

SOVIET UFO SECRETS

The breakup of the former Soviet Union opens up a hidden vault of Iron Curtain UFO files.

A Special Exclusive Report by Bryan Gresh

(Our warmest thanks go to Editor Dennis Stacy and the MUFON Editorial Board for permission to reproduce this article, which appeared in the MUFON UFO Journal for October 1993.

The author, Bryan Gresh, is Senior Vice-President of Altamira Communications Group. He spent 15 years as a television news reporter in a number of markets around the country. Before joining Altamira in January of 1992, Bryan was an anchor/reporter at the CBS affiliate in Las Vegas, KLAS-TV. It was while in Las Vegas that he began working with renowned UFO researcher, George Knapp. Knapp and Gresh have teamed up to produce a series of videotape documentaries on the UFO phenomenon, the first of which will be available later this year. EDITOR, FSR.)

No meeting was ever complete without food. Whether tea and "special occasion" cookies offered by a government biologist who studies reported UFO landing sites, or the homemade cabbage pie served by a retired Red Army colonel who ran an unprecedented ten year study of UFOs in the former Soviet Union, we never left an interview hungry. Our Russian hosts were warm, sincere, friendly and, despite fixed incomes that amounted to little more than 25 or 30 US dollars a month, happy to share a meal with their American visitors. They also shared with us the secrets of decades of study into the UFO phenomenon in the vast Soviet empire.

During our 10-day Russian stay in March of this year, colleague George Knapp and I met, and conducted lengthy interviews with, a previously hidden echelon of researchers and scientists, dedicated professionals who had pursued their interest in UFOs during the long, dark reign of the Communists. Their findings were not known to the outside world — until now. Among our contacts: one of the architects of the Russian "Star Wars" program who emphatically claims the exchange of information between aliens and humans was incorporated in Russian "beam weapon" technology; a Moscow professor who has spent 30 years studying reported UFO landing sites, including many in and around Moscow; a Russian scientist with first-hand knowledge of the reported crash of a UFO near Roswell, New Mexico in 1947; a quiet, shadowy figure who heads the ongoing Ministry of Defense studies into UFOs; and an author and scientist who became, in essence, a non-person for talking publicly about the UFO phenomenon.

The trip to Russia took seven months to set up

and was arranged by our man in Moscow, Nikolai Kapranov. Kapranov is a Russian physicist who served as Security Advisor to the Soviet Parliament. We met Kapranov during a lecture tour of the United States. The UFO subject, it seems, had been talked about for years among Kapranov's circle of friends and associates, including scientists, military officers and KGB operatives. We set Kapranov up in Moscow with an office and a salary and asked him to see what hard information he could find.

What we had hoped, as odd as it sounds, was to find out a little of what America knows about UFOs by talking to the Russians. It has long been assumed that if the US government were secretly monitoring UFOs, the same might be going on in the Soviet Union. If the American government had been stockpiling this information under the national security blanket, maybe the Russians had been doing the same. We all know how little our government has made public on the subject, but this was a new day in Russia. The new freedoms the Russians were experiencing might extend to the subject of UFOs. Maybe the veil of secrecy would be lifted, if only to offer a peek. But it wasn't going to be easy.

When we stepped off the plane at Moscow's airport on that bone-chilling, late winter evening, the New Russia's ongoing political turmoil was as much on our minds as the UFO research we had come to do. The emerging democracy in this post-Communist era had spawned tension and upheaval. During our stay, loud, angry demonstrations were a daily occurrence. It seemed as if with each passing day, Russian President Boris Yeltsin was that much closer to being ousted. On our last day in Moscow, the Russian Parliament was meeting to consider impeachment (a process which, unlike in the United States, could take all of five minutes). Russian Army tanks rolled through the streets, trucks filled with troops convoyed near Red Square. Despite not knowing how, or when, our visit would end, the window of opportunity was open — and the lure was too great.

Long-Term Studies

Stories on UFOs from inside the Soviet Union have filtered out for years. Thanks to the work of Dr. Richard Haines, Jacques Vallée, Bruce Maccabee, Paul Stonehill and others, solid indications have surfaced of long-term, large scale UFO studies. Our goal was to talk, face to face, with those who were in the know, knowledgeable individuals who had not been quoted in the Western press

before, or even the Russian press for that matter. For the record, we have nothing against the Russian ufologists who are already known in the West. We were simply looking for a new layer of information and, hopefully, a treasure trove of UFO secrets.

