

# REPORTS FROM SWEDEN

by Åke Jonsson

Our contributor, who is FLYING SAUCER REVIEW representative in Sweden, prepared his article in English.

THIS article is based on a study of some 600 newspaper items from the period March-May 1967 which I made during the summer of 1967. I also made one or two personal investigations, and received a measure of assistance from other investigators. The newspapers were mostly from the north/central part of Sweden.

The Spring 1967 seems to have been a rather active period for Swedish conditions—the number of reports which I uncovered for the period March-May 1967 was 41 (all but four of them in March and April); during the last three years (1964-66) the number of reports received by military authorities in Sweden each year did not total anywhere approaching 40 (in 1966 there were just about 20 reports). There also seem to have been reports before March and since May, so the accurate number of sightings made in Sweden during 1967 will be much higher than 41.

This article is not to be considered as a survey of a "wave"—I have merely selected 15 of the more interesting cases. The remaining 26 cases have been excluded either because they were lacking in detail, or because a natural explanation seemed highly probable. This of course does not exclude the possibility that perhaps many of these 15 cases might be identified by more experienced investigators, or by scientists in the field, as natural phenomena. In fact I would be thankful to receive sensible explanations for any of these 15 cases through the columns of FLYING SAUCER REVIEW.

I know of only one official explanation to any of these cases (Case No. 1), but many experts seemed to prefer to explain away all cases as "light-refraction phenomena".

During the week beginning April 7, 1967, many scientists from the Max Planck-Institute of Munich, W. Germany, launched rockets from the Esrange-base north of Kiruna (in the extreme northern part of Sweden). These rockets carried doses of barium which were set to detonate at an altitude of 170 kilometres (about 106 miles). The barium-clouds that originated from these explosions looked like green balls with a red centre, and were almost motionless in the sky. I do not think the descriptions in Cases 8, 9 and 10 seem to fit the description of barium-clouds (Case 10, because the tubular-shape does not fit the general ball-appearance, because the time of day was rather late, and because the sighting lasted much longer than the barium-clouds did). Three other cases from April 10 and 11 have been excluded because the descriptions strongly suggested that the "objects" were barium-clouds.

I feel that I should add that the barium-cloud phenomenon probably explains the strange object over Finland (see FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, Vol. 13, No. 4, pp. 7 and 8). On September 12, 1967, four similar

barium-clouds were sent up from a rocket-base in the northern part of Norway, and these clouds resulted in several reports from the north/central part of Sweden (even as far to the south as Stockholm). The descriptions given in these reports (and in the reports of April) in most respects fit the description given by Elis W. Grahn, namely the green light with a red centre—in fact one of the witnesses even described them as red balls with green rims—changing to white "smoke", which slowly disappeared. This fact, and the fact that the barium-clouds of April were launched at about 9.00 p.m. (10.00 p.m. Finnish time) and were seen at places at a greater distance than Gamlekarleby (and the other places mentioned in Mr. Grahn's article), strongly suggests that the description in the article was not that of a "strange object", but of a rather unusual barium-cloud phenomenon instead.

The description of the following 15 cases is directly based upon statements made by the witnesses in newspapers, or on my own investigations. The figures are not to be considered as drawn to scale, but as being complementary to the text and thus giving the reader a better picture of the nature of the sightings.

## CASES

### 1. March 5, 1.25 a.m., Lövåsen, Vilhelmina, Lapland.

Yeoman Erik Söderström, 53, was in his bed waiting for his two sons to return from Vilhelmina. He heard the car arrive, and one of his sons came almost rushing in and shouted something about there being a "space ship" out there. He at once realised from the boy's voice and entrance that he was not just playing a joke, so five of the family—

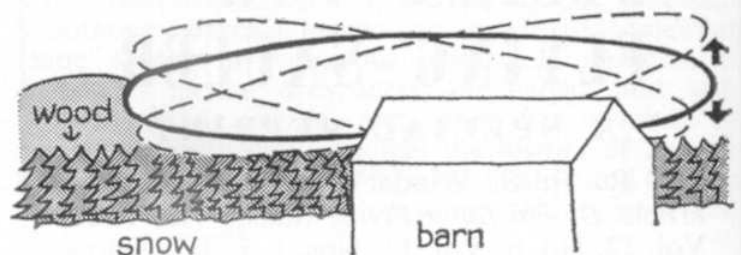


Figure 1

with the exception of the youngest daughter whom they did not wake up—ran towards the kitchen window.

