

# THE TRUTH ABOUT G.E.P.A.N.

*Dr. Jean-Pierre Petit*

Senior Scientific Officer with the C.N.R.S. (French National Commission for Scientific Research), and FSR Consultant.

(Translation from French. — G.C.)

We have published a number of important articles by Dr Jean-Pierre Petit, the last being *GEPAN = CONDON*, on page 21 of FSR 33/2 (June 1988). — EDITOR

G.E.P.A.N. (Groupe d'Etude des Phénomènes Aérospatiaux Non Identifiés), a body created in France in 1977 by the C.N.E.S. (Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales — French National Centre for Space Studies) was officially terminated at the end of 1988. At the same time as they did this, the C.N.E.S. created a new organization, the S.E.P.R.A. (Service d'Expertise des Phénomènes de Rentrées Atmosphériques, Dept. of Expertise on Atmospheric Re-Entry Phenomena).

Today, if anyone telephones to the C.N.E.S. and asks for G.E.P.A.N., they are put through to S.E.P.R.A., and with a bit of luck they might get Jean-Jacques Velasco, formerly responsible for G.E.P.A.N., and now responsible for S.E.P.R.A.! If the caller expresses astonishment, he will be told that G.E.P.A.N. still exists, but that it has simply changed its name.

The truth is more complex than that. And we are in a position to give it.

Who has not asked himself, ever since 1977, why it was that G.E.P.A.N. had been formed in the first place? Here I can supply two answers. The first answer is by quoting a phrase of Monsieur Meslée, Director of Public Relations at the C.N.E.S., during a press conference given for the FRANCE-INTER Radio Chain in 1980. To a journalist who had asked him this question, Meslée replied:

"In 1976-77 there was a certain degree of inquietude among the public regarding the UFO phenomenon. It therefore seemed essential that we should establish an organization able to reassure people and set their minds at rest regarding that phenomenon."

SO — IN PLAIN LANGUAGE — G.E.P.A.N. WAS A SORT OF TRANQUILISER FOR THE PUBLIC.

The second part of the reply comes from a conversation that I had in 1987 with Monsieur Roger Lesgard, at the present time the Director of the Musée de la Villette in Paris. We were in Quebec together at a scientific gathering. I had recognized Lesgard at once, but he had clearly totally forgotten me since 1977.

Adopting the attitude of a quite conservative sort of scientist, I engaged him in conversation as follows:—

Q: "Monsieur Lesgard, weren't you with the C.N.E.S. in the '70s?"

A: "Yes, I was the Secretary-General of the C.N.E.S. at that period."

Q: "Then maybe you will be able to give the answer for me to a question that I have often asked myself. What was that, eh, that strange group that was set up at that time, at the end of the '70s, and that was thought to be concerning itself with UFOs?"

A: "You mean G.E.P.A.N., which was set up in 1977. It was I myself, in my capacity as Secretary-General of the C.N.E.S., who did all the administrative work in establishing that body."

Q: "Ah — good. Did that organisation really deal with UFOs?"

A: "We had created the department in order to calm things down a bit about the UFOs, but, *rest assured*, no serious research was truly undertaken on that phenomenon."

Q: "Does the organization still exist? I have heard that it was going to be terminated."

A: "Well, you know, when an organization of that sort has fulfilled its role, I suppose it is simply left to die. But Alain Esterle, who was the man in charge of it during the "hot" period, did a good job there. Finally, given the pretty negative role that had been assigned to the body, I'd go so far as to concede that you are right."

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So G.E.P.A.N. was indeed set up in 1977 to serve as a tranquilizer for the public; as a "fixation anchorage for the abscess". The UFO sighting reports converged on that organization, which for years continued to play marvellously its role of "Black Hole". Having confided to G.E.P.A.N. the details of what they had seen, eyewitnesses of UFOs were then no longer tempted to turn to the press or to the private UFO investigation groups. And, incidentally, they were always expressly told by G.E.P.A.N. to keep quiet, "pending the result of the investigation".

