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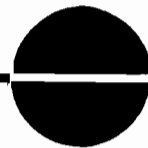
BUFORA

BULLETIN

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British UFO Research Association

NOV. 83

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Britain's oldest UFO Group -
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ASSOCIATION BUFORA LTD (by guar-
antee). Founded 1964. Registered
office: 40 Jones Drove, Whittle-
sey, Peterborough PE7 2 HW. Reg-
istered in London 1234924.
Incorporating the London UFO
Research Association founded
1959, and the British UFO
Association founded 1962.

AIMS 1. To encourage, promote
and conduct unbiased scientific
research of unidentified flying
objects (UFO) phenomena through-
out the United Kingdom. 2. To
collect and disseminate evidence
and data relating to unidentified
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ordinate UFO research through-
out the United Kingdom and to
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in such research throughout the
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BUFORA's entry on the
PRESTEL viewdata system
starts at page "50801"
(on EASTEL).

NOVEMBER, 1983

No 011

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40 Jones Drove, Whittlesey,
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News

BUFORA's 1983-84 session began on Saturday, 8th October, 1983 with an afternoon Council meeting at the London Business School, London, NW1.

Hans Streuli, Honorary Treasurer, presented the 1982-83 accounts which, if not exactly a cause for midnight celebrations over champagne and caviar did not produce black despondency either. BUFORA, like so many other ufological organisations, is still suffering from the effects of a long recession and a loss of members many of whom find themselves unemployed and with no spare cash for hobbies and interests. He urged Council and all current members to try and recruit at least one new member during the year. Twenty new members were elected at this meeting and that is certainly an encouraging upward trend.

● John Shaw and John Spencer reported on the 1983 International Congress. The event had been a notable success, and Council congratulated both Johns on all their hard work and effort which had achieved this result. The Papers had been stimulating, sometimes provocative, and there had been a relaxed and friendly atmosphere both at the social events and during the lectures. The Chairman, Bob Digby, said that Dr. Hynek had told him it was the "best Congress I have attended anywhere in the world." Praise indeed from so peripatetic a ufologist!

● Stephen Gamble, BUFORA's newly-appointed Director of Research, outlined his proposals for the Department's future development. One proposal would be the creation of special working parties to investigate and report on particular aspects of ufology. Each working party would be chaired by someone interested in that particular field. John Spencer would head the party looking at UFOs as a natural phenomenon. Other categories would be UFOs as physic phenomenon and as ETH. The first meetings would begin in March, 1984 by which time the other Chairmen would have been appointed.

There would be a concentrated effort to reorganise BUFORA's case history files and to make them accessible to members; to provide photo-copying facilities at the research headquarters in Whittlesey and to update current library facilities. He also outlined plans to use more sophisticated equipment in evaluating photographs and a computer for analysing cases. There would also be some further detailed investigation into cases of hypnotic regression and whether this particular technique told the investigator more about the subject than it did about the alleged UFO experience. He would liaise with Jenny Randles on this. Automated observation (such as radar) would also play a more prominent part in investigation.

Stephen agreed to prepare figures for the Treasurer and explained that his proposals were essentially long-term, but at least got things moving again - albeit slowly at first since the whole was dependent on funding.

● Jenny Randles gave a run-down on the activities of her Investigations Department and discussed various matters of policy regarding RICs and also reported on the meeting of NIC in August. The Association's press cutting service had provided 134 items between January and July, 1983 as opposed to 211 for the same period in 1982. The lack of cases was therefore still very much in evidence.

● Lionel Beer reported to Council on BUFORA's 21st anniversary conference which had been a most entertaining afternoon and had not only reunited several of the personalities involved in BUFORA's foundation, but had provided the audience with an enjoyable two or three hours of ufological nostalgia.

PROBE REPORT TO CLOSE

● Those Council members believing that the afternoon was to pass in an agreeable transaction of routine business had that notion quickly dispelled towards the close of the meeting. It was then that Ian Mrzyglod announced that "PROBE REPORT", scheduled to become "BUFORA PROBE" in January, 1984 was, owing to completely unforeseen circumstances, to cease publication immediately. He tendered his resignation to Council and this was received with regret as was the news that ufology was to lose a first-rate, well-researched journal.

Council is very concerned indeed at this turn of events but, as members will appreciate, there is little it can do, given present limitations on finances and resources, either to resurrect or replace "PROBE REPORT" at the moment. However, in order to honour in part its undertaking to members to provide them with 10 journals a year, Council agreed to substantial increases in the number of pages in both "BUFORA BULLETIN" and "J-TAP." Together the two magazines will now provide members with exactly the same amount of editorial material that they would have received had "BUFORA PROBE" actually appeared as planned. This will involve the two editors - Bob Digby and John Barrett - in considerably more work but the case was argued very strongly that there should be no direct loss to members in the way of news, papers and investigation reports. There will now be a revision to the sequence of publications as set out in "BUFORA BULLETIN" (September, 1983). The BULLETIN will appear in February, June, August and December and J-TAP in April and October of each year. The BULLETIN will become an A4 publication, as promised, from the June, 1984 issue.

This edition of the BULLETIN contains 44 pages and future issues will be maintained along similar lines; J-TAP will be increased to 32 pages an issue. Council realises that the loss of "BUFORA PROBE" will disappoint some members and, in the circumstances, it has agreed that those who wish to receive a refund on their annual subscription to cover its non-availability, should be entitled to do so. They should write to Hans Streuli the Association's Honorary Treasurer for further details.

Council apologises for the fact that its aim to increase the number of publications has met with this early and quite unexpected setback, and it trusts that members will understand that the reasons for it lie entirely outside its control. Meanwhile Council will examine the possibility of augmenting the BULLETIN and J-TAP with occasional reports on UFO investigations. Ian Mrzyglod promised to help with these and his offer was accepted.

EVENING LECTURE

●● The evening lecture went a long way to dispelling Council members' gloom since it was given by the delightful Dr. Sue Blackmore, fetchingly clad in blue gingham dungarees, who spoke

on "UFOs AND HALLUCINATIONS." This was BUFORA's first evening meeting at the new London Business School venue and the 60 or so members and guests present agreed that the change from Kensington had been worthwhile, even given some initial and unnerving electronic tantrums from the microphone.

Four or five rows of slightly raked, armchair-style seats ranged on three sides allow for a more direct relationship with the speaker than was possible in the traditional "village hall" atmosphere at Kensington - and the seats were certainly a good deal more comfortable! On this occasion members were in the small lecture theatre but future meetings will be given in the large one, which is designed along similarly attractive lines.

Members should come along and sample for themselves the friendly, warm atmosphere of the new location which is one ideally suited for a lecture and a chat to friends before and afterwards. There is also the welcome addition of a cash bar, open until 9 pm and a tea/coffee dispensing machine.

IT'S ALL IN THE MIND'S EYE

Dr Blackmore, from Bristol University, helped by a selection of fascinating slides, showed how easy it is to make a faulty perception judgement and how two people could quite easily see two completely different things when confronted by the self-same object. A valuable lesson in evaluating UFOs reports and witnesses statements.

Dr Blackmore is the author of the book "Beyond the Body" and has done 10 years research into ESP which is where her interest in UFOs began. It was recognised, she said, that perception of anything was a very difficult job for the brain to tackle, and hallucinations often occurred as a result of that difficulty. There was a pseudo-hallucination, when the individual was aware of the fact that he or she was hallucinating, and there was the real hallucination when the individual believed totally in what was being shown to them.

She encouraged a lively audience participation, members of which saw (or in some cases didn't!) two or more faces, patterns, colours and artefacts in a series of line drawings and photographs. She also conducted tests in judging heights, size and distance all of which were impossible to estimate without some known point of reference. A perceptual error, once made, could, she pointed out, lead to a whole series of consecutive errors as one's idea of what had been seen grew through the initial mistake. Once the judgement had been made it was extremely difficult, if not impossible, to correct it, even in the face of new, fault-free information.

One such illusion was graphically illustrated with a photograph of Magnetic Hill, Canada. This, for a reason no one could possibly explain, contained a road which every driver who used it believed ran downhill. Certainly the perspective and the placing of the verges and the forest clearly showed a downhill road - Dr Blackmore assured us that, in fact, it went uphill.

The lecture certainly got the 1983-84 session off to an intriguing, not to say bewitching start, and Dr. Blackmore's audience went away to think seriously about illusion and misperception and how both might account for some UFO sightings.

Lionel Beer closed the evening with a brief talk on the Rendlesham Forest case which, although it has attracted lurid headlines and general media mockery looks as if it might well have the makings of a classic case.

OTHER EVENTS

Sandwiched between the International Congress in August and the start of the new session in October was BUFORA's Capital Radio broadcast and the 21st anniversary Conference held at Kensington Central Library on 24th September, 1983.

1962-1983

Some 60 members and guests attended the 21st anniversary meeting, including Founder-President, Graham Knewstub, BUFORA founder Nigel Stephenson, John Dennis Llewellyn from Stratford on Avon and Bill Skellon, DIGAP. Apologies were received from Roy Stemman and Antoni Szachnowski. Bob Digby was in the Chair.

Mr Knewstub gave an introductory speech and expressed his personal pleasure at BUFORA's 21st birthday. The anniversary was a notable achievement in the world of ufology and congratulated all those who had made it possible.

Norman Oliver of BUFOS gave the first talk and stressed that his organisation should not be looked upon as a rival to BUFORA. He hoped that the coming years would see a complementary/complimentary relationship.

