

was anyway not a UFO researcher but simply a writer on matters to do with the theatre and variety, the fact remains that — as we now know — the entire account is based on solid, factual material conveyed to Frank Scully by someone who “was in the know”, and who has been named.

TODAY WE HAVE PLENTY OF PROOF THAT THE U.S. AUTHORITIES WERE DESPERATELY WORRIED OVER SCULLY'S BOOK. NO WONDER THAT THEY WENT TO SUCH LENGTHS TO MOCK AND VILIFY SCULLY, AND NO WONDER THAT THE BOOK NEVER

GOT RE-PUBLISHED IN AMERICA (THOUGH, ODDLY ENOUGH, HERE IN BRITAIN GOLLANCZ ISSUED TWO EDITIONS OF IT. AND THEN QUICKLY FORGOT ABOUT THE SUBJECT AND NEVER AGAIN DID THAT LEFT-WING PUBLISHING FIRM ISSUE ANYTHING ABOUT UFOS).

NO WONDER TOO THAT, AFTER SCULLY HAD DIED, CAPTAIN RUPPELT, THEN IN CHARGE OF BLUE BOOK, SAID TO HIS WIDOW; “FRANKLY, MRS SCULLY, I MUST TELL YOU THAT YOUR HUSBAND'S BOOK WAS THE ONE THAT GAVE US THE MOST TROUBLE!” G.C.

BOOK REVIEW: UFO CHRONICLES OF THE SOVIET UNION

© By Captain Gordon Millington,
Ret'd., B.A. Hons., T.Cert. RAEC,
FSR Consultant



UFO CHRONICLES OF THE SOVIET UNION: A COSMIC SAMIZDAT, by Dr. Jacques Vallée, PhD., published March 1992 by Ballantine Books, New York, NY 10022, ISBN 0-345-37396, hardback. (US\$ 18.00, Canada \$24.00).

A new book by Jaques Vallée ought to be an event in ufological publishing, but if European readers of this book open it in expectation of something new and interesting they may be disappointed, for the work seems not to have been primarily intended for them. It was published in the USA and apparently directed mainly at those who find any alternatives to the extra-terrestrial hypothesis of UFO origins either novel or startling. In Europe, there are now few such to be found.

The book shows convincingly that UFO events similar to those reported from the rest of the world have been and still are also occurring in the former Soviet Union, thus confirming what readers of FSR have long known. It takes the form of a narrative alternating between picaresque travelogue and episodic ufological reporting. Vallée recounts his journeys with Mlle. Martine Costello, science reporter of *Le Figaro*, as sponsored guests of

the Soviet Press Agency *Novosti* in January 1990. He speaks of his “extraordinary journey to Moscow for an unprecedented series of meetings with the major researchers of the UFO mystery in the Soviet Union,” and adds that “nothing there happens easily or by chance.” This reminds us that in 1990 the monolith of the Soviet Union was still intact, as were also its party lines. “Glasnost”, was then little more than another of the words whose meaning had to be transmitted to the French investigators by their *Novosti* interpreters supplied by the KGB.

The writer's acknowledgements to the “many kind and helpful people” who assisted him make it clear that this visit was a carefully arranged presentation, especially devised to present to these ambassadors of western ufology an official view of certain areas of Soviet science, in particular their space programme and the embarrassing UMMO stories of Voronezh released world-wide and perhaps inadvertently by TASS in 1989.

Vallée described their first interview as one that “set the stage for the frankness and the extraordinary scope of the revelations that would come in the following days.” The theatrical metaphor was most appropriate when the curtain went up on *Novosti's* vice-chairman introducing Professor

STOP PRESS

Omar Fowler reports huge black triangle like the Belgian one with three white corner lights and big red central light, flying low and silently at 40 m.p.h, in Derbyshire on night of September 26th.