But G.E.P.A.N. also had a second function: collector of information and what's-what, on behalf of the Military. *In fact, one might consider it, with its pretty derisory structure, as simply the emergent part of an iceberg. And the iceberg was situated somewhere at the very highest level among the Military.*

The motivations of the various Military Men charged with the task of overseeing the files were several. In the first place, they desired to reap the maximum amount of information on the UFO phenomenon, and eventually to extract from it some exploitable scientific profit. All this shows very clearly in a report compiled in 1976 by the I.H.E.D.N. (Institute of Higher Studies on the National Defence), regarding which several of us received communications. The report mentioned possible "spin-offs" from the UFO report files, and potentially interesting applications, notably in the domain of MHD (*Magneto-hydrodynamics*).

I tried, myself, over many years, to develop some concrete research on this matter of MHD.\* From 1979 to 1981 I was in contact with G.E.P.A.N. And the people there — principally the engineers Esterle and Zappoli — having had the main ideas of it explained to them, then attempted (rather clumsily) to set up some experimental research on MHD at a centre working closely with the Army. This was C.E.R.T. (The Centre for Study and Technical Research), in Toulouse. This complex (C.E.R.T.) which comprised several research units, had all the necessary blowers and other means and resources *ad hoc*. But they failed at first because they lacked the necessary ability in the subject.

When I found out about this operation of theirs (because they had made the attempt without my knowing about it), I broke off my contacts with G.E.P.A.N. *And at that point in time there happened something very important: the business of the UFO landing at Trans-En-Provence.\*\**

On one of my last visits to Toulouse I had a discussion with Jean-Jacques Velasco, who in those days was there as a mere technician, his qualification being as an *optician*. He showed me some photos that had been taken at an alleged UFO landing-site where there were quite pronounced mechanical ground-traces. He explained that these ground marks were accompanied by a pretty curious traumatism which had been suffered by the vegetation in the immediate vicinity. Subsequently, it was established that those photos and those analytical findings referred to the landing-site at Trans-En-Provence.

During my initial collaboration with G.E.P.A.N. I had launched a certain number of ideas for possible studies. One of them, inspired by my MHD studies (ionization of air), and by the celebrated affair of the RB-47, was to build a generator of 3 Gigahertz microwaves. During that visit to Toulouse, I asked Velasco if they had done anything in that direction since I made my suggestion. He replied that — yes — they had — and that, in collaboration with D.E.R.M.O. (the Department of Studies and Research on Microwaves) they had been experimenting with a *defoliation-machine*, worked with microwaves, and that it functioned very well.

It was this piece of news, combined with my discovery that G.E.P.A.N. — without my knowledge — had started, under contract, to develop experimental research into MHD, that convinced me that I was simply being *manipulated* by those people (Velasco was merely a simple pawn on the chess-board) and that induced me to break with them. This conversation with Velasco was subsequent to the biochemical analyses of vegetation from Trans-En-Provence that had been carried out in Avignon at the I.N.R.A. (National Institute of Agricultural Research) by Professor Bounias.

Without going into too much detail now (though the matter is worth another article) let us simply say that Bounias had demonstrated, by his very sophisticated study, *that the lucerne plants at the Trans-En-Provence site had suffered a significant and important trauma — namely a profound alteration of their pigments and, above all, they revealed an extraordinary correlation between the phenomenon and distance. And he too had recommended that an experiment be set up to simulate the phenomenon with the aid of electromagnetic waves.*

One year later, we learned about all this, after the publication of G.E.P.A.N.'s famous *NOTE NO. 16* containing the results of these studies.\*\*\*

Shortly after the publication of *NOTE NO. 16*, G.E.P.A.N. underwent its first dismantling. Esterle and Zappoli were dispersed to other branches of the C.N.E.S. (French National Centre For Space Studies) and the autonomy of G.E.P.A.N. was totally suppressed. We may well imagine that the publication of that Report (*NOTE NO. 16*) was regarded as a very grave error on the part of Esterle, who was taking his role as “emergent part of the iceberg” too seriously, indeed all the more was this the case, because the tests of simulated bombardment of vegetation with microwaves had apparently turned out to have positive results. Consequently the C.N.E.S. preferred to place G.E.P.A.N. under a more accountable “rod of iron”.

