

- at Pirassununga (in January 1969) and which was reported at length by our erstwhile Special Correspondent in Brazil, Nigel Rimes, under the title of "The Pirassununga Landing," in *FSR Special Issue No. 3 (UFO Perceptions)*, issued in September 1969. So far as I know, there is no English version yet of Dr. Buhler's long account of Paulo Coutinho's experience, which is simply part of the vast mass of first-class Brazilian material that I have not yet had the time to tackle.
2. It will be noted that the eyewitness has a German name. As I have pointed out on previous occasions, a large proportion of the Brazilian population in some of these most southerly States are of German origin, though I believe that in many cases they no longer speak that language. We have already reported several cases in which such individuals of German origin were involved in UFO experiences.
 3. Here, again, we have the famous "rod" or "wand" or "ray gun" which has figured in so many UFO cases in Brazil,

France, and elsewhere. In some cases the weapon appears merely to induce paralysis of the whole body. In other cases — as in this present instance — it is claimed that it renders the victim unconscious.

4. See Note 1 above. This is the case (of Tiago Machado) described by Nigel Rimes in *FSR Special Issue No. 3*. Tiago Machado's case is similar to that of João Klein in some respects, inasmuch as both were struck on the legs by a jet of flame or light, but Tiago Machado appears to have been paralysed by it while Klein was rendered unconscious. Moreover, the entities involved were entirely different. The beings encountered by Tiago Machado were described as having unpleasant yellowish faces with their eyes set at uneven levels! Although the first press reports said they were only about 50 cms in height — and therefore also seemingly in the category of what one might call "dwarves" — Nigel Rimes reported that Tiago Machado told him they were about 1 metre 45 cms in height, and so definitely were not "dwarves."

XIth CENTURY UFO REPORT FROM CHINA

John Brent Musgrave

SOMETIME around the year 1086 the noted Chinese scientist and scholar, Shen Kua, wrote his famous *Mêng Chhi Pi Than* (Dream Pool Essays). These essays contain a wealth of information on astronomy, mathematics, geology and geography, as well as many other sciences and technologies. They are based on notes Shen Kua took as official duties brought him to many parts of China. The *Essays* include references to strange luminescent phenomena observed for many years near the town of Yang-chou. (Yang-chou is located in the present-day province of Kiangsu, north-east of Shanghai.) From the 7th to the 11th century it was one of China's richest trading cities, and the transfer point for Yangtze river trade onto the Grand Canal. The following account is based on a translation by Dr. Lawrence Lau.

"In the middle of the year Chia-you there was a very big 'pearl' seen in Yang-chou. It was often seen in the daytime. At the beginning, it appeared in the marshes of Tien Ch'ang county. Later it was seen at Lake Pi Shie. And still later, for ten years or more, it was seen at Lake Shin Kai. It was often seen by passers-by as well as local inhabitants.

"My friend's study was on Lake Shin Kai. One night, he suddenly saw the 'pearl' close by. At first, it

opened its chamber slightly, and light came out as though a horizontal thread of gold was laid. Soon it suddenly opened up its shell. Its size was like half of a round banquet table, and the white light from the shell was like silver. The 'pearl' was as big as a fist. The light was so brilliant that it could not be looked at directly. Within ten or more *li* (several miles) all the trees and bushes were illuminated as if the sun were rising. From afar one could only see the sky red, as if lit by a wild fire. Suddenly, the 'pearl' flew off in the distance. Floating amid the waves of the lake it was dazzling bright like the sun.

"In antiquity, there was the pearl of the bright moon. But this pearl did not resemble the moon. It was burning bright with flame, closely resembling the light of the sun.

"Po Chü-I once composed a *Bright Pearl Ode*. Po I, who often saw the pearl, was a native of Kao Yao. It has not appeared in recent years; where it has gone is not known. The town of Fan Liang was at the place where the pearl passed back and forth. Travellers who passed by there always tied their boats several nights to wait for its appearance, and named the pavilion *Wan Chu* (Pearl Playing or Pearl Appreciation)."