When they looked through the window, they saw, partly silhouetted against the sky, a dark, blue-black, cigar-shaped object, 25 to 40 metres in length (1 metre = 3ft. 3in.) and 4 to 6 metres in height. The object hovered some 8 metres above the ground, partly hidden by a barn standing some 60 metres from the house. It was wobbling slightly on its axis (see figure 1), and did not give off any light.

When, after six minutes, someone turned on the electric light in the kitchen, the immediate result of this was that the

large object accelerated with a whistling sound (the only sound that was heard during the whole sighting), and disappeared to the north in a few seconds. Simultaneously, as the large object sped away, a smaller one shot out from behind the bigger one, made a turn, and then came back and hovered about 100 metres from the house above a power line (20,000 volts) to the right of the original sighting-place, at a height of 20 metres (see figure 2). This smaller object had a tail behind it, which Mr. Söderström thought could have been air whirls or maybe some kind of exhaust. The object was circular, silvery and seemed metallic; it gave off a faint,

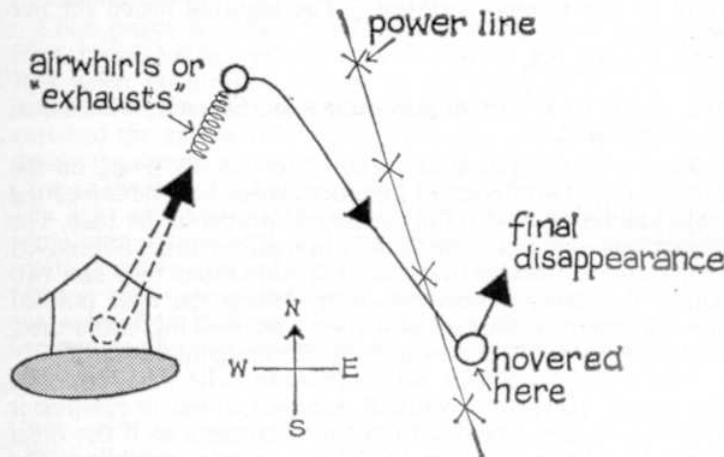


Figure 2\*

The movements of the object as if seen from above. The shape of the object as shown here is purely arbitrary

lustreless light. Its diameter was between 6 and 12 metres. It hovered for 2 to 4 minutes close to the power line, and disappeared for some moments. It returned once more before it finally disappeared towards the north-east. The whole sighting lasted for 15 to 20 minutes.

Some weather conditions: The sky was clear (i.e., cloudless), the thermometer was 20° Celsius below zero, and there was aurora borealis.

Sources: 1, 2 (see list at end of article).

2. March 9, about 7.30 p.m., Strömsund, Lappland.

Mrs. Ingegerd Greander, her daughter Ann-Sofi, and the daughter's fiancé, Klas Olof Nilsson, were on their way home by car from Storuman to Slussfors, when "Nilsson noticed a bluish light to the left of the road. When the ladies looked out they saw two objects, a bigger and a smaller one, which moved in the same direction as the car, but at a greater speed. After some minutes they lost the 'saucers' from sight.

"When soon afterwards they passed more open country . . . they caught sight of the objects again, now at a greater distance, moving towards Mattaberg (north-east—ÅJ). The two saucers emitted a faint, lustreless, bluish light, and the bigger object kept a constant altitude above the ground, while the smaller one rose and descended, and followed the bigger one all the time. After a while they disappeared beyond the horizon."

Sources: 3, 4.

3. March 10, 8.55 p.m., Rosinedal, Västerbotten.

Mr. Bo Lindmark, his wife Vivan and their ten-year-old daughter were on their way towards Umeå by car when

\* Figures 1 and 2 were drawn originally by the author after his visit to the sighting-place, and are based on descriptions given by the witnesses. It must be noted that the proportions (particularly in figure 2) are not the correct ones; the only purpose of these figures is to give the reader a clearer picture of the movements of the objects. The other illustrations with this article are based on sketches made by the witnesses in replies to questionnaires.