Vladimir Azhazha, together with "hot tea and sugar on a beautiful tray." The professor had served as the scientific director of a group studying underwater UFOs from 1976 to 1987 and told of several encounters with them. Asked to describe the behaviour of the alien submariners, Azhazha characterised it in Fortean terms as that of a superior technology to an inferior one. "*They treated us the way we would treat a fish or a rabbit. It is naive to assume they have any goodwill toward us, or any need to interact.*"

He went on to confirm the Soviet experience of UFO 'flaps' and the *polymorphous appearance* of UFOs which caused them to seem to change dynamically in flight, whereupon Vallée took from his briefcase a reprint of one of his own articles which had claimed the same phenomenon as evidence of multidimensional UFO origins. Azhazha took the proffered article and glanced through it. Then, wrote Vallée, "he looked at me in surprise, put down the papers and said: 'We have reached very similar conclusions. It is as if you and I had been working together for the last ten years.'"

Rapport thus established led on to further encounters with members of the scientific establishment and the gathering of much anecdotal evidence, together with insights into the attitudes of his hosts to dowsing, or biolocation as they called it, and psi factors in the appraisal of research findings. A chapter headed "Underground: Conversations around a Bottle of Vodka" chronicles meetings with the official Soviet New Age thinkers, thoughtfully arranged by the journalists at *Novosti* as a break from more formal encounters with the various disputing academic factions. Here they enjoyed philosophical discussions of astrology, homeopathy and the paranormal, "where spirituality seemed to thrive, among people who had an almost instinctive grasp of the issues Western scientists were trying so hard to define."

Almost all the hundred cases mentioned, however briefly, concern LITS, plus a few daylight sightings. There are a mere half dozen encounter cases (CE 3/4), including one from 1975 worthy of T. Bethurum, in which Malichev, an artist at his easel, is confronted by three ufonauts and their landed disk. Telepathically their female leader invited him to fly with them, but at first Malichev demurs. After the lady has staged a polymorphous exhibition flight in her UFO, however, he goes aboard and visits a planet with three moons where he encounters, "as if in a dream", his best friend, recently deceased. "Malichev," murmured Professor Azhazha, "has been subjected to psychiatric observation... hypnotised twice... he was not drugged, alcoholic or crazy."

Vallée does not mention having asked if Malichev was still around, but "finally," he concludes, "we came back from the Soviet Union with a set of unanswered questions about the full extent of research activity in official institutions."

He has hopes of a fruitful long term dialogue

between researchers in the former Soviet Union and their Western counterparts.

NOTE BY EDITOR, FSR:

Our reviewer is evidently unaware of the early history of FSR and of our close connections with the Russian and Soviet investigators, going back to about 35 years ago.

Dr. Jacques Vallée too is of course no stranger to Russia and the lands of the former Soviet Union. He was there some thirty years ago, when Dr. Yuri F. Zigel' and Red Air Force General Porfiriy Stolyarov were in charge of Soviet UFO research, as I have already mentioned again briefly in my footnote No. 5 on page 22 of FSR 37/4.

When he was returning on that occasion from Russia to his home in California, Dr. Vallée stopped off in London and lunched with Charles Bowen (my predecessor as FSR Editor) and myself. Among the many interesting snippets of information that I recall that he gave us then was the fact that, at that date, (early 1960s) the Soviet Air Force was already claiming to have on file *half again as many UFO reports* as the U.S. Air Force — i.e., about 15,000 to 10,000.

Dr. Vallée has remained in close touch with the Soviet UFO investigators since those early days.

Dr. Azhazha and his colleagues belong of course to the newer generation. FSR has been (through myself) in direct contact with the leading investigators in the USSR and Russia right since the establishment of our journal in 1955. My particular contact-man over there was Arkadiy Alekseyevich Tikhonov, and the first approach was from their side to us.

Tikhonov was the 'front-man' for Dr. Zuri F. Zigel', Yuri Fomin, Aleksandr Kazantsev and several others of that first generation of Russian investigators of the UFO Problem. It is many years since we last heard from Arkadiy Tikhonov, and we must assume that this genial soul has now moved on to 'Elsewhere'. We continue to be in touch with several other Russian or Ukrainian investigators.

The USSR Academy of Sciences wrote to us first in 1963 asking for FSR, and they have been receiving it ever since. The Chinese Academy of Sciences followed suit in 1964 and they too are still receiving the journal.

