a Mr. Sha Yongkao's sighting. At 9.40 p.m. on July 26, 1978, at a certain airfield in Shanxi Province, Air Force Instructor Sha Yongkao was piloting a plane, and flying at 3,000 metres, when he saw two glowing objects circle round twice above him before making off. The pupil in the plane with him also saw them. He at once radioed the nearest control tower and was informed by them that no other aircraft were in his vicinity.

At about 9.10 p.m. one evening at the end of February 1979 this same Air Force Instructor was flying a night fighter over Hou-Ma in Shanxi Province when again he saw an extremely bright luminous object shoot across the sky from south to north, at a speed far greater than that of his own machine. As he commented, every airman knows that to "fly supersonic" like that at 1,000 metres altitude, would cause buildings below to be very badly shaken and damaged.

Another pilot who has had a UFO sighting is Zhou Qing-Tong of the Lin-Tao Air Force Base at Lanzhou in Gansu Province and he says that at 8.04 p.m. on the