One of the bigger gems was Boris Sokolov, a retired Russian colonel from a distinguished military family. Sokolov ran an unprecedented study, the likes of which, he is undoubtedly correct in saying, will never be repeated. "For 10 years," Sokolov says, "the entire Soviet Union became one gigantic UFO listening post."

The year was 1980. An amazing order came down from the Ministry of Defense: every military unit in the vast Soviet empire was to report any and all UFO sightings. Pilots, soldiers and sailors were ordered to observe the behaviour of the craft, and, if possible, take pictures. Later they would provide full and detailed statements to investigators. All reports would make their way up the military ladder, and land in the lap of Sokolov. The reports were numerous, the findings never before made public.

"We had 40 cases where our pilots encountered UFOs," said Sokolov. "Initially, they were commanded to chase, then shoot, the UFO. But when our pilots would engage, the UFO would speed up. The pilot would give chase, lose control and crash."

That happened three times. Twice, the pilots died. "After that," Sokolov said, "the pilots received another order: When they see a UFO they should change course — and get out."

The pilots reported the UFO seemed to possess an extraordinary intelligence, enough to know how far to push the pursuing Soviet aircraft to the point the pilot would lose control. The pilots viewed the UFO as a definite threat.

With the exception of the original "engage" order, Sokolov says the Soviets adopted a passive observation stance — if they saw a UFO, fine. The Soviet attitude was unlike the Americans, Sokolov says, who had set up some 30 radar stations to track UFOs.

Soviet Search For "Stealth" Data

Sokolov says the military was interested in UFOs for a number of reasons, including the belief that if the secrets of the UFO could be discovered, the Soviets would be able to win the competition against prospective enemies, by incorporating what extraterrestrials knew of velocity, materials — and stealth. Sokolov told us the search for stealth technology was prompted by the capabilities of UFOs.

October 5, 1983 is a date Sokolov will long remember. He received an order from his commander to leave immediately for an ICBM base in the Ukraine. The reason for the urgency? A report from the base commander to the Chief of the General Staff that the day before, from 4 until 8 that evening, a UFO had been observed near the base. During that time, the lights had lit up on the base control panel — the launch codes for the ICBMs had, mysteriously, been enabled.

"They received an order to prepare the launch

of the ICBMs, said Sokolov. "The chief of the General Staff wasted no time in sending in our UFO experts."

Fortunately, no missiles were launched. But in an article six years later in an issue of the magazine *Soviet Military Review*, Soviet military leaders made a strong case for exchanging UFO information, on a regular basis, with the West. It was suggested if the two sides did not communicate on this issue, a UFO might someday trigger a nuclear exchange between the superpowers. The Soviet authors admitted UFOs were tracked by Soviet defense systems and suggested that same must be true in the United States.

Sokolov reports that a number of cases involved military sentinels stationed through the Soviet Union who shot at approaching UFOs. He says when the guards started shooting, the UFO would take off.

Thousands of cases came to Sokolov during the 1980s. From his voluminous files, he's compiled the 400 most intriguing cases. Amazingly, we were allowed to purchase the entire file, and are now in the process of having the documents translated. From the archives, Sokolov says, it can be determined that an overwhelming number of the military sightings can be explained in conventional terms. Still, many remain a mystery. Says Sokolov, "It's a phenomenon that cannot be explained away so far."

Sokolov is quick to point out that, during the entire length of the study, not one piece of material evidence was left behind. However, Sokolov is aware of one piece of recovered, although unidentified, material which has been sent to four different Russian institutes for analysis. All four centers agree, the elements which form the material cannot be combined on earth.

Though a modest man, Sokolov admits no one else in the former Soviet Union has more information on UFOs than himself. The ageing colonel, he is quite certain the UFO phenomenon is for real, and is convinced we will someday find the physical evidence to prove it. "Our world is not unique," he says, "it can be imagined."

"Plasma Beam" Obtained From Aliens

Rimili Avramenko's world is somewhat unique. He is one of the chief scientists working on Russia's version of SDI. Avramenko has been entrusted with the highest possible clearances. So high that, for much of his life, he hasn't been able to use his real name. If he wanted to publish something, he would have to use an alias. We began our interview of this highly-regarded scientist with what we thought would be a good ice-breaker: is the UFO phenomenon for real? The question was quickly brushed aside, in no uncertain terms.