But it was dawning upon Bounias and myself that there was ambiguity about the game being played by G.E.P.A.N. So we decided to make representations jointly to the C.N.E.S. and to request that simulated studies of the Trans-En-Provence case actually be undertaken by means of a bombardment of the lucerne plants at the spot with pulsed microwaves. At the same time I requested that I present a report on my

own studies of MHD before the seven members of G.E.P.A.N.'s Scientific Council.

Let us recall, in passing, the names of those seven Council members:—

— GRUAU. Secretary to the Council. Director at C.N.E.S.

— R. OMNES, Cosmologist. Dean of the d'Orsay Faculty of Sciences.

— R. PELLAT. Director of Scientific Projects at C.N.E.S. Plasma Physicist.

— COMMANDANT COCHEREAU. Representing the Gendarmerie Nationale.

— G. MONNET. Astronomer. Director of the Lyons Observatory.

— FAURE. Psychiatrist.

— PERRIN DE BRICHAMBAUT. Of the National Meteorological Bureau.

Our requests, which we went on repeating until 1985, had no results. *We received no replies from anyone.* During that year (1985) I made contact with one of the Scientific Council's members, namely Christian Perrin de Brichambaut, the high official from the French National Meteorological Bureau. He refused at first to believe there could be any bad faith on the part of the heads of the C.N.E.S. But, at the same time, he was astonished to see that, after the elapse of more than a year, no meeting of the G.E.P.A.N. Scientific Council had taken place! So he wrote to the Directors of C.N.E.S. to draw their attention to our proposals, and asking when the next meeting of the Council would take place. And he was extremely surprised to receive no reply.

This state of affairs dragged on for several years. With letter after letter Perrin de Brichambaut, who found it difficult to accept the evidence, went on repeating his requests. But, the more insistent he was, the more silent did the C.N.E.S. become. His last letter, dating from the summer of 1987, was a recapitulation of all the information accumulated by G.E.P.A.N. and a re-statement of the Trans-En-Provence analyses and of the results obtained in our MHD research. And he concluded with three very precise questions:—

1. *Does G.E.P.A.N. still exist, or has it been suppressed?*
2. *If it exists, is a meeting envisaged in the near future?*
3. *If it has been decided to close down the G.E.P.A.N. facility, would it not be advisable to envisage a winding-up meeting at which the conclusions of the past years might be drawn?*

At the same time, he still insisted on having an answer to the proposals that Bounias and I had made. **The C.N.E.S. did not answer a single one of Perrin de Brichambaut's letters, but their reply came at the end of 1988. The C.N.E.S. suppressed G.E.P.A.N. and replaced it by the S.E.P.R.A. Now — here is a very important detail: S.E.P.R.A. no longer had the obligation of being accountable to a scientific council the majority of whom were civilians, because the Scientific Council had also been abolished at the same time as G.E.P.A.N. itself.**

So there was no longer any obligation to reply to Perrin de Brichambaut. (This non-response was, by the way, conveyed to him in semi-official fashion by his colleague Payan, who had secretly been supervising the activities of G.E.P.A.N. since 1977.)

I am now about to have a book published by the Editions Albin Michel (it ought to be out in the summer of 1990) which will provide full details of all this very complicated affair, of which I am only giving an outline here. *The book will contain the written testimony of Perrin de Brichambaut, who does not hesitate to call the whole operation an intellectual swindle, and*

who has decided, along with Bounias and myself, to testify about the entire lamentable business before the French public.

All of us have considered, indeed, that it was our duty to tell people what G.E.P.A.N. was during the thirteen years of its existence: A COVER-UP OPERATION. And I now range myself with the French astronomer Dr Pierre Guérin, who has long been saying that, among the "high-ups", they know perfectly well what the situation is as regards the UFOs.

