

Encounter at Kilometre 15

Nigel Rimes

Publication of this important account of an incident on a main highway in the State of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, has been delayed for various reasons, one of which is mentioned by our contributor in his text.

THE following is a translation of an article entitled *I Watched a Flying Saucer For Forty Minutes*, by the journalist José Belém. It appeared in the Rio magazine *O Cruzeiro* for October 7, 1967, and describes the experience of a well-known Rio lawyer, Jonil Feydit Vieira. The article is as follows:

"Some believe. Others say they don't. What is certain is that every bit of news published about flying saucers is read avidly by everyone. Even the scientists are divided on the matter, but most of them study the reports of those who say they have seen the flying objects. The innumerable statements made about the matter make up most of the principal material available for study up till now. And this is our object in printing in this report, in full, the testimony given by the Rio de Janeiro lawyer Jonil Feydit Vieira about his experience, which was more than just a simple sighting as there was also an attempt at contact by telepathy (the contact was, however, not answered) with a flying saucer on the night of August 3, 1967, when the lawyer was travelling by car from Rio de Janeiro to a place near Francisco Fragoso, in the State of Rio de Janeiro.

"Sr. Jonil Feydit Vieira said: 'We left Rio in a pickup belonging to the Union of Telephone Employees of the State of Guanabara, driven by Amauri Barbosa da Silva, and we set out for Francisco Fragoso, in the State of Rio de Janeiro, where the Graham Bell Holiday Colony is situated. I am the Union's lawyer, and I was going to spend the night at the Colony and then, on the following day, have an audience with the District Judge of the town of Miguel Pereira.

"It was about 8.00 p.m., and we were at kilometre 15 on the road linking the Presidente Dutra Highway and Miguel Pereira, when the driver drew my attention to some powerful lights to the right of the road, about 500 metres from us, that resembled a carnival float. As I did not know the district, I could see nothing remarkable about the lights. But the driver, who makes trips to the Colony every day, insisted that he had never seen any lights at that spot before. Then he recalled that perhaps there might have been a military camp installed there, or something of the sort. Even so, we went on watching the lights. I remember well: there were five lights, counting from left to right, three of varying shades of yellow, one of bluish-green, and one of the bright blue colour of a swimming-pool. Suddenly the lights began to go out, one after the other, from left to right. Immediately after that, the two lights at the extremities started flashing on and off alternately, and then after a time went out.

"All this happened in a very short space of time. Actually we were travelling at about 80 km.p.h. And, after all, there could have been innumerable explanations for those lights. We continued on our journey without the least of worries until, further along the road, we again saw the lights (they could not have been different ones, in view of the similarity and the same positions of the colours). Except that this time they were on the *left-hand side* of the road. But now we could see that they came from an oval object of a bluish colour.

"Faced with this new apparition, we began to get worried. The driver—I don't yet know whether to explain it as an instinctive action on his part or a command by an external power—began to flash the headlights of our pickup. And, to our greater alarm, the object also flashed its lights in synchronisation with the headlights of our vehicle. "It can't be an aeroplane," said the driver, "and certainly not a helicopter, which couldn't move at such speed without making any noise!"

"From then on, we continued to see the object always in front of us, travelling rapidly from one side of the road to the other as if it were observing us. Several times we switched off our headlights in an attempt to escape from this observation. But it did no good. The object, although it disappeared, would suddenly re-appear before us.

"At first we passed most of the time in silence. Afterwards, however, already very frightened, we kept talking about the strange object, putting forward the most varied theories about it, including the theory that it might be a flying saucer.

"At one time I had the intuitive feeling that someone was trying to communicate with us (and the driver was getting the same feeling too, as he confirmed to me the following day). I felt an intense headache, localised between my eyes. And a thought, which was not mine, asked: "How will this vision before you be received?"

"I don't quite know how to explain the sensation, but I am certain that I was not asked this question in words. Perhaps it was a telepathic contact?