"A STRANGE THING HAPPENED TO ME" was his look at the world of CElls and CEllls from that of a Mr E.H. Hopkins who encountered two "superior beings" and their craft at Springfield, Missouri in April, 1897 to a physical trace case in Turkey 85 years later. Mr Oliver covered a vast span of time, incidents and locations in his talk. The USA featured predominantly but he quoted cases from Tibet, Portugal, New Zealand, the UK, Belgium and Denmark. A number of detailed cases came from the period 1920-30 which is traditionally thought of as a completely arid one for UFO activity. A CElll with flying creatures was reported from Nebraska in 1922 and the same year saw the strange CEll case of a Mr Brady in Co. Donegal, Ireland where he, together with other soldiers serving in the civil war, shot at a fiery circular object which burnt not only the surrounding bushes and trees but some of the men also. Mr Oliver gave details of a CElll which occurred in late summer 1942 to a Mr Lancashire of Newbegin who was on guard duty at an army camp.

With the post 1947 years the case histories and personalities came faster than one could note them down, Rosewell, Thomas Mantell, Adamski, Father Gill, Reg Chatterton's encounter at Bolton in 1959, the Hills, Socorro, Maurice Masse, Warminster, Travis Walton, Valentich, Kaikora. In an aside Mr Oliver drew the audience's attention to the fact that Kenneth Arnold had never actually called the objects he saw "flying saucers." He had described them as "like tadpoles." Mr Oliver speculated on the drawing appeal of a publication called "The Flying Tadpole Review." He also mentioned the craft seen by Tom Dawson on 6th August, 1977, from whose interior had come a voice stating "I am Jimmy Hoffa." Bowles and Parker, the on-going mystery of Rendlesham Forest and some physical traces from September, 1982 where, in Turkey, a sphere 35cm in diameter, weighing 9½ kgs and fuse welded had been discovered.

Why, in all of this, queried Mr Oliver, had the creatures not made themselves known other than in the most bizarre manner? Perhaps, he said, the time had arrived for us to make contact with them, rather than vice-versa. This was something which BUFOS would be exploring in the future.

MORE NOSTALGIA

Lionel Beer's slide show also covered the history and background of ufology. He took a broader view beginning with Sanskrit book illustrations of 1500BC and, working his way through Ezekial's wheel, the Ampleforth Abbey disc of 1290 ("A hoax" cried a member of the audience), the Nuremburg and Basle woodcuts, the first UFO photograph (1883 no less!) and various CEls, lls and llis, arrived at Bob Taylor and his stroll through a woodland glade at Livingston. The slides were excellent and Lionel managed to find one to illustrate almost every case he mentioned. An amusing running joke throughout the talk was the all too familiar newspaper cartoon of the earth-stranded alien and his parking problems.

After tea and a raffle Bob Digby introduced a brief tape montage of earlier BUFORA lectures, which included the voices of Charles Bowen, Sir Gilbert Inglefield, Roger Stanway, Tim Good and Captain Ivor Mackay.

In closing the Conference Bob expressed his hope that the role of BUFORA would become more research orientated both on a national and an international scale, and that there would be increasing and regular contact with members. Subscriptions were high but without them there would be no money for publications, no regular meetings and no research projects. BUFORA's approach was, and would remain, one of a scientific, impartial stance with no particular ufological axe to grind. He wondered if sometimes the treatment of witnesses to a UFO event did not bring in its wake further distress.

Thanks for making the Conference such a success must go to member Mary Corr who, at her own expense, provided lots of food and a birthday cake complete with a blue marzipan UFO and little green men; to Avril and Arnold West who also provided an iced birthday cake; Avril West and Felicity Farquharson who helped with the tea arrangements, Bob Digby, Michael Sinclair Betty Wood and Audrey Williams who donated food and raffle prizes. John Shaw and Robin Lindsey helped on the technical side, and John gave up a great deal of his time to help with the slides.

So, BUFORA comes of age.

BUFORA BADGES AND HISTORY

In support of the Anniversary an attractive red button badge was produced bearing the BUFORA logo headed by "21st" in matching type. If you would like a badge to wear (or as memorabilia) send two 12½p stamps (10p for each extra badge ordered) to Lionel Beer, 15 Freshwater Court, Crawford Street, London, W1H 1NS. BUFORA also produced a 4 page leaflet looking back to the start of modern ufology in 1947 and examining the early years of the Association. Send two 10p stamps for your copy to Lionel. For badge and history send 30p in stamps.

BUFORA has also produced a new membership folder, setting out the Association's aims and objectives. This can be included at no extra cost. Pass it on to a potential member.

BUFORA ON THE AIR

Capital Radio (one of the three London local stations) run a monthly access programme for organisations and pressure groups to "do their

thing? BUFORA was on the air at 9.5pm on 5th September, 1983 and its Chairman, Bob Digby, produced and compered a taped programme which ran for nearly 20 minutes. He did an excellent job of interviewing delegates at the Third International UFO Congress and linking this with background material. Dr. Stanton Friedman was convinced we were not getting the whole story from US intelligence authorities, and Dr. Allen Hynek said more scientists were becoming interested in the complexities of the phenomenon. Mrs Cynthia Hind from Zimbabwe mentioned the high level of interest in her country and said that many black people had seen silver-suited spacemen whom they thought were their ancestors. Paul Norman from Australia said that following the Velentich disappearance the authorities had been more forthcoming in releasing material. Bertil Kuhlemann from Sweden also spoke and Jenny Randles said that although there were fewer UK reports at present, they were of better quality or a "high strangeness" than formally. Reference was made to the House of Lords UFO debate in 1979, and the Ministry of Defence's "attitude" for public consumption was quoted. BUFORA was badly let down by the Ministry who, after arrangements had been made for a live interview, backed down at short notice on a less than convincing excuse. Other leads suggest that BUFORA has "had its card marked."

At about 9.30 pm listeners heard Lionel Beer, billed as a founder member of BUFORA, together with Hilary Evans, writer and investigator, and author of "THE EVIDENCE FOR UFOs" live from the studio. Hilary's book was published in association with ASSAP and Thorsons, the following day. LBC presenter Sarah Ward put questions on general UFO matters to Lionel and Hilary for six minutes, prior to a 20 minute "phone-in." This allowed time for six callers. Ginny asked about window areas, and it was assumed that this meant "ufocals" or flap areas. Mark from Chingford had seen a UFO, and on another evening had, unaccountably, loat an hour on a 10 minute walk home, but strangely did not claim a UFO connection for the latter. John admitted to being a sceptic and asked why had there been no contact. Terry asked about the type of beings that were reported. Jane queried whether UFOs came from the inner earth or Atlantis. In reply Hilary said that some UFOs might be atmoapheric animals. Final caller, Nigel, talked about airline staff he knew and the fact that pilots had seen giant UFOs. He had concluded that there was an official cover-up. Lionel agreed. Finally Sarah mentioned the 21st anniversary conference which was then just three weeks away.

Further Local Radio Items

Lionel Beer recorded two items for BBC Radio London which went out on the mornings of 23rd and 24th September, and an item for LBC which went out on the morning of the 24th, the day of the Conference. "The Observer" published an interesting and lengthy item on the anniversary conference in its issue of Sunday, 25th September, in which a number of people's views appeared.

CHANGED YOUR
ADDRESS?

If so please let the
Association know

3rd International UFO CONGRESS

August 1983

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British UFO Research Association

This report is a condensed version of the main highlights from the Congress papers and discussion sessions. Tape recordings (priced at £1.50) are available from Robin Lindsey, 87 Station Road, Whittlesey, Peterborough, PE7 1UE. A 1½ or two hour video tape (625 line PAL) of individual Congress sessions may be available from Robin later.

Bob Digby, BUFORA's Chairman, opening the Association's first three day Conference at High Wycombe on Saturday, 27th August, 1983 welcomed what he termed "a flap" of delegates. Although perhaps not as well attended as previous Congresses there were, nevertheless, over 90 participants from Europe, Zimbabwe, the USA and Australia as well as the UK. He outlined the theme of the Congress which was then formally opened by Dr. J. Allen Hynek, Professor Director, Centre For UFO Studies (CUFOS), Evanston, Illinois who congratulated BUFORA on its 21st anniversary. CUFOS was exactly 11 years its junior and in that time much had been achieved by both bodies, he said, despite strong scientific opposition. As far as the media were concerned UFOs - like car accidents - were simply not newsworthy. Ufology was currently in the doldrums with far fewer sightings in evidence, but now much more sophisticated reports came in from a public able to differentiate between IFOs and UFOs. Although there were fewer reports there were not less good reports - and that was what mattered.

AN OVERVIEW

Dr Hynek presented the first Congress Paper "A MODERN ESTIMATE OF THE SITUATION: AN OVERVIEW" This began with a subjective consideration in which, he said, that he had been appointed by the USAF to "debunk" what were then called "flying saucers." The USAF had been pleased with the results but they had never said that "flying saucers" did not exist, merely that they posed no security threat - a very different proposition. The RAF had taken its lead directly from the USAF. UFOs had been regarded seriously by the military, and pilots had had mandatory instructions to report all sightings to the authorities but never to discuss them elsewhere. As long ago as 1952, said Dr Hynek, he had voiced his misgivings about the real nature of the phenomenon in the "Journal Of The Optical Society of America." Science could gain nothing by ignoring the phenomenon.

The objective "overview" led him to conclude that the term "flying saucer" invited open derision and attracted cranks, religious fanatics and those least able to evaluate the problem. The stories which now formed part of UFO history were so bizarre that scientists were unable to consider them since they violated the latter's pre-conceived ideas on what was, or was not, possible. Refusal to look

had always been a failing of scientists who once rejected the existence of meteorites since the sky clearly did not contain stones! Ufological stories (abductions, entities etc) had a similar pattern and it was unlikely, therefore, that mankind's imagination was so impoverished that all the stories should conform unless they contained a strong element of truth. No one reported orange elephants or green giraffes! He thought the ETH far too simplistic a UFO solution. The scientific community had, however, latched onto it since it was very vulnerable to attack and robbed the phenomenon of its value.