"Suddenly the road was illuminated by a light, which came from above. When we looked up we saw an object, which looked like two plates pressed together with the insides against each other. The bottom of the object was shiny and smooth. At the same time we heard a slight 'frizzling' sound. The object crossed (flew over) the road and disappeared rapidly."

Source: 3.

4. March 15 or 16, about midnight, between Svappavaara and Kiruna, Lappland.

Mr. Birger Lundgren, a builder's workman, was driving his car towards Kiruna on his way to work a night shift, when he noticed two round, luminous objects, one of them somewhat smaller than the other one, in front of the car. "They seemed to be only 10 metres or so above the road, and followed the car for several kilometres. Sometimes they moved faster, and then it seemed as if they were going to land on the road in front of me." Thinking that they could be reflections of his car headlights, he turned these off, but the green-white objects remained in view for a long while afterwards. Then they disappeared so suddenly that he did not really see how it could have happened. The light emitted by the objects was so intense that it would have been possible to drive without the car headlights on.

Mr. Lundgren was so shaken by his experience, that he took one hour to drive the remaining 30 kilometres (18½ miles) to Kiruna. He had always laughed at flying-saucer theories before, but was now convinced that that was what he saw.

Sources: 5, 6, 7.

5. March 16, about 9.00 p.m., Kiruna, Lappland.

Mr. Ronny Planthinn, 28, was out ski-ing south of the town when he suddenly noticed what he at first thought was a shooting star. A falling star-like white object which suddenly stopped, and then made various movements before it disappeared behind a mountain (see figure 3). The luminous intensity seemed to increase while the object moved. The sighting lasted for 30 seconds.

Sources: 1, 8.

6. March 22, about 11.00 p.m., between Kungälv and Marstrand, Bohuslän.

"Student Ann-Lis Danielsson, 22, states that she . . . was pursued for 15 minutes by a 'whizzing' and light-emitting saucer of about 15 metres diameter when travelling the road between Kungälv and Marstrand. . . . She suddenly noticed a green shimmer in the top right corner of the windscreen, and she turned to see what it was. . . . About 150 metres away from the car, and at an altitude of about 400 metres, there hovered a round, disc-shaped object. It emitted an intense

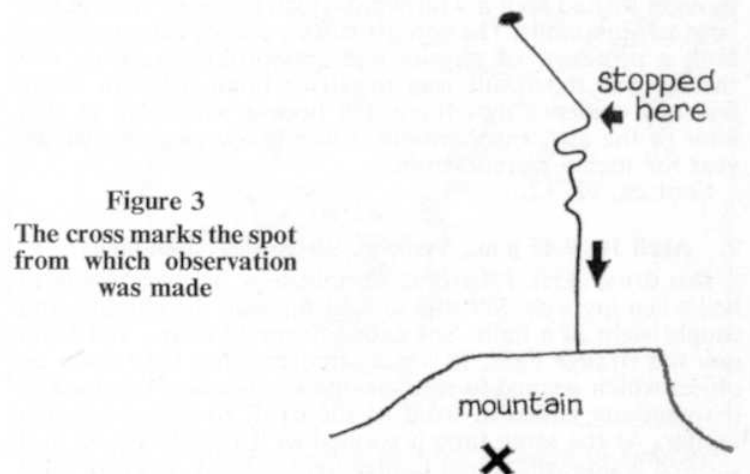


Figure 3

The cross marks the spot from which observation was made



greenish light, and although she had all the windows of the car shut, she heard a powerful 'whizzing' sound from the object. After having followed the car for some kilometres on a straight road, the object changed course (direction) and disappeared towards the west and the sea (the Skagerack)."

Source: 9.

**7. March 25, about 1.00 a.m., Långsjöby, Dikanäs, Lappland.**

The youths Britt-Marie Söderström, of Vilhelmina (not to be confused with the Söderström family of case 1), and Leif Jonsson, Åsele, were guests at Alfred Hamreby's place during Easter. They "were in a cottage on the farm when they . . . noticed a strange discordant note which they at first thought came from the radio. When they had turned the radio off, the jarring tone was still there, and seems to have come from two luminous objects which they observed at about the same time. The youths did not go out, but watched the objects through the window. The first time they could watch them for about five minutes. Outlines could not be distinguished, and the distance could not be ascertained. The objects moved to and fro, and gave off a very bright light. When they disappeared the sound also ceased. After a moment's pause, first the sound, and then the objects returned; the same process was repeated a third time. On one occasion it seemed as if something had dropped from one of the objects, and there was a flash. The sound was described as 'continuous' and it gradually diminished as the objects disappeared.