"My colleagues and I don't even think that's a question!" he bellowed. "Of course they are real!"

The exchange of information between aliens and humans, the scientist claims, has led to the development of what he referred to as the "weapon of the aliens," the plasma beam. The space age weaponry was incorporated into the Soviet version of SDI. Dr. Avramenko also confirmed for us that Russians knew

"Korolyov told Stalin the phenomenon was real."

UFOs were from somewhere else as early as 1959. The Americans knew that too, he said, because both sides had the same type of satellite defense warning systems.

Dr. Avramenko shared with us a couple of other startling pronouncements: during the Vietnam War, he said, a massive UFO flew over Hanoi. Although every major weapon in that city had its sights set on the craft, it didn't budge. Dr. Avramenko also slipped up and told us the only craft which can approach the speed of UFO is the American "Aurora" which is being flown in Nevada. When the look of amazement registered on our faces. Avramenko quickly back-tracked and said his information was based solely on articles in the popular press.

UFO Study Still Continues

Both Sokolov and Avramenko admitted to us military studies of UFOs are still underway in Russia. Some of the still-classified documents we were able to get out of Russia bear that out. The documents make it clear the Russian military maintains an ongoing, high level interest in the UFO subject. The documents reveal the Russians are far beyond the "Are they real?" question. They not only know they're real, the Russians are trying to find out how to take advantage, technologically, of that fact. The documents also show the Russians are monitoring ufology on a worldwide basis. We have found references to MJ-12. Still other American references in the files have never been made public in the West.

Another of our meetings put us across the table from the Ministry of Defense official who is in charge of the current study. By agreement, we are not yet able to make his name public, but we can give the name of the study, "Thread-3." One illuminating section of those papers contains details of UFO sightings by Soviet cosmonauts. Unlike American astronauts' reluctance to talk about the subject, Soviet references to UFOs were reported from the very beginning, with Yuri Gagarin himself. In the documents, Gagarin is quoted as saying UFOs are real, they fly at incredible speeds and that he would tell more about what he had seen in orbit — provided he be given permission to do so. The documents also provide information on American space encounters, including several references to things seen on the Moon by our astronauts, and how that information was removed from NASA's public files.

What do the Russians know about the most celebrated of all UFO crashes, the July, 1947 report of a crashed disc outside Roswell, New Mexico? If the incident were "real," the Russians should have known about it. After all, atomic bomb research was going on in the New Mexican desert at the time. Could Russian spies be far away? Our next interview made it seem apparent that, even in the 40s, the Russians weren't buying the weather balloon explanation of Roswell being proffered to the American people at the time by the US military.

That interview was with Valeriy Burdakov, a man

who, to my knowledge, has never granted an interview to a Western journalist. In the 1950s, Burdakov was a scientist at the prestigious Moscow Aviation Institute, birthplace of the Soviet space program. Burdakov's interest in UFOs led to lecturing on the subject, lectures which came to the attention of Sergei Korolyov, the dean of Soviet rocketry and the founder of the Russian space program. But Korolyov did not admonish the younger Burdakov; instead he confided in him.

Stalin Launched UFO Research

As the now-60-something Burdakov relates, Joseph Stalin invited Korolyov to a meeting in 1948. The dictator brought Korolyov to a room where, spread out on a table, were piles of material and information collected during a top secret study. Some of the information was gleaned from reports of Soviet operatives in place in New Mexico at the time of the alleged crash. Stalin was anxious to know, what did Korolyov make of this reported crash of a UFO near Roswell?

"Korolyov said, 'O.K., I'll collect the materials and bring them back in two days,'" said Burdakov. "But Stalin told him, 'No, you can't take any of this.'"

Burdakov says Stalin instead ordered Korolyov to work in the room for as long as he needed. Stalin offered to supply translators and anything else Korolyov needed to get the job done. When he finished, Stalin asked Korolyov for his opinion.

"Korolyov told Stalin the phenomenon was real," said Burdakov. "He told him the UFOs were not dangerous to our country, but they were not manufactured in the United States, or any other country. Stalin thanked him, and told Korolyov his opinion was shared by a number of other specialists."

Our interview with Burdakov revealed other first hand accounts from the annals of Soviet ufology. Burdakov says the founding father of the Soviet UFO movement, Felix Zigel', was asked to lecture to the KGB on the UFO phenomenon. Burdakov says he, too, found himself on the secret speaking tour, appearing before the Atomic Energy Institute and other "closed secret institutes" to share what he knew about UFOs. Burdakov says he was guaranteed his lectures would be kept quiet.