There were other reasons for discounting ETH. UFOs were not detected leaving or entering the earth's atmosphere; the craft themselves appeared unspaceworthy; their inhabitants seemed too well adjusted to our gravity and atmosphere and the large number of sightings equated to an Apollo mission leaving earth on the hour every hour. The absurd behaviour of the craft's occupants - if extra-terrestrial - did not suggest that they were conducting an intelligent survey of this planet.

The horrendous travel distances involved also played a part in discounting the ETH. If the thickness of a playing card was taken to represent man's journey to the moon it would take two cards laid every second over an eight hour period, and covering two-thirds of the distance between London and Oxford, to get to our nearest star. The next nearest was nine years work away - cards laid from Brighton to Eastbourne - and cards would have to be stacked from London to Birmingham - 150 miles or 65 years work - to reach Zeta Reticuli. The distances could not be spanned within a reasonable time schedule.

UFOs represented a completely different technological advance, something we could not comprehend, as a 19th century man would have been unable to comprehend the workings of television, radio or the telephone. Dr. Hynek quoted from a newspaper of 1863 in which the idea of a telephone had been mooted and dismissed by its editor as "of no practical value apart from being a fairground novelty." A fresh viewpoint was required in order to study UFOs for they were, in the words of Aimé Michel a "festival of absurdity" with strange aliens, abductions, glowing lights and craft capable of incredible speeds and trajectories. We were like the 19th century man awed by the complex magic of the telephone but unable to understand its workings. Perhaps what we - a water-based civilisation - were witnessing was a spiritually-based civilisation. Maybe consciousness had existed all the time, even in the primeval swamp.

DISCUSSION

Stanton Friedman believed it incorrect to claim that no scientist accepted the ETH. Dr. Hynek replied that he had never met one who had.

Manfred Cassirer asked if it had been sensible to allow UFO reports to have been investigated by the USAF or the CIA? Dr Hynek agreed it had not. A scientific committee should have been appointed. He doubted if a UFO solution was likely to be found in this era.

Charles Lockwood wondered if there might exist in the solar system an as yet undetected low energy star which could serve as a UFO base. Dr Hynek said that such a proposition was possible but that modern astronomical technology - although advancing rapidly - had not yet discovered it.

Dr Hynek agreed with a questioner that what was sought was a multi-disciplinary solution to UFOs embracing, astronomer, physicist, theologian and psychologist. A diversity of explanations should be looked for. This point was echoed by Bertil Kuhlemann and in reply

Dr Hynek reiterated the duality of the phenomenon. The question of light tunnelling, as found in quantum mechanics, was briefly discussed, as was fear of ridicule in reporting sightings and related UFO topics such as precognition, abduction and time lapses.

"The paranormal," concluded Dr. Hynek, "was only that part of the normal that was not yet understood."

After lunch Dr Hartley Rutledge (Professor of Physics, South-East Missouri State University) in "PROJECT IDENTIFICATION" explained work funded by the "St Louis Globe-Democrat" his University and private contributors to carry out scientific investigation into UFOs. The work, centred on Piedmont, Missouri, began in April, 1973 and reported in 1980. In that period some 157 observations of 178 UFOs had been recorded on instruments. These observations had mainly been LITS, but all had defied rational explanation and had indicated a degree of intelligence and an awareness of the presence of the investigators.

(A detailed feature article by Dr. Rutledge on his work and the researches appeared in "PROBE REPORT", July, 1983. Readers are referred to this for a fuller background description)

DISCUSSION

Delegates, although interested in the UFO experiments, seemed less convinced by the nature and plurality of sightings. Dr Rutledge had seen 40 UFOs, his son 80. The reasons for this, he said in reply to Hilary Evans, was a better knowledge of how, when and where to look and the special instrumentation employed. He refuted the claim, which perhaps came through in his Paper, that there had been a personal response by the UFOs to him and his research team. He had merely been in the right place at the right time.

In reply to a question about earth-faulting Dr Rutledge said that a major fault existed in nearby Arkansas but not in the region in which he had worked.

The first Scandinavian author took the platform on Saturday afternoon. This was Denmark's Per Andersen (Research Director and Vice-Chairman SUFOI 1979-82) who spoke on "DANISH SCIENTISTS AND THE UFO PHENOMENON." Delegates learned that the attitude of Danish scientists to UFOs mirrored that of their fellow professionals world wide - deep scepticism. In a research project conducted by Aarhus University a questionnaire had been circulated to a random 200 scientists in April, 1980 and replies revealed that although 64 per cent of scientists believed UFOs should be more closely investigated, a much smaller proportion felt that they should be responsible for such investigations. Typical replies were "investigation was a luxury" and that as far as UFOs were concerned "people wanted to be deluded." Although the scientists felt investigation was important they also considered that there were more worthwhile projects on which to spend resources.

Herr Andersen said that this attitude corresponded very closely to that observed in a similar USA survey but American scientists had been much better informed on ufology in general. Of the Danish scientists polled 22 per cent believed UFOs to be "a swindle and a humbug" (a description which greatly amused the audience) 32 per cent believed them to be a known natural phenomenon; 30 per cent a man-made phenomenon; seven per cent an unknown natural phenomenon; three per cent plumped for the ETH and six per cent for other alternatives. (These figures were not percentages of the replies but percentages assigned by the questionee to given answers).

Clearly there was little chance of serious research being undertaken by Danish scientists! This, he said, had to come from ufologists themselves.

DISCUSSION

In reply to a question Per Andersen said that the poor response of scientists was not attributable to the low level of UFO sightings in Denmark which were, given the country's size and population, at least average. There were also several active UFO societies in existence to monitor data.

He felt the most surprising result of the questionnaire was the number of scientists who expressed interest in UFOs but were unwilling to help investigate them - a most unscientific attitude! No scientist replying to the questionnaire admitted to having seen a UFO.

RADAR CASES

Peter Warrington (Chairman, MUFORA) in "AN EVALUATION OF THE EVIDENCE FOR UFO EVENTS FROM RADAR OBSERVATIONS" asked the question: "Why don't scientists take us more seriously?" and answered it with another: "Why don't we take scientists more seriously?" Many people felt that evaluating radar cases was beyond them because of the complex nature of radar technology - but this was not true. Civil and military radar systems were identical and radar was employed in meteorology, on Cruise missiles, in marine anti-collision devices and geological surveys. Three dimensional radar was also on the way. He explained the workings of radar and showed slides of typical displays.

Almost anything could cause an echo on the radar screen; the anomalies - "angels", "ring angels" and "dot Angels" - could register as a result of atmospheric changes and even small insects gave a positive reading! The phenomenon was well understood by radar experts. He examined three well-known UFO radar sightings.

A Trident aircraft over Portugal in the late 1970s had reported sighting three gigantic UFOs at a 20 mile range which registered as large as battleships. These, however, had later proved to be the tops of the Pyrenees mountains. The Kaikoura, New Zealand sightings in December, 1979 had also been plotted on radar at Wellington, but, said Mr Warrington, a very good case could be made out for these also having been "angels! The New Zealand radar operator had not known the height of the objects and had made no attempt to alert the Argosy aircraft of their approach which he would have done had he believed them to have been anything other than already clearly identified spurious material.

The classic Lakenheath case (August, 1956) also raised doubts in the speaker's mind that a UFO was involved. Certainly something had been detected on radar travelling at vast speeds - 7,000mph - over the Suffolk countryside: but this could well have been an "angel" or, more probably, two, for it would have been impossible for the object detected both on the ground radar and on that of the intercepting Venom jet fighter to have moved from its original position in front of the plane to its rear in the four second sweep of the radar scanner.

Mr Warrington pointed out, however, that in 1978 a Spanish airliner had detected a UFO on radar. The chances of doing so could not be entirely discounted, but cases had to be treated with the greatest possible caution.

DISCUSSION

Arnold West, himself a radar engineer, asked how an operator picking up a strange return would know whether this was a real target or an

anomaly. Mr Warrington said that there was no certain way of knowing since "angels" were painted onto the screen as solid objects.

In reply to Stanton Friedman Mr Warrington said that his sources on the Lakenheath case had been taken mainly from a Paper in "Flying Saucer Review" and the Ronald Storey UFO encyclopedia. The original reports were so garbled that after 27 years it was impossible to say exactly what had been observed. What concerned him was the small amount of technical thought given to claims for radar detected UFOs.

Arnold West said that "angel" returns showed more prominently on 10cm radar and occurred in groups, often flickering, also they had the ability to drift or to remain stationary. They were very unlikely to register in a straight line as might be the case with a series of objects. Little attention had been paid to using radar solely for detecting UFOs or anomalous aerial phenomena. A radar system should be set up specifically for this purpose.

Mr Warrington replied that his personal experience of radar at Manchester airport clearly showed straight line "angels."

After the Congress dinner, attended by 80 delegates, there was a video tape show by Harry Harris of some recent regressive hypnosis subjects. This proved very interesting and it was well after 1 am before the last bleary-eyed delegate finally tottered off to bed.

SUNDAY - AUGUST 28th, 1983

OPENING WINDOWS

Leslie Bayer, BUFORA's Immediate Past Chairman, presided over Sunday morning's session at which Jenny Randles (Director of Investigations, BUFORA) spoke on "OPENING UP THE WINDOWS." This examined UFO "window areas" in the UK and why they occurred. Was it, she asked, a catalyst who, in creating a "flap" attracted other reports to him as more and more people watched the skies? A noted catalyst, Arthur Shuttleworth, had had a profound, if not necessarily beneficial affect, in putting Warminster on the map in the mid 1960s as the UK UFO window area. The "amber/gambler" ball of orange light had featured strongly in this region, and the phenomenon would be referred to later. Other and more recent "windows" had opened up at Earlham, near Manchester and at Milton Keynes, where very enthusiastic, reliable UFO investigators were based.