"The youths did not dare to move during the sighting, and accordingly they did not call any other person. The light from the objects was so intense that the surrounding country was illuminated." The sightings lasted for some 20 to 25 minutes.

Source: 10.

**8. April 10, 9.15 p.m., Kvarnbrånet, Hällnäs, Västerbotten.**

Mr. Thorsten Lindmark was driving his car close to his home, when he suddenly felt a powerful wind against the car. At the same time he noticed two luminous, multi-coloured objects at an altitude of about 15 metres. "The objects were round, and their apparent size about double that of a 'no-parking' sign (about 130 centimetres—4ft.—ÅJ. One of the objects he saw on edge: they were a 'couple of decimetres' thick. . . . The objects moved towards the east at a rather great speed." He hurried home, and his wife could see the objects in the distance.

When, next day, Mr. Lindmark went to the spot where he had made the observation, he found small fir twigs spread out into a thin belt on the ground about 50 metres long and several metres wide. This was pointing in the same direction as that in which the two objects moved.

Although this was an unusual sighting, Mr. Lindmark thought he had seen a whirlwind which for some reason had been self-luminous. The newspaper (see source 11) questioned both a professor of physics and meteorologists about this theory, but the result was negative; none of them could find any evidence that there had been a whirlwind at that hour of the day. Furthermore it was the wrong time of the year for such a phenomenon.

Sources: 11, 12.

**9. April 10, 9.45 p.m., Vedjeön, Strömsund, Jämtland.**

Bus driver Erik Elfström, 50, told how he "was going to bed when my wife, Solveig, looked through the window and caught sight of a light. She called to me to come, and I too saw the strange light. It was a circular white light from an object which seemed to spin around on its axis. It seemed as if something glided in front of the light, so that it became fainter. At the same time it seemed as if it spun round and showed a side which had fainter light. Thus it kept on until

it disappeared from sight. For a minute it hovered motionless above lake Dragan; then it seemed to move away from us with accelerating speed towards the north-west in the direction of Vilhelmina." He described the movement as being straight away from him, so that the object's position in the sky did not change. "I watched the light until it disappeared from my eyes. Then I took my 7 × 50 binoculars and caught sight of it again. Finally it disappeared, even through the binoculars. Any confusion with the light on the Tåsjö-transmitter (a TV-transmitter—ÅJ) is absolutely excluded, because I saw that at the same time but to the right of the luminous object." The sighting lasted for five minutes.

Sources: 1, 13.

**10. April 10-11, 10.00 p.m.-1.00 a.m., Storsele, Vilhelmina, Lappland.**

Farmer Ludvig Jonsson, and other people living on the farm, noticed an object in the north-west. "He described the object as pointed with four luminous points in the base. The object was seen in the same direction all the time, but moved and showed different sides so that sometimes they saw two luminous points, sometimes four. When the base pointed towards them, it seemed as if they were looking into a tube, and that inside there was a blaze of changing intensity.

"He telephoned Mrs. Klara Jonsson, who also looked at the object, and after a while it occurred to her to examine it with binoculars. She describes the movement as if the *Eiffel tower* had been hovering in the sky, slowly wobbling. The object seemed to be constructed with a network. Sometimes it looked pointed, sometimes it had another shape. When the base was facing her she saw it as a square, and she also described the blazing light which she saw 'inside a long (and) tapering tube.' When, at about one a.m. . . . she looked at the object for the last time, it was in exactly the same spot as it had been three hours earlier. All the observers think the object was at a great distance."

Sources: 11, 12.