Burdakov says he has no doubts about the extent of the American government's involvement in the UFO phenomenon. Several branches of the American military, he says, are involved in active research and study.

"We know that the United States Air Force possesses plenty of material," says Burdakov. "The U.S. Navy has a big amount of material as well. We know that special orders have been given to keep all materials secret. When curious people ask for the materials they are told they're not there, that they've been destroyed."

The study of UFOs in the Soviet Union didn't always enjoy an unobstructed field of view. Several times, Soviet ufologists found themselves on the outs with the Soviet hierarchy. Even before Zigel' there was Yuri Fomin.*

Fomin's interest in UFOs dates back to the early

50s while connected with a Moscow institute working on industrial/electronic techniques. During lectures he delivered to the Soviet military, he became intrigued by the number of audience members who were witnesses to UFO events. His interest, though, was not something the Soviet system thought he should publicly share. Whether out of jealousy or fear, the Soviets ordered Fomin to put a lid on it. Despite a very public attack in *Pravda*, Fomin refused. It cost him. Fomin would become a non-person for talking openly about the subject. Still, he would not give up. During those dark days, Soviet ufology was driven underground. Yet despite public censure, Fomin and Zigel were asked to deliver classified lectures to government and military officials on the very subject they were being persecuted for talking about publicly.

The Soviet Academy of Sciences has undertaken continual, private studies of UFOs since the 1970s.* Over the years, as many as ten different institutions have been involved in the studies, resulting in thousands of case files. The Russians, of course, have their skeptics, but even their skepticism offers a refreshing change to what Americans face. The Academy's Institute of Terrestrial Magnetism houses the country's best known skeptic, Yuri Platov. Yes, Platov says, 90% of Russian UFO sightings are misidentifications of rocket launches, planes and the like, but even a skeptical Platov admits some cases cannot be easily dismissed. Science, he says, should be interested in pursuing the unexplained, without the baggage of preconceived notions. Platov does not rule out the possibility of extraterrestrial visitations.

Soviet Field Studies

Most American scientists will tell you the UFO phenomenon doesn't exist because they don't have any evidence to study. No evidence equals no study. The Russians, apparently, haven't heard that equation. They've been conducting field studies for a quarter of a century.

Rem Varlamov of the Moscow Technology Institute believes evidence abounds. We met with Dr. Varlamov at his small apartment outside Moscow for an in-depth interview. Dr. Varlamov has travelled to a number of reported UFO landing sites in Russia, including ten in the direct vicinity of Moscow, to conduct a variety of tests on physical and chemical changes in the soil and the environment. Among his voluminous findings; identical quartz timepieces, one placed inside a landing site, the other just outside, record time at two different speeds. The quartz timepiece inside the landing circle speeds up. Dr. Varlamov has also discovered that inside the reported landing site circles the land is all but sterile, yielding just a few individual samples of single-celled animals per cubic centimeter of soil. Just outside the circles, tens of thousands of single cell animals flourish in every cubic centimeter.

Varlamov told us the main thrust of his work is not to contact "the space intellect," but, rather, to understand how the Universe works. Among his other fascinating findings: evidence of what is known as

"angel hair," a type of by-product of UFO exhaust. Varlamov has obtained a sample to analyze the content. Dr. Varlamov also claims at least six attempts have been made to make pre-arranged contact with alien intelligence. Some of these contacts, he claims, were successful.

Varlamov's findings are supported by a government biologist and close colleague. His name is Yuri Simakov. Simakov has not been known outside of Russia until now. Dr. Simakov has also travelled to a number of Russian landing site cases, gathering data and conducting numerous tests. One of those experiments involved flies.

"We placed flies in a dish and put the dish over a landing site," Dr. Simakov said. "The flies went wild, buzzing and flying around."

Most intriguing, however, was Simakov's discovery of tiny, glass-like balls recovered from soil inside the landing site circles. Russian scientists, as yet, have not been able to identify these microscopic marbles. Simakov has a couple of theories.

"They may be formed as the result of transmutation," he said, "when oxygen was transformed into sodium under the influence of the UFO." Or, he says, they may be containers to carry life from one planet to another.