A second feature of "window areas" was the "contagion" aspect where an individual incident, given prominence by local newspapers, generated other stories which, in turn, reached the national press, giving rise to more reports. This was not always advantageous to serious ufological research since the media invariably trivialised and sensationalised cases. Much might be gained from studying the history of such areas like that at Deeside, North Wales where, in 1978, the Sunderland family had a prolonged series of sightings and related physic phenomena. Recently a "window" of considerable importance had occurred in the Rossendale Valley district of the Pennines where the local population continually reported the flight of a "mystery helicopter" and where there had been numerous UFO and

UFO related activity. In February, 1979 Mike Sacks encountered a landed UFO at Stacksteads, there had been a car stop incident at Nelson in March, 1977, the strange death at Todmorden in June, 1980 of Zigmund Adamski, an event which had become inextricably linked with UFO activity, and the CElll case of PC Alan Godfrey, also at Todmorden in November, 1980. The area even had its own "amber/gambler"; a typical feature of such areas as was the related phenomena of a coronet of lights, resembling that shown in the Motunau, New Zealand photograph of October, 1979, which glowed red when over water and white when not. Both could support the earthlights hypothesis. She had coined an acronym for the phenomena - UAP - Unidentified Aerial Phenomena. UAPs and CEs were two separate items but both, when they occurred in window areas, became synonymous to the layman. The UAP might trigger the CE in the mind of a sensitive, physico-orientated individual. Research with adult contactees revealed not only that many were "repeaters" from early childhood but that a high proportion of coincidences within the CE experience linked otherwise totally dissimilar cases.

This brought her to the OZ Factor theory and her belief that the UFO/CE experience happened within the individual's consciousness regardless of the stimuli which caused it. The quasi-real nature of the CE possessed a duality which was neither objective nor subjective, but both. The experience had, in some cases, been based on such ordinary stimuli as the moon or an aircraft.

A person's experiences could result from a deeply felt social need (pace Jung) with the basic message or scenario so often shared in CE cases coming directly from the person's own mind and knowledge store. Perhaps, she said, mind to mind consciousness was not by radio waves but by telepathy. There were no known CE photographs and therefore only two solutions to the experience remained - either all the stories were wholly false or they were quasi-real.

Since the Congress was running late delegates were given the choice of a short coffee break or question time. Many stayed for questions but I, with no disrespect to the lecturer, opted for a coffee and a quick cigarette.

FILM TIME

With the break over Congress delegates watched a 16mm film (enlarged from the original 8mm) shot by Peter Day, a building surveyor from Buckinghamshire of an orange (amber/gambler?) object seen north of Thame, Oxfordshire, at approximately 9 am on 11th January, 1973.

Jenny Randles and Ken Phillips, BUFORA's RIC for the area presented the investigatory background to the case.

Mr Day, whilst driving to Cuddington had seen a bright orange ball of light moving rapidly above a distant tree line. This he had captured on an 8mm film (Mr Day, an aviation photographer always carries a camera in his car) until it disappeared. Other witnesses had been Elizabeth Thompson, a teacher on her way to work, and a number of school-children in a nearby playground. Mr Day's sighting had been corroborated by the other witnesses, although Mrs Thompson's viewing of the object had been for a much shorter duration. The school-children described "an orange light moving up and down," "a hovering orange object," "yellow orange inside, orange brown outside, blurry." Kodak Laboratories ascertained that the film was "optically correct" did not have a fault and showed a real, distant object about 11 1/2 ft in diameter travelling at about 90mph, on a five mile track. This was disputed during discussion when the speed was estimated to be closer to 60mph and the size 14ft.

The film had been seen by scientists and atmospheric physicists who had dismissed the possibility of ball lightning: a Ministry of Defence spokesman had confirmed that the film did not show military flares but suggested it might depict a helicopter mounted with a bright orange searchlight. This possibility had subsequently been discounted.

DISCUSSION

From questions by the discussion speakers - Stanton Friedman, Charles Lockwood, Stuart Campbell, Timothy Good and Bertil Kuhlemann - it gradually emerged that no real in depth technical study had been done on the film, although it was now 11 years old. There was still no incontrovertible data to prove or disprove Kodak's estimation of the length of the original film, the object's actual size, distance, trajectory, brightness and density. The version shown to delegates lacked, because of the enlargement, the dramatic effect in the last frame of the 8mm original in which, it was said, trees swayed and bent violently beneath the object's wake.

Timothy Good raised a significant, and perhaps later research will reveal vital point, that within seconds of Mr Day's sighting a USAF F1-11 fighter plane suddenly went out of control and crashed at nearby Newport Pagnell. A USAF major at Upper Heywood air force base had been asked to view the film but had declined.

Delegates were assured that the film would shortly be subjected to a rigorous analysis, including a computer enhancement test.

UFOs EXIST

With so many interesting speakers and discussion points it is invidious to describe the lecture by Stanton Friedman as the highlight of the Congress; but his theme "FLYING SAUCERS ARE REAL" was, perhaps what many delegates had hoped to hear. Indeed Mr Friedman summed up his personal view of the equivocal nature of some of the opinions already expressed by remarking: "With friends like these who needs enemies?" He was not, he said, an "apologist ufologist", many years research, study and investigation had convinced him that earth was being visited by extra-terrestrials. The US government's interest in "flying saucers" dated from the 1950s when the phenomena had held a higher security rating than that given to the H-bomb. An FBI/CIA cover-up, a "cosmic Watergate" certainly existed. CIA had collected flying saucer data despite its own official denials of having done so, since the early 1950s. This had been substantiated by the recently released Robertson Panel Committee report.

Turning to the Roswell, New Mexico incident of July, 1947, and the claim that the US government had retrieved a crashed saucer and its crew, Mr Friedman said that researches by his colleague William Moore had shown conclusively that something very curious indeed had gone on in the area that summer. Independent witnesses had recently testified to the actuality of the event and the fact that vast quantities of debris, filling an army truck and half a Buick, had been ferried from the site, proving that no downed weather balloon (the official explanation) could possibly have been involved. It had also been established that Lieutenant General Nathan Twining, Chief of Staff, US Army, had been in New Mexico at that time, not too odd an event, except that his office had said he was visiting Washington!

The era - that of the Cold War - had necessitated secrecy and conspiracy. It had been imperative that the Soviets did not learn that their enemy - the USA - had captured a saucer - it was equally imperative to keep the news from the American people and their allies. Disinformation too had played a vital role: "Fool your own guys as well as the enemy."

By the autumn of 1947 (pace "The Condon Report" page 894) Twining had already reported to such bodies as the Air Institute of Technology; Intelligence T-2 Office; Chief of Engineering Division and the Aircraft Power Plant and Propeller Laboratories of Engineering Division T-3. Mr Friedman wondered why so many high-powered scientific bodies would want to know about a weather balloon.

The story, as far as it was known, had been covered very comprehensively in "The Roswell Incident" (Charles Berlitz and William Moore, 1982).

Project Blue Book had been a front to allay public opinion. It had had no scientific resources at its disposal, nor were its committee members placed on a "need to know" basis. The real investigation had been done by the US Aerospace Defence Command which, with its unlimited technological hardware, was in a position to evaluate all UFO sightings and under no obligation to pass them on to Blue Book. This had been confirmed by his talks with scores of former servicemen who said that their reports went directly to ADC or Air Intelligence.

Mr Friedman said that our civilisation with its space journeys in "dumb old chemical rockets" could have no conception of the ease with which extra-terrestrials might be able to undertake space travel using nuclear or fusion propulsion. The USA had run successful trial experiments of fission nuclear rockets in the late 1960s. The forces of gravity were much misunderstood amongst laymen. An astronaut could withstand a front to back acceleration of 14Gs (over 3000 miles per hour per second) for two minutes without damage if properly restrained. At the end of that time he would be travelling at 36,000 mph. The faster one got into orbit and away from earth the less propellant was needed. For each minute near to earth's gravity in effect pulled the rocket back at over 1200mph. Acceleration at 5Gs for five minutes thus produced a much higher final net velocity or used much less propellant than accelerating at 1G for 25 minutes even though they seemed to produce the same final results.

Our future plans for space travel were not an extrapolation of past events for new physics and new technology would bring unbelievable changes in 100 or 1000 years from now. We were still cosmic "babes in the wood."

Mr Friedman also spoke on the Zeta 2 Reticuli star map drawn by Margery Fish as a result of Betty Hill's abduction claim; Ted Phillips research into some 2200 physical trace cases and such classic UFO photographs as that taken by Paul Trent of McMinnville, Oregon in May, 1950. Other stars, he said, had neighbours, but we did not and space travel between them might be very common. We were so far out in the cosmic sticks that we could not even see the smoke from our neighbours' chimneys.

DISCUSSION

In reply to Harry Harris, Mr Friedman said that it was not known where the Roswell bodies were now, although CAUS - Citizens Against UFO Secrecy - was currently suing the Air Secretary for the return of the entities' bodies.

Mr Friedman wanted an approach made to governments and the media for the release of UFO information. The phenomenon was much too important to be ignored or ridiculed.

In reply to another questioner Mr Friedman said that the Roswell landing had allowed an input of extra-terrestrial technology into our own, but it had proved impossible to reproduce either the craft itself or its propulsion system.

He said that despite pressure being brought to bear on some witnesses/contactees to remain silent he had had no such pressures and no midnight visits from Men In Black.

Within the next few years hitherto top secret intelligence reports might come from US government officials as older, retired men, with little to lose, spoke out. This might well happen if President Reagan was elected for a second term since a new, untried President, might be less tolerant of such statements than a more experienced one.

THE AUSTRALIAN FLAP

After tea Paul Norman (Vice-Chairman and Investigations Officer, VUFORS, Australia) reported on the 1978 Bass Strait flap in Australia which culminated in the disappearance of a 21 year old pilot, Frederick Valentich. In the days prior there had been some 60 sightings around the area. (Mr Norman's Paper was published in BUFORA Bulletin, June, 1983).