**11. April 17-18, midnight, Måga, Ljusdal, Hälsingland.**

Mr. Sven Thage Hilmersson was outside his house repairing a hydrophore which had broken down. Around midnight he saw something which at first he thought was a satellite, but he soon realised it couldn't be. He saw an object "which moved much faster than satellites he had seen before, and emitted an intensively blinding light. The colour was silvery or ash-grey, and the edges of the object were powerfully illuminated (see figure 4). But the most striking thing, however, was the sound: very powerful howling or whistling noise." He first saw it above Tallåsen (north-east) one kilometre away, and then it passed his house and

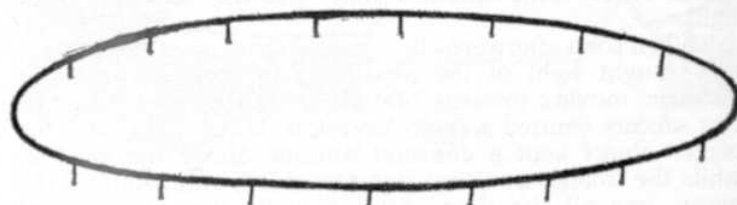


Figure 4

The strokes denote luminous points

disappeared towards south-west. It moved horizontally at an estimated height of about 600 metres, and was visible for 3 to 5 minutes. He did not think the phenomenon could have been a meteor because it had no tail. Nor did he think it could have been an aeroplane, because there was absolutely no resemblance to aeroplanes, which he had seen so many times before in darkness.

Sources: 14, 15.



Figure 5

**12. April 23, 11.35 p.m., between Ljusdal and Färila, Hälsingland.**

Chief police assistant (?) Ove Westberg, 40, was driving from Ljusdal, after work, towards Färila. He was on road R84 when he noticed a light to the right of the car. He stopped the car, turned the right-hand window down and switched the engine off. The light-source was at a standstill during the duration of the sighting (see figure 5). It was seen close to the evening star, but was two or three times bigger. The light changed colour alternately between white, blue-white and orange-red, and it seemed as if something was rotating inside the light-source. This seemed to be bigger when it was orange in colour, and the luminous intensity also seemed to increase. After having watched the light for five minutes he was overcome by an unpleasant feeling, and

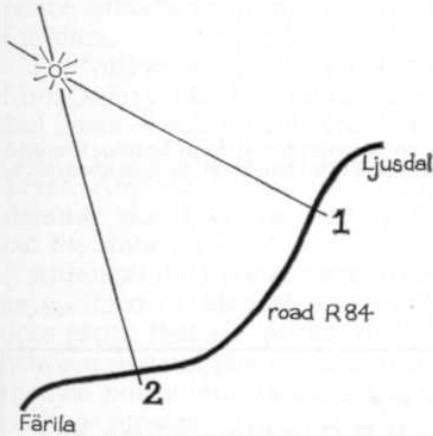


Figure 6

continued to drive home. He could see the object now and then, when there were no trees in between. Ten minutes after he had seen the object for the first time, it was finally hidden by a mountain.

When he got home, he telephoned his colleagues at the police station at Ljusdal, and one of them drove to the sighting-place but saw nothing. After arriving home he took a map and a compass and drew lines from the first and the last sighting-places. These lines crossed each other at a point 8 to 10 kilometres north-west of the sighting-places (see figure 6).

Sources: 1, 16.

**13. April 24-25, night, Overälve, Bjuråker, Hälsingland.**

“Yeoman Edvin Åhs, his wife Karin and their son Torbjörn, 20, watched an object which emitted a powerful white light.

“Says Edvin Åhs: The object looked like a car wheel, and hovered motionless in the sky above a timber-felling site some hundred metres from the house. After three minutes the ‘car wheel’ descended towards the ground and the light went out. Earlier this had been so intense that night became day. Some stock-trees which were standing on the timber-felling ground could be observed without difficulty.

“A quarter of an hour later my son caught sight of another, similar object, hovering above us. It moved slowly across the sky, and we could watch it for a long time. The light

from this object was not as powerful as that from the first one.”

Torbjörn Åhs searched the place where the object appeared to “land”, but he found nothing.

Source: 17.

**14. Late April, near Sala, Västmanland.**

“Twenty persons have seen a red-yellow circular object with a powerful light. Sometimes it has been stationary, at others it has moved horizontally and vertically with an incredible speed. One observer heard an aeroplane ‘buzz’ in connection with it. Another at first thought the red light, or glare, came from a fire. His son—an amateur-astronomer—looked through a telescope and discovered three lights, two green and one red. A ‘sighing’ noise was also heard.”