CONTINUING EVIDENCE OF RETRIEVALS OF THE THIRD KIND

Gordon Creighton

IN FSR, Volume 25, Nos. 4, 5, and 6, and Volume 26, No. 1, we gave readers the whole of such evidence as we had been able to gather until that date regarding stories, or rumours, of crashed alien craft, and dead alien beings alleged to be retained in the greatest secrecy by the U.S. Government at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio, and at several other named bases throughout the USA. This material, as will be recalled, consisted of the full text of the Paper delivered by Mr. Leonard Stringfield at the MUFON Symposium held in Dayton on July 29, 1978, plus two articles by myself regarding a number of items of supportive evidence that had reached FSR in the early years after its establishment in 1955.

More Testimony

On March 13, 1979, Mr. Stringfield wrote to me that his total number of informants had risen to over fifty, all of whom had supplied statements, but none of whom could be named. Readers will recall Mr. Stringfield's claim that, within a few hours of his delivery of his MUFON lecture, he had received two anonymous death threats. Anyone who reads through this material can surely perceive for himself that there is widespread fear and apprehension among the informants, all of whom seem to have been under constant pressure, which has meant that in fact many of them have since suddenly vanished or become "unavailable." Exceptionally, as will also be recalled, two of the statements (see *Abstracts* Nos. X and XII of Mr. Stringfield's paper) purport to have come from individuals who were nearing the moment of death. Clearly anyone who is dying is unlikely to feel too frightened by the idea of disregarding undertakings or pledges made to officials, often years before. But for those who are still "in good health" the prospect might well look very different. As Mr. Stringfield has indicated to me, many of these individuals have probably been obliged at some time in the past to sign "some kind of official U.S. form relating to the Espionage Act."

Now, I think we should pay very careful attention to this word "espionage" which, I confess, I have never seen used before in connection with our subject of UFOs and Ufology. It may seem to us today pretty absurd for such a matter as the investigation of all "unidentified flying objects" to be bracketed under the term "espionage," which we have traditionally viewed as relating to purely "human" activities. However, it

must be borne in mind that while we seem to know nothing yet regarding the possible origins or motivations of the UFO occupants, we do know considerably more than we did in 1947 about the patterns of their behaviour, and it is today obvious — at any rate to those who are objective and unprejudiced enough merely to examine the evidence — that it is utterly ludicrous to suggest that, if "human" means "terrestrial", the word has any application to the UFOs. But "espionage" is an excellent bogey word with which to frighten the unsuspecting public.

The year 1947 was only a few months after the close of a tremendous global war in which the Americans had changed from being intensely naive on matters of National Security to being almost as conscious as we Europeans are of these questions. So it is not difficult for us to perceive why, in the summer of 1947, American officialdom, beset by a flood of UFO reports, may have clutched gratefully at this chilling word "espionage," and have found it a highly useful deterrent with which to head off all but the boldest of souls from venturing to probe too deeply into this area. We shall find that, ever since, officialdom has aimed to discourage UFO research by linking it with the dangerous world of espionage!

While many of the public may now see through this subterfuge, it is understandable that the possibility of finding oneself charged with the offence of "espionage on behalf of a foreign power" might still be a highly useful weapon for curbing the curiosity of great many Americans — maybe especially the more unsophisticated inhabitants of those rural areas in which so many UFO encounters take place. And this might hold good for other nations as well as America.¹

The book by Charles Berlitz

An important point which should not be overlooked is the fact that, despite what the majority of people probably think, our thesis about the Retrievals of the Third Kind does not depend solely on what Leonard Stringfield has to say about it, or on the various items subsumed in my two articles. For we now have a book, *The Roswell Incident*, written by Charles Berlitz with the collaboration of William Moore and published in 1980.² It is true that the authors concentrate most of their attention upon one principal incident, but nothing in their book runs counter to Stringfield, and it is on the whole a powerful piece of support for him.