The area, he said, had a history of disappearances and strange lights dating back to the 1920s. A passenger plane had vanished without trace, and in the oddest of circumstances, in September, 1935 and there had been reports of disc- and large cigar-shaped objects in the vicinity in 1954, 1960 and 1963. A case at Rosedale, Victoria on 30th September, 1980 had included physical traces, physic phenomena and a time lapse.

Mr Norman was unable to add anything to what was already known about Valentich's disappearance, it was as baffling now as it had been when it occurred five years ago. The Australian Department of Transport, which investigated the case, still refused to release the last portion of Valentich's radio message to ground control which contained a strange metallic noise. Mr Norman stressed some similarities between this case and that of Larry Coyne's helicopter encounter in 1973.

DISCUSSION

In reply to a questioner he said that he believed Valentich crashed into the Strait as the result of an electro-magnetic influence stalling his aircraft. He instanced the case of a Cuban MIG fighter which it was claimed disintegrated whilst pursuing a UFO in 1967. A similar disintegration might account both for the noise on the tape and for the Department's reluctance to release it. Radar had not shown any aircraft or object in the vicinity of Valentich's plane at the time of its disappearance.

MEASUREMENTS

Bertil Kuhlemann (Swedish representative PICUR) then presented his Paper "MEASURABLES AND NON-MEASURABLES IN UFO RESEARCH."

He said that governments' official attitude to UFOs was that they did not exist. This information filtered down to the general public who, for the main part, accepted this lead and joined in the ridicule. Even experienced pilots were challenged on their

competency to fly as a result of their "seeing things." Ufo-
logists should ask themselves: "Was There Anything?" If the answer
was "No" that was the end of the matter. If it was "Yes" - then
what was its nature - natural or extra-terrestrial and was it
capable of being measured?

What was measurement he asked? It was the assignment of a number
to an event and reflected our inner perceptions. The questions
to be asked were: What Are We Measuring And How? What Could We
Measure And How? What Are We Not Measuring and Why Not?

What was Science? It was a discipline which improved our
understanding of nature and required precise statements which were
subject to check or proof. Other sciences, such as astronomy,
required only observation.

Types of measurement were direct (with a ruler) comparison
(size, height) estimation (the most common in ufology). But when
people used estimation they rounded up in their minds the measure-
ment involved, (i.e. one arranged to meet a person at 4.30pm not
at 4.24 or 4.26). Estimates such as this were useful, but much
improved if instrumentation could also be employed for this refined
the process. Ufology did not use instruments on a large scale,
some stimuli, such as magnetism, did not have a human response.

Herr Kuhlemann believed that setting up a computer-based
data bank would clearly identify and eliminate many IFO reports
(e.g. no planet in the northern hemisphere was seen over 60° - thus
anything over 60° was not a planet). The measurement criteria
used should include object, position, speed. The observer himself
should also be monitored for his physical condition, temperament,
effects of sighting, had a vital bearing on his report.

Computerisation in ufology was vital where so many groups,
from the small local group to a large international one existed in
order to co-ordinate so much diverse material. This must bring
benefits to ufology in general since it would give researchers on-
line data.

He hoped that his paper would lead to a discussion far beyond
the confines of the Congress on the possibilities of setting up
just such a measurement bank.

MONDAY - AUGUST 29th, 1983

Monday morning. Bob Digby was back in the Chair and Congress
heard what, for me, was the most complex of all the papers "THE
COSMIC LIFE-LINE" by Ali Abu Taha (Senior Consultant, Communications
Satellite Systems).

This was the European debut of his hypothesis that extra-
terrestrial life exists on the sun. I found the paper and the dis-
cussion way above my non-technical head and impossible to summarise
in a limited editorial space. Members should hear the full, taped
version in order to more fully understand the clever and complex
argument put forward.

His, said Mr Abu Taha was not a new idea. Sun gods had played a
major role in the mythology of ancient civilisations and the idea
of life on the sun had been propounded by the 19th century astronomer
Sir William Herschel, founder of cosmology. Sun gods could not be
used in modern scientific argument but they had a long and respectable
history.

The sun, five billion years old and 100 times the diameter of earth, was divided into two regions; the inner which comprised, apart from the core, a radio-active and convection zone; the outer, a thin photosphere layer contained the chromosphere and the corona. The temperature distribution at the core was some $15m^{\circ}$ but fell in the photosphere to $4000-6000^{\circ}$ although the temperature in the corona was some $3m^{\circ}$. Mr Abu Taha said that there was a strong possibility that life existed in the convection zone. This measured 100,000km and was abundant in the four life-giving elements, oxygen, nitrogen, carbon and hydrogen. These had not been ionised by the extreme temperatures but existed in their natural state. Where hydrogen and oxygen co-existed, he said, they would always produce water - not gold, not concrete. Water, therefore, could exist on the sun where, under the much greater pressure, it would boil more slowly. The convection area was one of very great pressure, with a density of the order of 100 grams per cu.cm. Water boiled at $2000^{\circ}C$ would resemble molten lava or fire.

Although we on earth lived at a steady $20^{\circ}C$ there was nothing to suggest that life could not be maintained at much greater temperatures. He instanced the discovery, in 1982, of creatures living in thermonuclear vents on the ocean floor at some $300^{\circ}C$ a temperature once believed incapable of sustaining any life form. A study of the creatures' rate of metabolism revealed that it was compatible to that of a creature living under those conditions.

Solar travellers would need to be equipped with their own environmental needs. The humanoids so frequently reported might be robots designed to cope with our particular environment. Mr Taha said that many UFO witnesses reported objects which "glowed" "dazzled" "were luminous" or "firelike" all characteristics of the sun. There were also numerous cases of radio and engine failure caused by electrical interference and, amongst contactees, reports of severe burns and radiation.

NEWS FROM NORWAY

Dr Taha was followed by Jan Fyllander, UFO Norway who spoke on the "flap" of sightings by some 4000 people between November, 1981 and spring, 1983 in two small Norwegian valleys, Arendal and Hesseslen. This very lively talk (complete with Herr Fyllander's impressions of UFOs whistling overhead!) was illustrated with some quite extraordinary slides of brilliant lights and light formations which closely resembled in colour and shape those filmed by David Crockett at Kaikora, New Zealand in 1979. (A detailed, two part article on the Norwegian sightings, together with the continuing investigation work of UFO Norway and UFO Sweden will appear in future issues of the Bulletin).

MORE LIGHTS

More lights followed, this time "EARTHLIGHTS" by Paul Devereaux (Editor "The Ley Hunter") whose book "Earthlights" was published last autumn and was reviewed in BUFORA Bulletin in November, 1982.

Many UFO reports, he believed, were the result of piezo-electric (or tribo luminescence) earth disturbances which produced earth-lights. Piezo-electricity came in many forms, including zoomorphic lights which had the ability to change their format and shape.

A study of south-west Leicestershire had shown a strong enough correlation between earthlights and faulting to substantiate the argument; and experiments in America and with his own team had

produced the phenomenon (and especially an orange light) under controlled laboratory conditions. His hypothesis was not, therefore, just one of inspired guesswork.

He instanced two areas in Wales - Barmouth and St. Brides Bay - where earthlights had been seen. In the 1977 "wave" at St. Brides Bay 44 per cent of all UFO sightings were reported from an area within 600 yards of a major fault. He looked back to the Barmouth and Egryn sightings of 1903-5 where strange lights had risen from valley floors and mountain tops and had even appeared to follow people - in particular one Mary Jones. A further study of the case, which had been covered only briefly in his book, had shown that in all instances the lights had emerged from areas adjacent, close to or on top of the Mocras fault. From newspaper descriptions and other reports of the period it was clear that these had been "earthlights" rather than UFOs.

The links between UFO sightings (if it was accepted that they were earthlights) and the CE phenomena was harder to explain. Mr Devereaux speculated on whether the light forms themselves could not be modified by the consciousness of the witness. Many CE witnesses were known physics and it might be possible for them to bend electro-magnetic stimuli into a "real" CE.

On January 23rd, 1974 the Barmouth area had been hit by a ball of light of such intensity that, at first, it was believed a meteorite had fallen. The tremendous explosion had been heard some 60 miles away and there had been violent earth tremors. Nothing, however, had been discovered resembling meteorite, or any other debris.

His slides of earth- and quake lights bore a close resemblance to those seen earlier of the lights above Hassdalen and Arendal. Mr Devereaux suggested that Kenneth Arnold's 1947 sighting itself contained certain overtones of earthlights since the objects had been seen not only over major earthfault but hugging the fault itself.

Minerals such as quartz were vast reservoirs of light as were rocks themselves - a fact little known or understood by the public. Rock faulting and sheering was quite capable of producing the sort of effect thought to be UFOs. It would, he said, be unfor-giveable if serious ufologists failed to investigate the theory.

DISCUSSION

The subject naturally generated much controversy, and the speaker stoutly defended his theory against a number of sceptics. The consensus of opinion was that whilst earthlights might explain many UFO sightings they could not explain them all.

One questioner at least, in describing her own CE experience, was at pains to point out that it had had nothing whatsoever to do with earthlights or piezo-electrical effects and everything to do with a very real and unnerving episode in her life.

PICUR REFORMED

Bertil Kuhlemann returned to the platform to announce the outcome of the meeting of PICUR which in future would be known as ICUR - (International Committee for UFO Research). It had named him as Chairman, Dr J. Allen Hynek as President, Robert Digby as Treasurer and Bjerne Hakansson of Sweden, computer analyst and a member of Project URD as Secretary.

The Committee, representing investigative organisations in more than a dozen countries had also adopted a new constitution and formulated a programme for developing standards of professional procedure in UFO research for adoption by member organisations.

"The very existence of the Committee reflects the growing acceptance of the seriousness of the UFO phenomena" said Dr. Hynek in a press statement. "The increased involvement of younger professionals augers well for future research progress in this provocative area."