There is, in fact, a considerable qualitative difference between the civilian G.E.P.A.N. — now become S.E.P.R.A. (a derisory construct, reduced now to the status of a letter-box), and the real military G.E.P.A.N. whose existence we now begin to guess.

Michel Bounias thinks that this MILITARY G.E.P.A.N. possesses, and is making total use of, the methods of analysis which he himself had worked out for the Trans-En-Provence case, and that they are now employing it all for their own ends and in the most complete and absolute conditions of secrecy.

Having now become independent, the French Military G.E.P.A.N. consequently no longer has any need to have recourse to a biochemical analysis service that is situated in the civilian sector, since it now has its own specialists.

The whole story of our own MHD work would deserve another article devoted entirely to it. I will confine myself here to quoting an anecdote dating from early in 1988. Between 1985 and 1988, the French Army had masterminded some research into the suppression of shock-waves, and had entrusted the work to a certain civilian laboratory possessed of the requisite blowers (hot), namely the Laboratoire de Thermodynamique de Rouen. (The fact that the 1.3 million Francs contract came from a Civilian Ministry alters nothing.)

Once again I was barred, the Army meanwhile bringing about a highly grotesque situation as they insisted upon my eviction from the operations. I was supposed to be directing the research, and yet at the same time being kept at a distance from it all and refused all official responsibility in connection with the contract!

So all was perfectly clear: the Military were interested in MHD. But above all they were afraid that it might become known that they were also interested in the UFOs! This unpleasant state of affairs dragged on for eighteen months. Then I decided to pull out of MHD altogether, and to return to theoretical cosmology, which I am now doing.

Meanwhile, this research in MHD still goes on. Clearly my own abandonment of the business has been a bit of a setback. It is an extremely complex field, and one in which the Military still feel uncomfortable, though it is one of the keys to Star Wars (MHD supply to Space combat stations). But today the Military and the researchers who are working for them have acquired the necessary theoretical know-how about the calculation of the MHD flows around objects, with the shock-waves being cancelled out by the Lorentz forces — all of which had originally been developed and worked out by my pupil Lebrun and myself.

Then, in the spring of 1988, quite by chance, I met Professor Claude Thénard, a researcher at the University of Rouen, who is in charge of the project and is now left to himself. He told me this in confidence:—

"I have seen Bradu, our contact-man in D.R.E.T. (Directorate of Technical Studies and Research — i.e., official military research). He told me that the D.R.E.T. are repeating all this research, in their own secret laboratories."

— Yet one more proof of the existence of this "MILITARY G.E.P.A.N."

What then are we to conclude from these first-hand reports? (In so serious a matter as this you could never base yourself on second-hand information.)

The conclusions are:—

1. That the MILITARY G.E.P.A.N. has always existed.
2. A civilian G.E.P.A.N. was created in order to serve as an interface with the private research groups and with the few rare scientists who possessed concrete and exploitable ideas about the UFO Phenomenon. The aim in creating it was not to promote research, but to scoop up as quickly as possible what the civilian population knew about the UFOs in order to feed it to the Military G.E.P.A.N.
3. Functioning side by side with the Military G.E.P.A.N., the Civilian G.E.P.A.N. was to be an organ of disinformation, a permanent debunking operation. Due, however, to causes such as the MHD business and the Trans-En-Provence landing case, it finally proved no longer possible to draw up a Final Report (as had originally been envisaged), in the same way as was done by the Condon Commission, which had been identical with G.E.P.A.N. in every way as regards the objectives originally aimed at.
4. The publication of the analyses carried out in the Trans-En-Provence case was a grave blotting of the copybook, which led to the dumping of Esterle.
5. We have every reason for thinking that the simulation tests that Professor Bounias and I had suggested were already carried out successfully by the Military G.E.P.A.N. several years ago, and that the results were positive.

Working in liaison with a civilian laboratory in Rouen, the Military G.E.P.A.N. are also pushing ahead with their studies on MHD Propulsion, the objectives in this case being not only to further their own understanding of the UFO Phenomenon but also to develop a supersonic cruise missile.

