

he "always wanted to see a UFO as a child", but adding "that radar is not subject to optical illusions. The radar echoes are due to solid objects or to massive clouds, which were not present that night."

Strangely enough, the Air Minister, Brig. Moreira Lima, did not seem concerned about this unchecked penetration of the Brazilian air space, but was rather proud of the prompt response of the Air Force to an alert.⁷

According to CLARÍN,² the decision to release the news to the public was made personally by President Sarney, another first.

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Conclusions

Although their number is uncertain, numerous UFOs were observed visually and detected by both ground and airborne radars. The episode lasted for near three hours, but the only concrete information is that they were balls of light of different and changing colours, which the jet fighters could not really approach. As in many other cases, the initiation and termination of the incident were sudden and unexpected.

Weather was good, a clear night without clouds, so that radar echoes remain unexplained. The number of echoes was very large, enough to saturate the radar screens and, according to the Air Minister, corresponded to solid targets.

Nowhere in the original *Brazilian* newspaper clippings have I found a direct quote about the "pingpong balls" mentioned in the American press. CLARÍN of Buenos Aires² stated that the UFOs were described alternatively as stars, football balls, or "pingpong balls".

As for the speeds of the UFOs, only two specific quotes were made by the Brazilian press. The first refers to the statements made by Colonel Ozires Silva, who is an aeronautical engineer by training, commenting on his attempt to approach the lights. He indicated that the maximum speed of his plane was 400 km/hr (250mph), while the lights were apparently

moving at a speed of 1500 km/hr (937 mph).⁶

The second concrete mention of speeds was made by Major Ney Cerqueira, head of CINDACTA, who actively participated in the tracking operations. According to Maj. Cerqueira, "due to technical limitations in the radar equipment" the speeds could not be determined with precision. "The speeds detected varied in an interval of 5 to 10 minutes from 150 knots/hr to 800 knots/hr".⁵ In miles per hour, this corresponds to a range of 173 to 921 mph, and matches well with the information that jets with speeds of 1000 km/hr (625 mph) were unable to close on the lights.

The sighting started, according to the Air Ministry, at 20:50 and ended about midnight, having thus a total duration of 3 hours.⁸ Finally, the number of UFOs has been quoted by the media as between 13 and 21. The Air Minister placed the number at 20.⁷

Since most of the information on which this report is based was obtained from newspaper clippings, usually a highly unreliable source, it is necessary to emphasize that in this particular instance the media did a very faithful reporting job. Most of the details were released at the press conference in which the pilots related their experiences and were directly questioned by the reporters. The information written in the different papers is consistent and accurate. In addition, the Air Ministry released further information as a chronology of the events.⁸ Altogether, then, we are satisfied that the incident occurred as narrated.

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REFERENCES

- (1) JORNAL DO BRASIL, May 23, 1986.
- (2) CLARÍN, Buenos Aires, May 23, 1986.
- (3) O GLOBO, May 24, 1986.
- (4) Irene Granchi (UNICAT Project correspondent in Rio de Janeiro), private communication.
- (5) JORNAL DO BRASIL, May 22, 1986.
- (6) O DIA, May 23, 1986.
- (7) O DIA, May 22, 1986.
- (8) FÓLHA DE S. PAULO, May 24, 1986.

AN "OBSERVING EYE" IN THE HOUSE

THE Spanish mimeographed bulletin *Cuadernos de Ufologia*, No. 4/15, issued in March 1986, contains an account of a small object seen inside a house, in Spain, in August 1972.

A lady, Amparo Gascón Valldecabrés, who was a twelve-year-old girl at the time, has only recently revealed the incident to her brother, Juan Marcos Gascón Valldecabrés (author of the present account) and others who, with him, were at that time members of the Valencia UFO Investigation Group (AVIU).

The witness was staying during her holidays with her uncle and aunt who had rented a ground-floor apartment in Losa del Obispo, a village lying some 50 kilometres to the north-east of Valencia. Valencia lies on the east coast of Spain, at 39 27 N., O. 23 W.

The witness states that, one night during the month of August 1972, at about 3.00 a.m., while staying in the house in question, she awoke and went to the toilet and, in the corridor outside her room, was confronted with an eye-shaped or almond-shaped object,

of the colour of glowing embers, which was stationary in the air, at a height of about two metres from the floor and half a metre from the ceiling. She felt that the object was "observing" her. She describes it as about five centimetres long and three centimetres thick. She detected no sound from it, nor smell, nor any sensation of heat or cold. Her first impression was one of mere surprise, but as she stood there and watched the object, still motionless, she became scared. After a few minutes, she retreated into her bedroom and spent an anxious and sleepless night fearing that it would come in, but it did not, and when she got up next morning, the object was gone. After much hesitation, she decided not to tell her parents, since they "would perhaps not have believed me, or

would have laughed at me." The only person whom she told about it was her older sister Inés, but her brother only chanced to hear about it long afterwards — in 1980.

A very similar sort of thing, seen in a house in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, was reported by Dr W. Buhler in 1962, and Jennie Zeidman has given us another case, with almost identical features, from Ohio, U.S.A., in 1979.

NOTES AND REFERENCES

- (1) Jennie Zeidman: *The Thing that Got into the House*. In FSR 28/2 (1982), page 9.
- (2) Dr W. Buhler: *A Similar Case in Brazil in 1962?* In FSR 28/2 (1982), page 10.

CLOSE ENCOUNTER AT PRATO DI PRINCIPATO ULTRA (ITALY), OCTOBER 1984

Umberto Telarico

(Translation from French)

In FSR30/4 we gave a brief, fifteen-line account of this case, in Signor Edoardo Russo's *Italian Update 1984*. Edoardo Russo is the Foreign Liaison Editor for C.U.N., the Italian National Ufological Centre. The March/April 1986 issue of *Lumières Dans La Nuit* (No. 261/262), which we have recently received, contains a long and most detailed account of this case, written originally by Umberto Telarico and rendered into French by Maria Toffano. The material published in FSR is always at the disposal of our good friends in France and Italy and, on the same basis, we take the liberty now of translating Maria Toffano's French version into English for our readers.

The date of the episode was October 8, 1984. As will be seen, there are certain discrepancies in the two versions. We can, however, take it as certain that this later and very thorough investigation has provided the accurate story.

Our thanks and congratulations to CUN in Italy and Jacques Scornaux and to LDLN in France for this most interesting piece of work, and also to a second Italian group, the "SOLARIS" UFO Investigation Group in Naples, who conducted their own supplementary enquiry. The case occurred in a country area north-east of Naples in Southern Italy. — EDITOR

PARTICIPANTS: Q: CUN Investigator Umberto Telarico
A: Eyewitness of episode, Giuseppe Coccozza
C: Accompanying CUN Investigators

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Q: Well now, Don Peppino. Just pretend that there's nobody else here in this room with us. It is the morning of October 8 of this year, and you are going out to your alfalfa (lucerne) field. Recall in a loud, clear voice what happened.

A: This is what happened. I had been alone in the

house, as my wife and my son had gone to the funeral of my mother-in-law. I didn't go with them myself as I had a very painful leg, due to arthritis. So I decided to go and get some fodder for my cow, which was in the byre. While I was getting the lucerne, I suddenly noticed a man — an individual — who seemed to be a stranger. I stood looking at him for a bit, and thinking, for I had never seen anybody who looked like that. And then, as I looked at him, I said to myself: why, this chap's a madman. Just look — what a madman!

I had a side-view of him. Then I had the idea of coughing, so as to get him to turn round. When he heard me cough, the man turned round