"As if to get away from the thought—or perhaps to respond to the question—I said to the driver that I believed in the existence of beings from other planets because, by logic, if there are planets older than ours, then it would be quite probable that other forms of life exist on them. And that, if by chance a flying saucer appeared, I should, provided that my physical well-being was respected, like to get a better look at it, especially from the side view. But that I didn't know

whether I would have the courage to meet one face to face. In fact I said I didn't know what my reactions would be.

"The driver argued that if by chance the object (which at that moment was not visible to us) should appear before us on the road, the least that would happen would be that it would blind us, because the light was so bright that it would burn our eyes.

"While we were talking, I was happy that we were getting near to the Colony. I didn't like the experience we were having at all. After all, my knowledge of the object, whatever it was, was nil.

"We were now travelling along a dirt road. We could not see the object, but we had the clear sensation that we were still being watched. When we reached Barão de Javari, the driver alerted me to the fact that the lights were once more to the right-hand side of the road, exactly over Sitio Lachoumière. One of the lights was yellow, the other blue. Both were very powerful, like the searchlights used by the Artillery. But they didn't emit beams of light, but rather illuminated the whole of the Bush all around them. They were about 300 metres from the edge of the road, right beside us. I suggested to the driver that we stop in order to get a better look at them. Thus we noticed that the distance between the two lights seemed to be about ten metres, and by their colours—yellow and blue respectively—we judged that the two lights were at the exact extremities of the object.

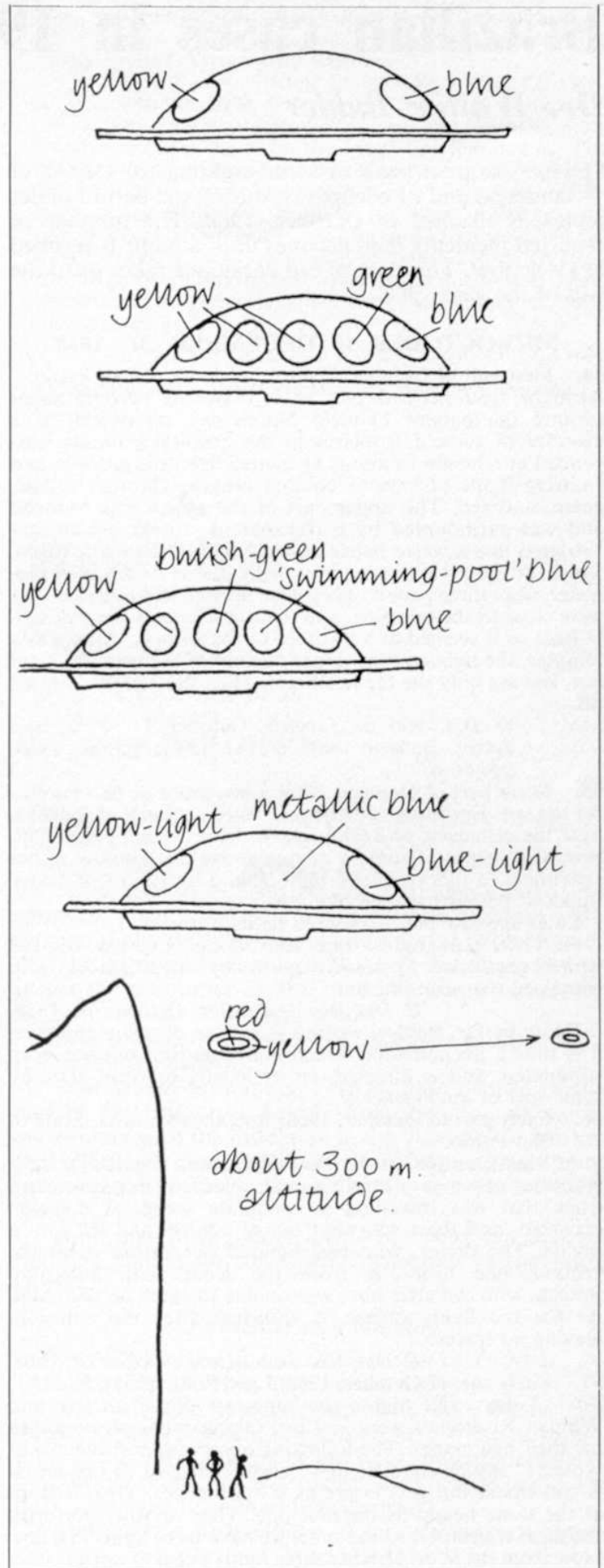
"I must confess that at that moment I felt real fear, and I asked the driver to switch off the headlights so that we couldn't be seen, and so that we might observe the object better. It was then that we saw that it was an enormous dome of bluish light. It was resting about one metre above the ground, and we could see no light underneath it. Our fear grew. The sweat poured out from all over our bodies, and our hands dripped. By this time I was no longer looking at the object. I was praying. By the time that the driver warned me that the object was slowly moving in our direction, I was already going through the fourth *Lord's Prayer*. Fearfully I looked at the light. And then it went out. It was a relief.