As for S.E.P.R.A., it continues, after a fashion, to conduct its disinformation operations, such as the one recently sponsored (August 1989) on a TV channel (TF1, in the programme "FUTURS") by the C.N.E.S.

The journalists who had prepared the programme admitted to us quite frankly that the texts had all been written by the C.N.E.S. The film was a sort of reportage on the activities of S.E.P.R.A., and preceded by a film showing what the E.D.F. (French Electricity) and the C.N.R.S. (French National Centre for Scientific Research) know about the effects of lightning. Then we saw the S.E.P.R.A. going to a site reported to them by peasants (flattened corn and a hole in the ground at the centre of the marks). Then Velasco delivered his conclusion, as an expert: THE MARKS IN THE FIELD WERE THE RESULT OF LIGHTNING.

The photos of the strange phenomena of the marks found in the English cornfields were then shown, the aim clearly being to link the two themes.

The journalists went on to explain that, by means of this investigation into the cornfield markings — an investigation which was to be regarded as a model — the S.E.P.R.A. was pursuing its objective of torpedoing all UFO research, by showing that Truth can only be arrived at by dint of a rigorous approach, even though this might shatter the dreams of a few here and there.

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\* I have already translated a huge account, supplied to me by Dr Jean-Pierre Petit some years ago, an absolutely amazing and mind-boggling story of the remarkable experiments he and his colleague Lebrun had carried out in *Magneto-hydrodynamics*; about their laboratory tests in which they succeeded in showing that models could fly at immense speed *without producing any sonic boom*; and about the way in which pretty well every civilian and military authority in France had attempted, by every conceivable form of skull-duggery, to abort their work and their efforts. Dr Petit wrote learned papers on it, and he gave lectures. HE EVEN WENT TO MOSCOW, AND TALKED WITH SOVIET SCIENTISTS AND ASTRONOMERS (INCLUDING THE LATE DR SAKHAROV), ALL OF WHOM WERE INTENSELY INTERESTED AND FAVOURABLE. CLEARLY THE USSR — IF NOBODY ELSE — WOULD HAVE LIKED TO HAVE THE SERVICES OF SUCH MEN AS DR JEAN-PIERRE PETIT. ALL THIS STRUCK ME AT THE TIME AS SO ODD THAT THE ONLY CONCLUSION TO BE REACHED WAS THAT THE WHOLE OF FRANCE WAS SO SCARED OF THE UFOS THAT NONE OF THEM, EXCEPT JEAN-PIERRE PETIT, DARED TO LOOK INTO MAGNETO-HYDRODYNAMICS! THE TRUTH WHICH NOW EMERGES IS FAR DIFFERENT. THE FRENCH MILITARY AND SCIENTIFIC LEADERS WANT MAGNETO-HYDRODYNAMICS ALL RIGHT, BUT THEY DON'T WANT ANYBODY BUT THEMSELVES TO KNOW ABOUT IT OR HAVE ANY-

THING TO DO WITH IT, AND ARE PREPARED TO TREAT TWO DISTINGUISHED FRENCH SCIENTISTS IN THE MOST UTTERLY DISGRACEFUL AND SHABBY FASHION BY STEALING THEIR WORK AND DEPRIVING THEM OF ALL CREDIT!

If space permits, we may publish Dr Petits' very long article.

\*\* Some of FSR's readers seemingly expect us to be pretty well omniscient. Unfortunately this is a slightly exaggerated requirement for one man to meet, and we have to admit that we have not been able to cover everything, although, over nearly 35 years, the FSR achievement, in cases translated or researched, and placed on record, is *equalled by none in the world*. However, the UFO landing at Trans-En-Provence on January 8, 1981 is one that we have never yet dealt with properly, so it seems. We have indeed mentioned it several times (see FSR 28/6, p.6; 29/1, p.22; 34/2, rear cover) but nothing more, probably because until now we had not realized its great importance in connection with the "Cover-Up" in France. LDLN may possibly have done already a full account of it which we have missed. We shall look into this, and try to rectify the situation.