Although Dr. Simakov did not have many of these "seeds," he did give us some, in hopes American scientists might be able to solve the mystery. A highly reputable lab in the United States has analyzed the material. We are not yet in receipt of the written report, but this much is known: a team of experts which tested and analyzed the little balls has absolutely no idea what they are. These folks are experts in plant pathology and micro organisms, they suggested we next contact a chemist. They say the material appears to be similar to glass in composition, and someone familiar with how glass forms in soil may provide some insight.

Another of Dr. Simakov's discoveries comes from two reported landing sites in Siberia. Simakov found microscopic worms in the soil. Nothing too unusual there, except these worms are particular to Mexico, and don't occur naturally anywhere in the former Soviet Union.

Soviets Study "Far Viewing"

A sizable portion of our time in Moscow was spent with a military official whose area of expertise may offend the sensibilities of mainstream American ufologists. His research has a distinct, New Age flavor. Though at first glance, it may be easy to dismiss this work as so much mumbo jumbo, it is important to remember who is behind it: the Russian military machine. Also important to remember: it is a subject taken very seriously. Again, because of an agreement to protect his identity, we cannot divulge his name. However, he is no lightweight. His boss reports directly to the Russian version of Colin Powell.

In the West, it would be called a "remote viewing" program, the ability to "see" classified materials locked away in a safe thousands of miles away. But

for the general in charge of this program, it entails much more.

We were shown films which detailed the training of Russian soldiers. At the completion of the program, these soldiers would be able to track military targets without the benefit of any equipment. No radar, no satellites, no night vision glasses — just their minds. We were told the success rate hovered around 70%. Some of what the general is working on has already been put to use by Russian law enforcement.

For the general and his staff, the connection with UFOs is one of communication. Several times during our trip, we heard reference to the “universal brain” and the “cosmic intellect.” These disciples of ufology believe it is possible to communicate with alien intelligence on an ongoing basis. Not just “grays”, but dimensional, spatial beings that live with, and around, us on Earth. Yes, it’s “out there” — but no one snickers when the subject is talked about.

Huge, Serious, and Ongoing

The study of UFOs in Russia is huge, serious and ongoing. All the secrets cannot be found out in one trip. Fortunately, we have been invited back to Russia to continue our investigation behind what was once an iron curtain. The Ministry of Defense has invited us to take part in a UFO safari to study a high concentration sighting area in Siberia. We would be not only the only Westerners, but the only reporters.

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Unfortunately, the trip had to be cancelled for this year, because of a lack of Ministry of Defense funding. Hopefully, we’ll make the trip next year. In the meantime, our company is in the process of putting together a series of videotaped documentaries on the “Best Evidence” — both in the U.S., Russia and around the world. The first tapes should be available in early 1994.

Perhaps the “new” Russia will bring new opportunities for American and Russian UFO researchers to compare notes, and exchange vital information gathered from opposite sides of the world. To that end, our company has signed an agreement with the Russian Academy of Natural Sciences to establish a joint American-Russian research institute to foster the exchange of information between both sides. The UFO phenomenon is, after all, a subject too important to be left solely up to governments.

* **NOTE BY EDITOR, FSR.** The USSR Academy of Sciences asked for FSR in 1963 and have been taking it ever since then. The Chinese Academy of Sciences asked for it in the following year, 1964, and have also been taking it ever since. In the near future I will re-publish photostats of the original letters received by FSR from these two prestigious institutions of the USSR and of China. At around 1964 I was contacted for the first time by a Russian correspondent, Arkadiy Tikhonov, and my correspondence with him lasted for many years until the letters stopped -- I assume because of his death. He wrote always in Russian and made it clear that he was acting on behalf of the Russian investigators, Yuri Fomin, Dr Zigel', Aleksandr Kasantsev and others. And around 1964 I also started reporting regularly in FSR on articles about Space or UFOs in the Soviet newspapers and scientific journals.

These were the first regular contacts between Soviet investigators of the UFO Problem and civilian investigators in the West. G.C. ■

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ray of light but a pillar of fluorescent, highly magnetized gas. By confining gas within a “magnetic tube” or a “pillar” it is possible, in principle, to achieve the effect of a “solid” ray which can project and retract itself.

It means that a protruding ray which has an “end face” may turn out to be nothing but a pillar of magnetized gas. I know that I am speculating over disputable and poorly investigated issues, but the circumstances have obliged me to express my opinion.