"I told the driver to switch on the lights again and get going, now fully determined to reach the Colony as soon as possible. My fear was already very great, and, after all, that thing was definitely not of this world.

"Happily we saw nothing more from there onwards, which gave us time to come to the mutual agreement that we would say nothing of what we had seen to anyone. Otherwise we might be looked upon as madmen, which would be fatal, unless somebody else could testify with us.

"At last we reached the Colony, right in front of the Francisco Frago railway-station. We had to wait for ten minutes while the Administrator of the Colony, Nelson Gonçalves Ferreira, could let us in through the side gate, as he had forgotten the key to the main entrance.

"On starting up the engine again, my driver, who still had not yet fully recovered from the shock, gave a shout and pointed to an object that was going away behind the mountain that is near the Colony. We saw



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Brazilian cases in 1968 and 1969—3

Dr. Walter Buhler

THE first great peak of aerial sightings of UFOs, of landings, and of occupants, during the period under review is reached in October, 1968. The number of reported incidents then declines until a nadir is reached in December. This part of our catalogue takes us to the end of the year 1968.

MID-OCTOBER to DECEMBER 31, 1968

54. First half of October, 1968. Lins, State of São Paulo. At night, from his bed, No. 59, in Clemente Ferreira Sanatorium, the patient Leôncio Nunes saw an object, at a distance of some 150 metres in the hospital grounds, suspended at a height of about 1½ metres from the ground, and emitting lights of various colours ranging through yellow, green, and red. The upper part of the object was rounded and was surmounted by a transparent cupola, which was "striated like a waste paper basket." Underneath the cabin, which possessed a tremendous light about a metre in diameter, were three people. They were dressed in white clothing, were close to the machine, and their movements were slow—at least so it seemed at a distance to the witness. After a few minutes, the lights on the upper portion of the machine went out, leaving only the big headlight. Then this too was turned off.

O Dia, Rio de Janeiro, October 16, 1968, and SBEDV Bulletin No. 66/68, January/June 1969, pp. 66-67.

55. Early part of October, 1968. Lins, State of São Paulo. As she was returning to her home in the suburb of Ribeiro, near the cemetery, at 8.00 p.m., Senhora Adélia Figueiredo saw, at a height of some 5 metres above the window of her apartment, a moon-shaped light. (Note by Editor of SBEDV Bulletin: perhaps shaped like a *half-moon*?)

Later she saw multi-coloured lights in the sky.

At 11.00 p.m. lights were seen along Highway BR-153 which responded to signals given by investigators who witnessed the phenomenon.

O Dia, Rio de Janeiro, October 18, 1968.

[Note by Dr. Buhler, writing as Editor of SBEDV Bulletin: it is thus a phenomenon which is not natural but has been stimulated, and is directed, either locally or from afar, by some sort of intelligence.]