SEND IN THE CLONES

So to the last Congress paper "THE LIARS AND THE LUNATICS AND WHAT WE CAN LEARN FROM THEM" by author Hilary Evans. This he described as a run-down not so much on UFOs but on what he termed "pseufos" or, in Per Andersen's words "swindle and humbug." Ostensibly a light-hearted look at some of ufology's weider stories and adherents that got in the way of serious research Mr Evans, nevertheless, made some sensible and valid points.

He examined three books emanating from the 1977 Welsh "flap" and the many inaccuracies and fabrications which they contained, the recently exploded story of the Cergy Pontoise abduction and his belief that the investigation into the alleged UFO landing at Broadhaven, Dyfed, Wales in 1977 had been badly mishandled.

Magazines such as "Official UFO" which published stories about American towns being "zapped" by fleets of hostile UFOs did a very real disservice to serious investigators.

He felt that there should be an entirely separate UFO category into which such people as Claude Vorilhon, the creator of the Raelian sect, Jimmy Guieau, of Cergy Pontoise infamy, Elizabeth Klarer with stories of her space lover Akon from the planet Meton and Betty King, who believed her late husband was currently a crew member on a space ship along with Nat King Cole and Dwight Eisenhower, should be placed. These stories came as a result of a subjective thought process, where the claimant had lost all sense of objectivity. The sociological/psychological implications for their belief was, however, important and itself merited further study, but it was well outside the main-stream of serious ufological research.

Weeding out "pseufos" could only benefit ufology in general, and especially those "pseufos" who foretold disaster on earth and the ultimate salvation of the chosen few by extra-terrestrials. They did positive harm for they traded on the naive and the gullible.

DISCUSSION

Lionel Beer said that "Official UFO" had begun its life, under the original editors, as a serious journal. The original editors had, however, been sacked. He wondered if Mr Evans had been entirely fair in his criticism of the Broadhaven investigation.

Dr Rutledge said that he lived near Chester, Illinois, the town allegedly destroyed by UFOs. He assured delegates that all was well there.

Cynthia Hind agreed that the Broadhaven case had not been mishandled. Her recent book "UFOs African Encounters" had contained

a chapter on Elizabeth Klarer since she was South Africa's best known contactee. It was impossible in a book of that nature not to write of her experiences however unbelievable they might appear to the reader.

Mr Evans congratulated Mrs Hind on what he thought had been an excellent piece of reporting in the case of Mrs Klarer.

Dr. Hynek thought Mr Evans' paper had done a very valuable service to ufology. He had tackled the editor of a "pulp" UFO journal on the number of falsehoods it published only to be told that obviously the stories were untrue "but it was a way of making money."

CONGRESS CLOSE

And so, it was all over. Bob Digby summed up what he described as a useful, international dialogue on UFOs and he invited a distinguished delegate, Dr. J.H. PETERSEN of Boston, Mass., and a member of CUFOS to close the Congress.

Dr. Petersen said that the interaction of so many schools of thought was useful and new discoveries about the phenomenon were surely on the way. His hope was that the Congress would lead to an improvement in national and international communication on the subject.

Then it was a rush for cars and trains at the end of a very enjoyable Congress which certainly enriched my overall knowledge of the subject and, I suspect, that of a great many other delegates also.

----- John Barrett.

WHAT'S ON ?

NOVEMBER 12th, 1983: US INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES AND UFOs.

Timothy Good, one of the UK's leading ufologists and co-author of the recently published "GEORGE ADAMSKI: THE UNTOLD STORY" will show how seriously the US government intelligence services take the UFO subject. Hitherto classified documents obtained under the provision of the FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT (US) will illustrate his talk.

DECEMBER 10th, 1983: AGM followed by a talk from Jenny Randles, BUFORA's Director of Investigations on the Rendlesham Forest mystery. Investigators Dot Street and Brenda Butler will also be present to answer questions. (This lecture is a change to the previously advertised programme)

PLEASE NOTE The AGM will begin at 6.30pm. All members of BUFORA are invited to attend. Miss Randles' lecture will follow immediately after the AGM but the time cannot be specified at the time of going to press.

The November 12th lecture will begin at 6.30pm.

Both lectures will be held in the Lecture Theatre, of the London Business School, Sussex Place, London, NW1.

Look Forward To Seeing You There.

"There are times when I wonder most seriously if I was the brute who gaped, incapable of comprehension, at holy mysteries shown me by missionaries from very far away" wrote the adventurer who is featured in "AN ACCOUNT OF A MEETING WITH DENIZENS OF ANOTHER WORLD, 1871" (David and Charles, 1979, p45). I got the same feeling when I read this book which purports to contain a manuscript written by William Robert Loosley (1838-1893).

Apparently Loosley who was a successful carpenter and builder based in Oxford Road, Wycombe, saw in the early hours of 4th October, 1871 a "star" associated with a thundering sound, descend onto Plummers Hill. A few hours later, in the afternoon, he visited the wood alone where he encountered two strange automatons. One of these machines collected specimens, such as dead animals and Loosley's walking stick, whilst the other one broadcast weird holographic images. Loosley was perplexed by the images he was forced to watch and he was relieved when they let him go home. At 2 am the next morning he saw from his home the "star" return to the wood in order, apparently, to collect the machine it had left the morning before.

Loosley did not attempt to publicise his strange experience for fear of ridicule, instead he wrote about it in a manuscript which he left for posterity in a secret drawer of the desk he had built himself. Then, eventually, David Langford, science fiction writer and physicist, edited and added a commentary to this document for the sake of the book-buying public more than 100 years later. Colin Bord succinctly examines the many doubts that can be entertained about the authenticity of Loosley's manuscript in "FORTEAN TIMES" (No.31, Spring, 1980) pages 46-48. None of these doubts have been answered satisfactorily, as far as I know. So we must assume that this book is nothing more than a tedious example of someone's warped sense of humour. I say warped because you do need to be technically qualified (or drunk) in order to make sense of Langford's interpretation of the images Loosley minutely observed (allegedly) coming from one of his mechanical friends (who reminds me of a Victorian version of R2D2 one of the robots in the film "Star Wars") Perhaps the next time David Langford attempts to take the reading public and ufologists for a ride he could attempt to be more imaginative and entertaining! However, if you are a historical UFO fiend you might wish to examine this book yourself, just in case! Though David warns his readers that "in the most fascinating and convincing account there still lurks the possibility of error or fabrication." (page 7).

The question of authenticity is not merely restricted to Loosley's document. When we examine newspaper files (past and present) we have to be aware that accounts can be mangled or invented for the sake of a "good newspaper story." A classic instance is the calf-napping airship which was said to have visited Alexander Hamilton's Kansas farm on 19th April, 1897. As Jerome Clark noted in his article "Hamilton's Airship Hoax - Kansas 1897" (FORTEAN TIMES No.20, February, 1977, pages 5-7) "Hamilton, with impeccable credentials, loved a joke and managed to get 10 of his friends, all officials of Le Roy and Yates Center, to sign the affidavit attesting to his veracity. The joke was on all of us who believed it." (FLYING SAUCER REVIEW Vol.22 No.6 page 26, also contains an article by Jerome Clark on this hoax). (Continued on page 36)

1983 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

B U F O R A L I M I T E D
NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Eighth Annual General Meeting of BUFORA LIMITED will be held at the LONDON BUSINESS SCHOOL, REGENTS PARK, LONDON, NW1, in the LECTURE THEATRE at 6.30pm on SATURDAY, 10th DECEMBER, 1983 to receive the President's Address, the Chairman's Report, the Report of the Council of Management for the year ended 31st August, 1983, the Accounts of the Treasurer, and to elect the Members of the Council for the following year and appoint the Auditor, according to the articles of the the Association.

Signed on behalf of the Council of Management.



- CHAIRMAN

20th OCTOBER, 1983

Please note that a Member entitled to attend and vote at this meeting is entitled to appoint a proxy who need not be a member of the Company to attend and vote in his or her stead. Instruments of proxy must be lodged at the Company's registered address, 40 Jones Drive, Whittlesey, Peterborough, PE7 1UE not less than forty-eight hours before the time appointed for the meeting.

Members wishing to nominate persons for election to the Council of Management, shall give to the Secretary such nominations in writing, signed by the person proposed of his willingness to be elected, not less than four, nor more than twenty-eight clear days before the time appointed for the Meeting in accordance with Section 52 of the Articles of Association.

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EIGHTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

on 10th December, 1983

AGENDA

1. Notice convening the Meeting.
2. Minutes of the Seventh Annual General Meeting.
3. President's Address.
4. Chairman's Report.
5. Treasurer's Report.
6. Director of Research's Report.
7. Director of Investigations Report.
8. Adoption of the Report of the Council of Management, of the Report of the Auditor, and of the Accounts for the year ended 31st August, 1983.
9. Appointment of the Auditor and leave for Council to fix his remuneration.
10. Election of Directors to the Council of Management for the ensuing year.
 - (a) Under Section 37 of the Articles of Association the following Council Member is eligible for re-election: Miss DIANE ROLLINSON.
 - (b) Under Sections 49 and 50 of the Articles of Association, the following Members of Council are retiring by rotation: ARNOLD WEST, JOHN SPENCER,

and JOHN SHAW who, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

It is regretted that Ian Mrzyglod resigned during October, 1983. He has already announced the closure of PROBE REPORT but now feels unable to carry on with the intended production of a replacement. The Council thanks him for his efforts on our behalf. We are not losing his services completely.

11. Amendment to Item 18 of the Articles of Association which presently reads:

"No business shall be transacted at any General Meeting unless a quorum is present when the Meeting proceeds to business. Save as herein otherwise provided thirty members present in person or by proxy shall be a quorum."