/Once again, we find here proof that the rays emitted by UFOs are solid to some degree. Editor, AURA-Z. ■

HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR SUBSCRIPTION TO FSR?

“REMEMBER McDONALD”

By Ann Druffel (MUFON, California, and FSR Consultant.)

This article appeared in the *International UFO Reporter* (the journal established by the late Dr. J. Allen Hynek), September/October 1993 issue, Vol. 18, No. 5, and in December we were surprised to receive a sudden note from Ann Druffel informing us that she hoped that we would be able to find room for it in FSR too, and that she had already obtained the consent of Mr. Mark Rodeghier of the *I.U.R.* for us to have it. This was very welcome news, and we take the opportunity to express our thanks to both Mrs. Druffel and Mr. Rodeghier, for we ourselves have never forgotten the vigorous role played by the great American scientist James McDonald, and we are sure that many of our older readers also had much respect and affection for him.

What I am now saying here does not mean that I do not realize that in some respects Dr. Hynek was indeed a disaster so far as our cause was concerned, for in my opinion he was *appallingly timid*. I am sure that he did perceive and did understand a great deal more than he was prepared to state publicly. But he feared his scientific peers and no doubt feared for the security of his official post. *And I agree that, had he possessed the courage and the dynamism of McDonald there would indeed have probably been a good deal more achieved by now.*

While I support completely Mrs. Druffel's thesis that McDonald was, (so far as I am able to judge) unquestionably the most impressive of the American scientists who are known *publicly* to have made a deep study of “our subject”, I have to add that I do not share McDonald's confidence — as well as Ann's confidence — that human science is going to get the better of the UFO conundrum. I don't think so for one moment, and I prefer to remember what Dr. Hynek himself said to me several times, namely that “if the floor of *their* science is higher than the ceiling of *our* science, then it may well be that there will be no meeting of minds.”

I would add I am not so sure either that McDonald's suicide was not due to something other than family and domestic problems — as we have always been told. For his death has not been the only mysterious one in our particular field of interest, and there are plenty of agencies around that kill, and kill without compunction. Some of those agencies are certainly “Governmental”. But the others are “something else”, and I'm not sure that this “something else” isn't in the driving-seat here. EDITOR.

A recent article of tribute by Walter Webb to Dr. J. Allen Hynek (*IUR*, Jan/Feb '93, Vol. 18, No. 1), prompts me to write a companion tribute to the late Dr. James E. McDonald. Most people in the UFO research field know McDonald's name, but, proportionately, there are not many people still left in the field who knew and worked with him personally. Due to his early death in June 1971, at the age of 51, the field was deprived prematurely of a fearless and gifted fighter.

For an unforgettable five years, between 1966 and 1971, McDonald sought the truth about UFOs with a boldness and perseverance which the field had never before — nor since — experienced. His rare combination of interdisciplinary scientific knowledge, his countless contributions to the field of atmospheric physics, his numerous high-placed contacts in government, the military, and Science, permitted him to sound an heraldic call to those who might be able to “make a difference”. He investigated the best UFO reports on-site, was friend and colleague to many lay researchers, and spoke innumerable times before prestigious scientific and governmental groups. He was listened to with respect everywhere he went. His main purpose: to convince the Scientific Establishment that UFOs should be studied seriously.

If Jim McDonald had lived out a normal life span, the UFO field today would be very different from the chaos into which it has been tossed. At the very least, we would very likely be *closer* to solving the puzzle of these enigmatic objects.

Recently, the publication of Jacques Vallée's *FORBIDDEN SCIENCE: JOURNALS 1957-1969* had, in a sense, re-introduced Dr. James McDonald to the field. This book, however, presents him in rather negative terms. I wish merely to present the other side of the controversy, so that those readers who did not know McDonald personally but yet are curious about him and his many accomplishments in the field might have a chance to see him as he was, and as his numerous friends, associates and colleagues knew him.

The rather negative light which Vallée's *JOURNALS* cast upon McDonald is probably due to the fact that Hynek was Vallée's mentor and friend. Perhaps Vallée — whose work I admire and applaud, and who has from the beginning relentlessly pursued the truth of UFOs — did not fully understand McDonald's intense nature — or his *modus operandi*, which even for a scientist was incredibly thorough. McDonald had, indeed, repeatedly challenged Dr. Hynek on various issues, usually not publicly, but mainly in conversation and corre-