56. Early part of October, 1968. Bragança Paulista, State of São Paulo.

At kilometre 168 on the Via Anhanguera (highway), three witnesses saw a very bright round object moving towards a truck that was travelling at moderate speed. A collision occurred, and the truck went out of control and fell into a ravine. The driver, who had jumped out before it hit the ground, fled headlong from the scene, and Sebastião Batista, who ran after him, was unable to catch up with him. As for the flying object, it vanished after the collision, leaving no traces.

O Dia, Rio de Janeiro, October 20, 1968.

57. Early part of October, 1968. Lins, State of São Paulo. For 13 days and nights the reporters Josué Duarte and Wilman Rodrigues were in Lins, taking night photographs for their newspaper. The following observation of theirs was typical: "Beside the first light, another begins to appear. It is still small, but gets larger as it approaches. Then it stops at the same height as the first one. Then another performs the same trajectory, so that now we have three lights in a line. Now from the West another three lights begin to appear, also

all in line. Like the first ones, they reveal no variation in size or in colours (red, orange). They set out from there . . . they completed their mission . . . and then they returned. This must be the centre for a saucer network, where at certain determined times only a light remained. Lins then would be on the line of flight of some of these lights . . ."

Última Hora, São Paulo, October 21, 1968, which included samples of the Duarte and Rodrigues photos.

58. October 24, 1968. Itaperuna, State of Rio de Janeiro. Various people heard a loud crash during the night. A farmer named José Joaquim, of the ranch called Fazenda da Barra found a piece of metal resembling aluminium and gave it to the president of the local Chamber.

Diário de Notícias, Rio de Janeiro, October 26, 1968; *O Cruzeiro*, Rio de Janeiro, May 5, 22, 29, 1969, and June 5 and June 19, 1969; SBEDV Bulletin No. 69/70, July/October 1969.

59. October 30, 1968. Passo Fundo, State of Rio Grande do Sul (R.G.S.).

When travelling in a car in the vicinity of the Garden Club Park in the suburb of Boqueirão, four witnesses saw a ball of fire shoot down to the ground near the Francisco Quadro Building. After waiting fifteen minutes, they saw the ball of fire rise up into the air again and vanish in space.

A Platéia, Santana do Livramento, November 11, 1968.

60. November 5, 1968. Tapiratiba, State of São Paulo. At 8.00 p.m. Sr. José Ribeiro Neto was driving his jeep towards Tapiratiba, with some friends. They saw a strange reddish light at a distance of some 2 kilometres or so. It was rising and falling rapidly in the air and the experience left them with a feeling of apprehension.

Notícias Populares, São Paulo, November 8, 1968.

61. November 6, 1968. São Paulo.

At 8.05 p.m., Helmut Baer, a technician with the Coroados TV, saw a reddish-orange object flying on a west-east course, at low altitude, making no sound, and performing sudden manoeuvres at high speed.

Notícias Populares, São Paulo, November 10, 1968.

62. November 8, 1968. Taguatinga, Brasília.

At 8.05 p.m., in the vicinity of the Army Radio Station, an object shaped like two basins placed face to face became stationary and remained there for some time. It was illuminated with flashing red and green lights, and its lower "basin" was spinning rapidly. A few moments later it moved off and performed evolutions above the town.

Last year, at 11.00 p.m. one night in the middle of October, a rounded object flew over the Army Radio Station.

O Globo, Rio de Janeiro, November 11, 1968.

63. Early part of November, 1968. Areembepe, Salvador, State of Bahia.

Ten people were travelling in a motor vehicle, when there appeared in front of them an object which flew in circles around them and emitted a greenish light.

O Dia, Rio de Janeiro, November 10, 1968.

64. November 19, 1968. Guarulhos, State of São Paulo. Watching from No. 3, rua Bahia (Jardim Santa Bárbara) Sr. Antônio Rocha Corrêa Estêves saw a red ball moving in a straight line and at times turning right. He called his wife and got out his binoculars. The Cumbica airport informed him that it was an "aeroplane". Time: 9.00 p.m. (See also next case.)

O Dia, Rio de Janeiro, November 21, 1968.