Source: 18.

**15. May 5, 2.30 a.m., Kinna, Västergötland.**

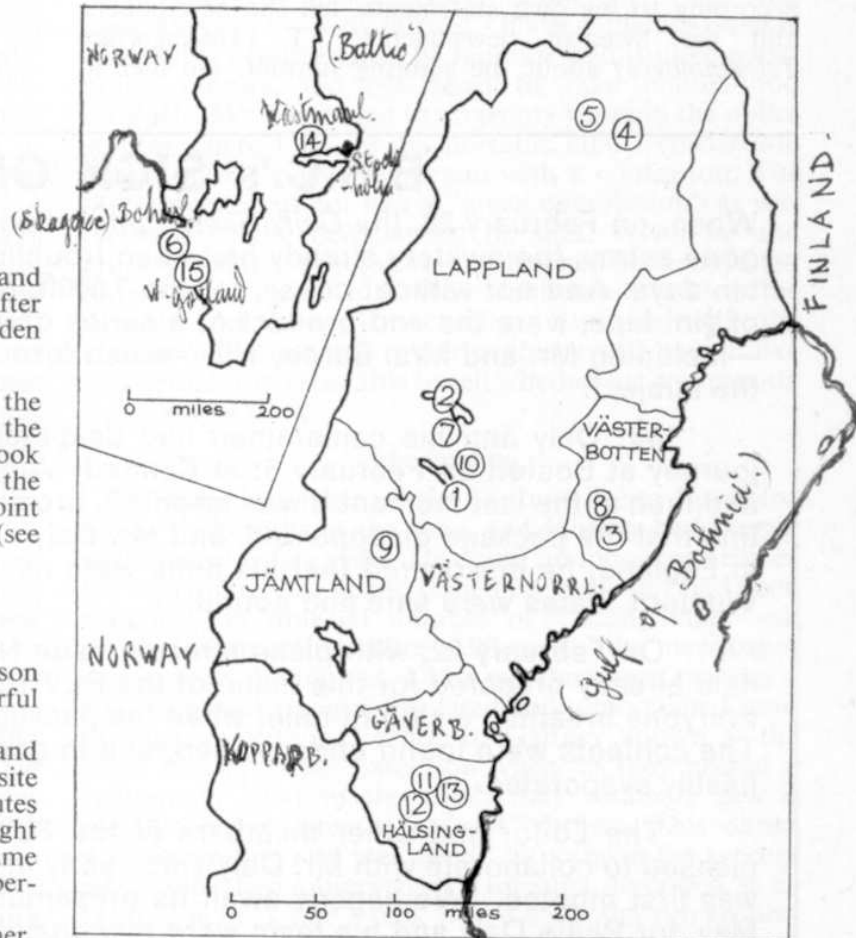
Farmer Anders Markusson, 65, “went out in his courtyard” when “suddenly he heard an engine noise coming from a glade about 500 metres from his house. Immediately afterwards a large saucer-shaped object rose towards the sky. It disappeared in a couple of seconds.”

Source: 19.

**Comment on Case No. 1**

I visited the Söderström family on March 19, and based my description of this case on statements given by the witnesses, mostly by Mr. Erik Söderström.

This case was the only one that was mentioned in newspapers all over Sweden. Different newspapers had different versions (see for example FLYING SAUCER



Central and Northern Sweden showing location of sightings. Inset depicts Southern Sweden on reduced scale

REVIEW, Vol. 13, No. 3, p. iii), and the version Mr. Söderström himself gave me differed from most other reports in the newspapers. However, I consider the statements given to me by Mr. Söderström on March 19 are the most correct ones. (I have since corresponded with Mr. K. Gösta Rehn, who together with Mr. Sven Schalin visited the sighting-place some weeks after I had done so. I learned that Mr. Rehn and Mr. Schalin obtained the same version from the witnesses as I had done.)

As mentioned in the introduction, this case has acquired an official explanation: there had been too high a voltage in the powerline, and this resulted in sparks between the lines; sparks which would have illuminated two clouds low in the sky. Mr. Söderström himself did not give too much credit to this theory.