\*\*\* I have most of G.E.P.A.N.'s series of "NOTES TECHNIQUES", including the notorious "NO. 16". With its vast mass of 64 pages of charts, graphs, etc., it succeeds in its objective of befogging the issue and preventing the reader from ascertaining what precisely happened to the lucerne plants at Trans-En-Provence.

## UFOS OVER HUNGARY

ACCORDING to an important article in the London *ATIMES* of April 19, 1990, Hungary has begun to have the same sort of UFO visitations since the recent political upheaval there as the Russians have been seeing since the start of their era of *perestroika* and change.

The number of the sighting reports in Hungary has apparently obliged the state-run Urania Observatory to establish a special unit to log them! Included in the reports so far was one fairly close encounter of the third kind.

A UFO Study Centre has also been set up in January 1990 in the northern Hungarian town of Eger. This is called the *Centre for the Gathering of UFO Phenomena* (also described as *The UFO Data Collection Centre*). The Centre is run by a 35-year-old woman freelance lecturer on Astronomy, Judit Vas, and it seems the party responsible for the setting up of this Centre was Andras Horvath, the Director of the Urania Observatory, who hoped that, by doing so, he could do something to prevent his own Observatory staff from being inundated in all the UFO reports! As usual the mass of reports has been found to contain a lot of accounts relating to aircraft, satellites, meteorites, balloons, bright stars, and so on. *But several of the baffling reports, some involving personnel of the Hungarian Army, have been found by Mrs Vas's Centre to be 'more than optical illusions', and well worthy of scientific investigation!*

One of the cases, emphasised by Mrs Vas, concerns a series of alleged encounters with 'giant extraterrestrial creatures' at the Tarnaszentmaria Army Barracks. These phenomena, it seems, went on for about a month, and were duly logged by the Hungarian Army.

The current Hungarian Wave began in the night of October 20, 1989, when, according to the testimony of the entire Army unit, an eerie noise was heard, which increased in volume every 20 seconds or so. Then one of the Army guards noticed 'three shining round objects preceded by a beam of light'. After a while, these disappeared over the forest behind the barracks.

*On November 13, 1989, Hungarian Air Force pilots*

*at the Kecskemet Military Airfield reported seeing a fluorescent green figure about 1.2 m. in height which 'beamed itself up into Space'. And a farmer in south-eastern Gomaendrod claimed that he had had a fight with two little green men with long ears, who paralysed him with a mysterious force before disappearing.*

On November 20, 1989, soldiers on guard duty at the Tarnaszentmaria Barracks observed a cloud of red mist in the sky, with curious flashing red lights inside it, followed by a UFO shaped like the planet Saturn, which floated over the barracks and then vanished over the forest. Two of the guards reported that they had been *'illuminated briefly with a powerful beam of light which made them sick'*.

*Later that same night, a Private Lajos Dioszegi spotted 10-ft. tall figures in the forest-clearing facing the barracks. "They were moving around as if they were chess-pieces", he said. "All the animals in the barracks — pigs, sheep, and dogs — became frantic, and one of the guard dogs, maddened with fear, broke its steel chain and ran away."*

Mrs Vas said (the *TIMES* report of April 19, 1990) that among the many sighting reports awaiting evaluation she had one from a motorist from the village of Lajosmisze, who had 'suddenly become aware of a flying light phenomenon, flying at first parallel with his car, and then directly above it'. The beam from it was so powerful that it illuminated a 50-yard stretch to either side of the road.

When the driver reached a bend in the road, he tried to brake, but his car continued at the same speed and then cornered at a 90-degree angle without skidding. The driver felt that 'some external power' had kept his car on the road, since he himself had lost control of it. This situation lasted for a further 200 yards and had then abruptly ceased.

Mrs Vas said that, while many of the accounts might have perfectly rational explanations, "we cannot ignore the inexplicable phenomena being reported to us".

A further report in the English-language news-