To be amended to Twenty Members.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL OF MANAGEMENT FOR TWELVE MONTHS ENDING
31st AUGUST, 1983

1. This report and the attached set of accounts cover the period from 1st September, 1982 to 31st August, 1983.
2. The attached set of accounts show the state of the Company's affairs at 31st August, 1983. The accounts published are unaudited but please refer to the notes of the accounts and the Treasurer's Report.
3. The principal activities of the Company during the financial year have been to encourage, promote and conduct unbiased, scientific research of unidentified flying objects (UFO) phenomena throughout the UK, to collect and disseminate evidence relating to UFOs and to co-ordinate UFO research throughout the UK and to co-operate with others engaged on such work throughout the world.
4. The membership of the Company at 31st August, 1983 was 337 (1982 - 392). The registered membership of the Company is 550. The Council once again wishes to thank Miss Pam Kennedy, MBE., for her continued and valued services throughout the year.

5. THE LECTURES

Between September, 1982 and May, 1983 BUFORA Ltd held eight lectures at the Kensington Central Library. Council wishes to express its gratitude to Robin Lindsey for providing the tape library service of lecture recordings. This is a valuable service to members unable to attend the lectures.

6. BUFORA PUBLICATIONS

In May, 1983 Arnold West relinquished his post as Director of Publications in order to give more time to his role as Vice-Chairman. John Barrett, the Bulletin's editor was appointed in his place. Council is deeply appreciative of Arnold West's work on its behalf and the time and effort he has spent over very many years as Director.

There have been five issues of the Bulletin and two of J-TAP during the session edited, respectively, by John Barrett and Robert Digby. The quality and presentation of both journals has

steadily improved and it is Council's intention that this standard be maintained and, if finances and resources permit, further enhanced. PROBE REPORT, editor Ian Mrzyglod, was circulated to members from January, 1983. As members will have learned BUFORA PROBE, scheduled for publication in January, 1984, will not now appear. Both the Bulletin and J-TAP will, therefore, be increased in size to cover the non-availability of BUFORA PROBE. Members will not suffer as a result of its loss.

The editors are grateful to all those who have written papers and editorial items for the publications during 1982-83. They would, however, like to see very many more people contributing. It is important that the membership at large shares in, and creates, the feedback into its own publications. In the recent past lack of editorial space meant that not everything received could be published and this, no doubt, discouraged many would-be authors. This is no longer the case and members are urged to contribute material to both publications in order to make them livelier and more informative.

7. CONFERENCES

BUFORA sponsored its Third International Congress from 27th-29th August, 1983 at Lane End near High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire. Details of this event form a special feature in this issue of the Bulletin.

The event attracted some very distinguished overseas visitors and sought to contain a more scientific calibre of papers as well as providing a more relaxed, out of town venue.

Despite the fact that this event now runs over three days the programme was very tight indeed and I would take this opportunity to apologise to those whose offered papers could not be fitted into the schedule.

The event earned high praise indeed, especially from overseas delegates whose only complaint was that they wished more of their colleagues could have been present.

Council wishes to thank all those who helped with this event but a special mention must go to John Shaw who was its principal organiser.

8. RESEARCH

During the year Peter Hill stood down as Director of Research. Stephen Gamble was appointed to fill his post. On his election as Chairman Robert Digby handed over responsibility for the computer section to Stephen Gamble who also took control of the physical data section.

Two meetings of the research committee were held and its expertise has been strengthened by the addition to its number of Paul Fuller and Chris. Strevens.

Various members were involved in the work of the research department, these included: Dennis Bailey, Robert Digby, Stephen Gamble, Paul Fuller, Peter Hill, Robin Lindsey, Charles Lockwood, Bob Marsh, John Shaw, Chris. Strevens, Arnold West and Michael Wootton.

An extensive review of the organisation of research activities and how BUFORA gains external advice was initiated by Peter Hill. This is being further examined by the new Director of Research. A policy document should be produced in 1983-84.

The research headquarters were established at 40 Jones Drove, Whittlesey, Peterborough. This already contains BUFORA's book and tape library and during 1983-84 the research files will also be moved there.

The research department supported several sections during

the year, including Statistics (headed by Peter Hill) Computing, J-TAP and the Physical Data Section. The PDS is further sub-divided into special interest groups to look at traces, photographic and electromagnetic effects.

Several cases were passed to PDS for detailed examination. Work continued on cases outstanding from 1981-82, this included additional work on the physical evidence from the Livingston case. The Peter Day photographic case was subject to further investigation. Field investigation was carried out by Ken Phillips in consultation with the photographic group. A seminar on the Day case was held at the Congress in August, 1983.

Two issues of J-TAP (Journal of Transient Aerial Phenomena) were produced during the year under the editorship of Robert Digby. The J-TAP editorial board was joined by John Barrett who has supplied both technical expertise and much "elbow power" to the actual production of J-TAP.

Further progress was made with the punched card project. Peter Hill has produced a discussion document on the future use and possible modifications of the system. He has also been involved in a between country study of cases.

The major effort of the computer section has been devoted to the definition of parameters for inclusion in an international UFO data-base. The final system is very similar to the Swedish URD system. This was presented to PICUR in August. BUFORA was represented on the committee by Robert Digby and Stephen Gamble. Peter Hill served on the committee until April, 1983. Bob Marah has produced a computerised index of the book library, whilst Chris. Strevens is working on a similar index for the tape library.

9. INVESTIGATIONS

Throughout the year BUFORA has continued its policy of in-depth investigation of promising cases, and R1 form logging of others. This has been undertaken with a team of 24 Accredited Investigators (although the door is always open for others to apply, should they wish). The National Investigations Committee (consisting of all RICs and non-voting participation of all interested members) met twice during the year - at Manchester (in October, 1982) and during the International Congress (August, 1983). This meeting lasted until 2 am and thrashed out various aspects of the Rendlesham Forest investigation which, thanks to a national newspaper, is now probably the most famous UFO case ever to occur in Britain. BUFORA have long had this investigation in hand as members know (via PROBE REPORT) but special thanks must go to Mrs Dot Street, our Accredited Investigator, for her amazing tenacity (along with colleague Mrs Brenda Butler). Just as thanks must go to all those who fought off the lure of their beds to talk about the dramatic new documentary evidence this case is providing.

Over the year itself 61 new cases were reported on by team members, and evidence of the Department's in-depth policy is shown by the fact that only 10 were judged insufficient data for an "identification" to be appended. Forty-one were explained in various mundane terms, including a few as the new type of fairground balloons that, unfortunately, have been designed to resemble "flying saucers." Ten cases (16.4 per cent) have been deemed to be "UNKNOWNNS."

Really excellent case reports, worthy of a special mention, include a 1939 UFO event in Gloucestershire (Mark Brown)

(see case history in PROBE REPORT), a landing with physical traces in Sheffield (Richard Adams and Paul Fuller) (see case history in PROBE REPORT), the 24th March, 1982 event (witnessed by police officers and a milkman) in Buckinghamshire (Ken Phillips and Michael Lewis) (see case history in BUFORA Bulletin) and a superb uncovering of a hoaxed close encounter of the third kind in Devon (Eric Morris) (see case history in PROBE REPORT). But really all our investigators should be thanked for their very hard work.

Most busy with 1983 sightings (generally speaking an average sort of year) is Nigel Mortimer, who is finding north and west Yorkshire "invaded" by UFOs. The "Yorkshire Evening Post" has carried two front page banner headline UFO stories this year to emphasise the point.

10. PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES

In the course of the year BUFORA has continued to supply information to the EASTEL/PRESTEL data system.

In June, 1983 BUFORA ran a stand at the ASSAP Garden Party along with various other organisations. A number of our members and directors took part in radio programmes around the country and also some television appearances, all of which helped to get BUFORA mentioned. Considerable work has also been done in furnishing the press with information about our various activities, especially the International Congress. It is regrettable that despite our efforts press coverage has largely been of the familiar "send-up" approach.

11. COUNCIL OF MANAGEMENT

Changes in key posts during the 1982-83 session included the nomination of Stephen Gamble as Director of Research, consequent on the resignation of Peter Hill.

Peter Hill has not been in the best of health and has had a lengthy spell in hospital. The Council thanks him for his help in the past and wishes him a speedy recovery.

Arnold West stood down as Director of Publications but remains as Vice-Chairman. John Barrett took over the post. The publications have been looked after by Arnold West for the past 15 years and he is sincerely thanked for his continuous service. In addition Miss Diane Rollinson was elected to the Council as a Director and took over as Secretary from Miss Betty Wood.

The following members constituted the Council of Management as at 31st August, 1983: John Barrett, Lionel Beer, Robert Digby, Stephen Gamble, Ian Mrzyglod, Miss Jenny Randles, Miss Diane Rollinson, John Shaw, John Spencer, Hans Streuli and Arnold West. In addition Robin Lindsay and Miss Pam Kennedy assisted Council during the year.

No member of Council received any remuneration during the year.

Under Section 37 of the Articles of Association the following Council member is eligible for re-election: Miss Diane Rollinson.

Under Sections 49 and 50 of the Articles of Association, the following members of Council are retiring by rotation: John Shaw, John Spencer, Arnold West who being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

It is regretted that Ian Mrzyglod resigned during October, 1983. He had already announced the closure of PROBE REPORT but now feels unable to carry on with the intended production of a replacement. The Council thanks him for his efforts on our behalf. We are not losing his services completely.

As a consequence, and in the absence of any nominations, it is anticipated that there will be two vacancies on the Council.

SIGNED ON BEHALF OF THE COUNCIL OF MANAGEMENT

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R.S. Digby" with a stylized flourish at the end.

R. S. DIGBY - CHAIRMAN

TREASURER'S REPORT

During the past 12 months further changes have taken place, hopefully to the benefit of members.

We have moved our lectures from Kensington, our home for many years, to the more central London Business School, Regent's Park, London, NW1. The new venue offers us far superior facilities, but will allow us, for the first time, to make these lectures fully self-supporting, and perhaps even show a small profit, funds that will be very welcomed by our Research and Investigation departments.

