

parts of the super-strings.

There may be other universes or other dimensions on other parts of the strings. The scientist and FSR consultant Dr Jacques Vallée is known to be interested in a "multi-dimensional" universe as an explanation for the origin of UFOs. He believes UFOs travel from dimension to dimension, and that their ability to do so explains many of their characteristics.

Just two years ago, scientists claimed that we would be able to detect a parallel universe only by its gravity. Now, new techniques are being developed to detect the heavy missing mass that may comprise the other universe.

"The strategies for detecting dark matter exploit the fact that it must interact very weakly with us," Close writes. The particles comprising the dark matter may be heavy or light in weight; if they are light, they will convert into protons under the influence of a magnetic field "and leave an electromagnetic whisper in the presence of magnetism," according to Close.

"So, scientists are developing tuneable microwave cavities to detect a small excess of protons whose energy would signal the mass of the dark particles."

By contrast, he continues, "if the particles are

heavy, they will cause the nuclei of visible matter to recoil when they hit them. This will warm matter up slightly, perhaps only a few thousandths of a degree." Thus, we have to look for this slight warming.

If dark matter exists and forms a parallel universe, it could have its own intelligent beings, Close suggests. Some of the answers scientists are looking for "may be known soon", he says. "Within two years" says a recent report in the *New Scientist*.

FSR will report on any new developments as they arise. The concept of a much heavier invisible universe goes back 20 years, however, to the theory propounded by Prof. John Wheeler. He suggested then the existence of a parallel universe consisting of very dense matter, where time ceases to exist (FSR, Vol 31 No 1, 1985, page 9). The advantage of that, some theorists say, is that spacecraft from our universe could travel vast distances instantaneously by moving through the parallel universe.

*Dr Frank Close is co-author of "The Particle Explosion", a pictorial "look into the atom", published by Oxford University Press on January 22, 1987.

— EDITOR

A NOTEWORTHY WEST GERMAN CASE FROM MARCH 1982

(Translation from German)

Darmstädter Tagblatt (Darmstadt, Hesse), March 16 1982

Although we know that UFO sightings occur just as often in Germany as they do elsewhere, the Germans — as everybody also knows — are smart and efficient folk, and they don't let too much get into their newspapers. This report is consequently a bit unusual for Germany! — EDITOR

ON the evening of March 12, 1982, at Messel, near Darmstadt, five UFOs were seen by large numbers of people and created vast uproar and excitement. They were picked up by the Defence Radar at nearby Ramstein, and provoked widespread electrical failures, tripped relay-circuits, blotted out TV reception and Police radios, and engendered widespread astonishment, consternation and even fear.

In addition to the press-coverage of March 16, reports of the affair were also carried on March 17 by the local TV and radio stations.

The details are as follows: Shortly after 9.00 p.m. on March 12, a 14-year-old Messel girl, Manuela Helm, and her friend Sonja Bormann (15) were coming home from a party when a huge light seemed to swoop down upon them out of the sky. It appeared almost to hit the ground, but then shot upwards again and once more dived towards the girls who, terror-stricken, dashed to the nearby youth-centre where

Manuela's 17-year-old brother Werner Helm was in a disco session. Then, distraught and breathless, the girls dashed for their homes. Manuela's mother testified that the girl hammered madly at the door and was as white as chalk, her whole body trembling, and an hour later her condition was no better, so that for a while they had thought of calling a doctor. She added that, a fortnight later, her daughter still would not dare to venture out of the house at night. "But", remarked the Mother, "If you talk to anybody about it, they look at you as though you're daft!"

As for the boys at the youth-centre, 17-year-old Werner Helm and about ten other lads ran out and saw a vivid light above the nearby sports-field. Coming closer to it, they saw that the whole field was vividly lit up, "as bright as day", by a UFO hovering stationary at tree-top height. They estimated its width at more than twenty metres. The lower part of it was oval, elongated, as it seemed; and the upper part bore

a transparent cupola of glass or some similar substance which emitted a vivid glow. Directed downwards from the craft were four vivid beams of light, "like searchlights", changing continuously in colour from green to blue and back again to green.

The craft emitted a loud hum the whole time, clearly audible by all the boys, who were only forty metres from it. They stood there for some ten minutes or so observing it. Then a vivid blue burst of light flashed out from it and they heard a dull bang. They stayed watching for a further five minutes, and then ran back to the youth-centre. Watching from there, they saw the UFO rise, slowly at first, and then, gaining speed, make off.

Frau Margarete Gustafson, foster-mother of the 13-year-old boy Martin Steffes, confirmed that he had dashed into the house, excited and shouted hysterically. She said her first reaction had been one of anger at the boy, but when she and her husband ran outside they saw several round-shaped UFOs (of an *apparent* size of some 10cms. diameter as viewed by them) fly-

ing away westwards over the next-door house. The UFOs then returned and flew overhead again. She at once telephoned to the Police, who sent a patrol-car.

Eight Police Witnesses

Police Chief Thomas Welland states that he could scarcely believe his eyes, for on arriving he saw five UFOs, one of them changing colour constantly from dark-green to pale-green and, further off, four more of them, also flashing lights. He called for further Police, and three more patrol-cars arrived from Messel, so that a total of *eight policemen* were able to observe them. The nearest of the UFOs flashing the green beams, seemed to be trying to touch down behind a row of trees bordering the Messel-Darmstadt highway. Then they saw it shoot upwards again, and all their car-radios began to crackle. The lights flickered on and off in the houses round about, and TV reception was blotted out. (Unfortunately none of the patrol-cars carried a camera.)

FOLLOW-UP ON THE HUGE UFO OVER SPAIN (NOVEMBER 1985)

J. Plana Crivillén

(C.E.I., Barcelona), FSR Consultant

(Translation from Spanish)

MORE than a year having now elapsed since this event, reported by me in FSR 32/1, I transmit herewith several further important details which I thought at the time that it might be advisable not to divulge:-

- (1) A video film of the phenomenon was made by the TV-3 Channel, and a copy of it was supplied to the Spanish Military Authorities, at the latter's request, so that they might study it.
- (2) The UFO over Tarrasa, which was filmed, and was also picked up by the radar, was at an altitude of 8,000 metres. (This was the UFO observed by Antonio Ribera, as mentioned in the Editor's footnote to my article.)
- (3) The great UFO nine kms. in length, and the smaller one which came out of it, were probably at a height of between 2,000 and 3,000 metres, and, so far as we know until now, were not observed *visually* by anyone.
- (4) The principal source of our information on the case was Sr. Antonio Toscano, Director of Operations in the Barcelona Air Traffic Control Centre,

with whom I was able to discuss it on several occasions, and who even permitted me to hear the taped recordings of the communications between himself and the pilots who saw the UFO over Tarrasa, he having been on duty at the time, and having seen the objects registered that night on the radarscopes.

- (5) The Spanish Ministry of Defence (and the Air Force) tried to prevent the divulgation of this important happening, and this is why, at the time, I withheld certain concrete data which would have shown what a detailed knowledge we had of the case, as well as the source of our information.

In conclusion, I would add that there do not seem to have been any certain sightings of importance in Spain during the last three months of 1986. However, there is a rumour that during October a UFO was detected by radar and chased by two Spanish *F-18* fighter craft over Zamora Province. But so far we have not succeeded in getting any information about this, and consequently the case may be doubtful.