I found nothing to support the theory that the Söderströms might have been lying, or had made up the story just to get publicity. My impression, after talking to them, is that they really did see something out of the ordinary. (Mr. Rehn and Mr. Schalin also found the Söderströms to be reliable.)

The case certainly attracted interest for the Söderströms got at least 50 letters from all over the country asking for further details, and that during the 14 days between the sighting and my visit to their home. Nevertheless Mr. Söderström claimed that if he ever should happen to see something like that again, he would never tell anyone about it.

It should be noted that Mr. Söderström did not, according to his own statements, tell the newspapers and the Swedish news-agency TT (*Tidningarnas Telegrambyrå*) about the sighting himself. He merely

told some of his fellow woodsmen on the Monday, and obviously they must have circulated the report, which is how the newspapers (originally *Västerbottens-Kuriren*) learned about it.

Mr. Söderström had never taken any interest in "flying saucers". Since the sighting, however, he has read everything on the subject which he could get in the library, including Adamski's contact claims, about which he claimed to be sceptical. "You can write," he said, "that I am absolutely convinced that these objects were 'space ships' piloted by intelligent beings from another world."

#### SOURCES

The following abbreviations have been used:

AB *Aftonbladet*, Stockholm.

Expr *Expressen*, Stockholm.

NSD *Norrländska Socialdemokraten*, Boden, Norrbotten.

ST *Sundsvalls Tidning*, Sundsvall, Medelpad.

VK *Västerbottens-Kuriren*, Umeå, Västerbotten.

OP *Ostersunds-Posten*, Ostersund, Jämtland.

<sup>1</sup> Investigation by questionnaire.

<sup>2</sup> Personal visit to the sighting place.

<sup>3</sup> VK, March 11, 1967.

<sup>4</sup> Expr, March 11, 1967.

<sup>5</sup> NSD, March 17, 1967.

<sup>6</sup> NSD, April 22, 1967.

<sup>7</sup> AB, March 27, 1967.

<sup>8</sup> NSD, March 18, 1967.

<sup>9</sup> AB, March 25, 1967.

<sup>10</sup> VK, March 28, 1967.

<sup>11</sup> VK, April 12, 1967.

<sup>12</sup> OP, April 12, 1967.

<sup>13</sup> OP, April 11, 1967.

<sup>14</sup> The author wishes to thank Mr. Lennart Knutsson of Frösön, Jämtland, for letting him use material from his investigation, by questionnaire, of this case.

<sup>15</sup> ST, April 20, 1967.

<sup>16</sup> ST, April 25, 1967.

<sup>17</sup> ST, April 27, 1967.

<sup>18</sup> Expr, April 30, 1967.

<sup>19</sup> Expr, May 6, 1967.

## B.B.C.'s SIGH OF RELIEF . . .

When, on February 20, the *Daily Sketch* published the story of the B.B.C.'s films which had gone astray, the mystery already had been troubling Chief Science Producer Philip Daly for ten days. And not without cause, for the 7,600ft. of exposed, unprocessed film, and 10,000ft. of  $\frac{1}{4}$ in. tape, were the end-product of a series of interviews with UFO witnesses and others—including Mr. and Mrs. Barney Hill—which form part of a big documentary programme on the subject.

Mr. Daly and his cameraman had despatched the package on the first stage of its journey at Boston on February 6: at Kennedy Airport it was transferred to a *Pan-Am* flight, and then at the last moment it was taken off, presumably because of overloading. It was after this that the package disappeared, and Mr. Daly's worries started on February 9 when, back in England, he discovered that his films were missing—although others taken in the South Western States were safe and sound.

On February 22, with plans already made for a return trip to the U.S.A., and with an item already prepared for this issue of the REVIEW entitled *Who hi-jacked the B.B.C.'s film?* everyone breathed a sigh of relief when the package unexpectedly turned up from New York. The contents were found undeveloped, and in good order, and quite a few "knowing looks" hastily evaporated.

The Editor and other members of the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW team have been pleased to collaborate with Mr. Daly since early in September when the idea of a programme was first mooted. We eagerly await its presentation on B.B.C.1-TV some time in April or May, for Philip Daly and his team were responsible for that excellent documentary *Where Is Everybody?* which was shown last October.