In the Ukraine, no longer a part of Russia but an independent republic, FSR's contact-man and Consultant continues to be Vladimir Rubtsov of Kharkov, from whom we have received the following communication ►

RESEARCH IN THE UKRAINE

RESEARCH INSTITUTE ON ANOMALOUS PHENOMENA (RIAP) P.O. Box 4684,
310022 Kharkov-22, Ukraine

Mr. Gordon Creighton, December 3, 1992.
FSR Publications Ltd.,
P.O. Box No. 162,
High Wycombe,
Bucks HP13 5DZ.

Dear Mr. Creighton,

Thank you for the continued despatch of FSR. The journal proved to be so much interesting and informative, as ever. I ought to say your Review has been for years and remains at present a very important communication medium in the field of ufology!

This year the Kharkov-based aerospace company "Vertical" has established here the Research Institute on Anomalous Phenomena (RIAP), whose main aim is to study the UFO problem on a serious scientific level, trying to revise and improve standards of quality both of empirical data and theoretical interpretations of these data. You will find here enclosed a RIAP Information Leaflet, describing the Institute's goals and structure in some detail. Please feel free, if you wish, to distribute this information among your friends and colleagues who might be interested in it. I would also be most grateful if you could consider the possibility of publishing a shortened version of the Information

Leaflet (which is enclosed here under the title "RIAP: Some Basic Data") in the Letters Column of your splendid *Flying Saucer Review*.

I am happy to inform you that the Scientific Council of the Institute, knowing of your outstanding contribution toward advancing ufological studies and your very many important publications in this field, has elected you an Honorary Fellow of RIAP (please see the enclosed copy of the Resolution of the Scientific Council, dated December 1, 1992). Your certificate will be sent to you in a few weeks.

As an Honorary Fellow of our Institute you will be kept informed as to our working plans and scientific results. We are going to publish a *RIAP Bulletin* (in English), as well as a scientific journal *Anomalistics and Astronomy* (in Russian). The Bulletin will be sent out to all RIAP Fellows free of charge, and any RIAP Fellow will have the right, if he wishes, to subscribe to the Journal at a reduced rate. No regular dues for Honorary Fellows are envisaged, but any help to the Institute in its activities will be highly appreciated.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to wish you and your family a happy Christmas and a very prosperous New Year!

Sincerely yours, **Vladimir V. Rubtsov** RIAP
Director

RESEARCH INSTITUTE ON ANOMALOUS PHENOMENA (RIAP)
Kharkov, Ukraine
Director: Dr. Vladimir V. Rubtsov

Scientific Council: A.V. Arkhipov, M.S., Astronomy (Secretary); A.V. Beletsky, M.A., History (Vice-Chairman); P.I. Kutniuk, Ph. D., Biology (Member); Yu.N. Morozov, Ph.D., Folklore studies (Member); Yu. V. Platov, Ph.D., Geophysics (Member); V.V. Rubtsov, Ph.D., Philosophy (Chairman); V.G. Tupalo, Ph.D., Aerospace Engineering (Member).
Advisory Board: E.A. Ermilov, Ph.D., Physics (UFO problem); V.N., Fomenko, Ph.D., Physics (UFO problem); Yu.A. Fomin, M.S., Engineering (UFO problem); L.M. Gindilis, Ph.D., Astronomy (SETI problem); A.F. Pugach, Ph.D., Astronomy (UFO & SETI problems); A.D. Ursul, Ph. D., Philosophy (SETI problem); V.K. Zhuravlev, Ph.D., Physics (Tunguska Explosion); A.V. Zolotov, Ph.D., Geophysics (Tunguska Explosion).

RIAP has been established in 1992 by the VERTICAL Aerospace Company. It is an independent research body, aimed at scientific studies in the fields of the UFO problem and non-classical SETI (Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence). The Institute makes its investigations in strict conformity to requirements of the scientific method and in close collaboration with the CIS Academy of Cosmonautics and the Russian Academy of Sciences. It is engaged in posing and solving specific problems, within assigned terms, under particular

financing (which can be internal, from the Institute's own budget, and/or external, obtained from organizations, interested in these investigations).

RIAP has been conceived as a kind of "crystallization center" of problem-oriented teams of researchers and scientific trends. When carrying out its investigations, it also involves scientists of universities and research institutions in cooperation under contracts. All this provides a combination of flexibility with ability to concentrate specialists in various disciplines on chosen directions of research.