On the publications side we look back on a year full of changes and improvements, traumatic moments, some minor hitches some major headaches. In the end all has turned out for the best. We have two outstanding journals and, thanks to our printer, well produced and inexpensive to print. I think we can safely say that there will be no more changes for some time to come and, above all, no more subscription increases. Members living outside London will be pleased to see that all the lectures will be summarised in the publications so that they too can share in this activity.

Although our Congresses, and the Third International Congress in August, 1983 proved no exception, have been great successes from a publicity and organisational point of view, they still pose grave financial problems.

Severe cuts have had to be imposed on all spending. I would like to take this opportunity of extending my thanks to our Accredited Investigators for their efforts and contributions to the Association throughout 1982-83. Each AI donated at least £2 per week and about five hours of his spare time.- a staggering total of over £2000 and over 5000 hours of research, cost and time. I am sure members would wish to add their thanks to mine.

I should also like to thank all my Council colleagues for their efforts, time and money on behalf of the Association.

HANS STREULI - TREASURER



B U F O R A L I M I T E D

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st AUGUST, 1983

31.8.1982

<u>1</u>	<u>Fixed Assets</u>		£ -
	<u>Current Assets</u>		
348	Bank	£4,652	
866	Sundry Debtors	2,593	
<u>610</u>	Stock	-	
<u>1824</u>			£7,245
	<u>Current Liabilities</u>		
566	Sundry Creditors	£7,598	
<u>1404</u>	Subscriptions in Advance	-	150
<u>1970</u>			7,748
(-) 146	Net Current Liabilities		<u>(-)£503</u>
<u>(-) 145</u>			<u>(-)£503</u>
	<u>General Fund</u>		
	Excess of Expenses (-)£	358	
75	Reserve Fund t-fd.	<u>75</u>	
(-) 220			(-)£ 283
	Less Balance brought forward	<u>220</u>	
<u>(-) 145</u>			(-)£503

APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL OF MANAGEMENT

1983

R.S. DIGBY
Hans STREULI

Chairman
Treasurer.

B U F O R A L I M I T E D (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31st AUGUST, 1983.

<u>1982</u>			
<u>Income:-</u>			
3477	Subscriptions	£3,446	
587	Donations	363	
209	Publications	461	
Sdy 108	Advertisements	24	
<u>4381</u>			<u>£4,294</u>
<u>Expenditure:-</u>			
1893	Publications	£2,675	
514	Stationery and Administration	807	
393	Investigation	145	
650	Lecture Costs	£792	
<u>640</u>	Less Receipts	<u>576</u>	216
-	Registration and Insurance	58	
50	Audit	-	
<u>2860</u>			<u>£3,901</u>
1521	Excess of Income before Congress Operation		<u>£ 393</u>
<u>Congress Operation</u>			
(-) 486	Edinburgh Congress	-	
-	3rd International Congress '83	<u>£(-)751</u>	<u>£(-)751</u>
<u>1035</u>	Excess of (Expenditure)/Income to General Fund		<u>£(-)358</u>

NOTES

1. The Company is limited by Guarantee and in the event of winding up the liability of each member would be limited to £1.
2. In accordance with accounting standards the maximum potential loss from the operation of the 3rd International Congress has been shown. However, £327 of costs to the Association are being challenged and the Directors are hopeful that the actual loss from the Congress may be significantly less. In this event the overall operations of the Company would show an excess of income for the year. The operating loss of the Congress does not take into account sales from publications and further subscriptions which because of their nature are shown under general income headings.
3. These accounts are published as unaudited since, following the appointment of auditor at the last AGM, Mr E.W. Perfit was found to be ineligible under Sections 69 and 70 of the BUFORA Articles of Association. It is anticipated that this task will be performed by Mr G. Bradstreet, ACA(NZ), FCCA.

My nine months in office as Chairman up to 31st August, 1983 have been very eventful. I would like to express my gratitude to my colleagues on Council for their hard work and also to those non-Council members who have been actively working behind the scenes.

The highlight of the year was, of course, the Third International Congress held at Lane End. The scientific content of papers and general presentations was to the highest standard yet. I know we scored a "hit" with this event from mail I have received and the number of telephone messages. I fully accept that there is always room for improvement though and the only cloud is the clash of interest between commercial success and our more idealistic aspirations.

We still face the same challenges as before with regard to our finances, decline in membership and stability in our publications production. However, our strengths are apparent in the dedication and strong will of our management team. Our Investigations effort is much improved from what it was and attention has been turned to the Research Department and our Publications Department.

I do not want to repeat information conveyed in the general report of Council or elsewhere since you can see for yourselves what has taken place. Instead I would like to share my view of our future direction.

I recently had the opportunity to sit with some of our active investigators and have a very frank exchange of views on BUFORA's role. Much of what was said came as music to my ears and I admit that I learnt a lot too. The following summarises some of the key points.

1. Regularity rather than frequency seemed to be what was wanted in our publications. Technical quality was not as important as content.
2. The membership fee was felt to be at a realistic level to enable some funds to be channelled into services for our investigators and members who are less active.
3. The International Congress was felt to be a very important event for allowing an International dialogue although once every two years was felt to be a reasonable timescale for staging these. However, there was a demand for a National event that would allow investigators and researchers to come together and discuss working practices, sort out problems and hear papers on special items of interest.
4. There was a general request for BUFORA to take a firm hand in the running of training courses and events that lead to participation by members.

The direction in which I see us going is simply to become a responsible and credible clearing house for reports of incredible events. It will be our responsibility to try and filter the signal from the noise and interface with appropriate organisations or individuals best qualified to unravel some of the complexity of our subject matter.

I must repeat that BUFORA does not have a corporate viewpoint on what UFOs represent. Various working hypotheses will be supported and I shall strive to ensure that an unbiased approach be taken.

We need to co-operate with the right sort of people whilst at the same time campaign for more vigorous standards in our work.

BUFORA by its very nature cannot expect to become a scientific body in its own right. However, I have outlined the things we can do and these will require the support of ordinary members too, not just "scientists."

Let me, therefore, end with an appeal. We need more members and more people willing to take an active role. Matters such as our Congresses or training programme will not simply "happen". Therefore will you please make it your business to recruit just one person in the course of this year.



D O N A T I O N S

Council thanks the following members of BUFORA for their donations to the Association between 1st, September, 1982 and 31st August, 1983.

C.F. BAILEY	K. KING (Miss)
R.W. BARNES	M.E. LAURIE
E. BARNETT	R.S. LINDSEY
L.W. BAYER	N.P. MALORET
K.J. BLOXHAM	J.C. MARCHANT
A.S. BROWN	L.G. MOORE
M.F. BROWN	A.C. MORGAN
S. CHETWYND	N. MORTIMER
S. CHORVAT	F.M. NUNAN
M. CORR (Miss)	K. OWEN
J. COWLEY	J. RANDES (Miss)
P. DANIEL	G.M. ROWE
S. DEGUICHI	G. SALWAY
R.S. DIGBY	C.E. SHERRATT
A.E. EDWARDS	J.L. SPENCER
F.G. FARQUHARSON (Miss)	C. SPRATLEY
R. FISHER	D.A. SMITH
T. FISHER	J. TAVENIER
S. GWYNN-JONES	UFOSIS
P.R. HARRIS	R. WARRINGTON (Mrs)
A. HAYMAN (Mrs)	P.W.J. WATTS
J.M. HEATH (Mrs)	A. WEST
S.E. HENNEY	G.F. WILKINSON
B. HUGHES	B.D. WOOD (Miss)
I.R. HUNT	F.B. WOOD
W. HUTCHINSON	M.R. WOOTTON
R.F. KELLAWAY	K.C. WRIGHT

MINUTES OF THE SEVENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF BUFORA LIMITED

Held on Saturday, 4th December, 1982 at Kensington Central Library, Campden Hill Road, London, W8 at 7.00pm

The meeting opened with approximately 30 members present.

1. The Secretary read the Notice convening the Meeting.
 2. The Chairman reported that although he had written to the President regarding the Meeting, he had received no communication in return.
 3. The Minutes of the previous Meeting having already been circulated, were approved by the members and signed by the Chairman.
 4. (i) The Chairman updated his Report, which had already been published with the AGM papers. He stated that BUFORA had dramatically reduced its cost over the past year through the efforts of its Treasurer John Spencer. The measures Mr. Spencer had taken had enabled BUFORA to break out of its backlog of debt.
 - (ii) The Chairman regretfully announced that after a 15 month freeze, inflation costs, especially in the printing industry, had forced BUFORA to increase its subscription by £2.50 to £12.50 pa.
 - (iii) From January, 1983, a new publication called Probe Report would be circulated to members four times a year. The Chairman hoped that this additional publication would go some way to compensate for the increase in subscriptions.
 - (iv) The Chairman congratulated Miss Jenny Randles on the excellent work carried out during her first year as Director of Investigations. He also commended Mr John Barrett, who is responsible for producing the BUFORA Bulletin.
 - (v) Mention was made of the recently published Livingston case history. The Chairman on behalf of the Council, thanked former Honorary Secretary Miss Betty Wood, for her generous contribution of £150 towards the cost of producing this book.
 - (vi) Director of Research, Mr Peter Hill, had begun to tackle the enormous task of sorting out BUFORA's files. Mr Robin Lindsey of the Extraterrestrial Society, had kindly made available to BUFORA office accommodation and storage space for the files.
- Mr Bayer concluded his report by stating that BUFORA still faced many difficulties but he was confident that under the leadership of the new Chairman, Mr Bob Digby, these would be overcome.
5. The accounts were formally adopted and carried unanimously.
 6. Acceptance of the Report of the Council of Management was proposed by Mr Robin Lindsey and seconded by Mr Stephen Gamble. The resolution was carried unanimously.
 7. The auditor, G.H. Connor, ACA resigned following a decision taken with Mr John L. Spencer (a Director of BUFORA Ltd) to merge their accountancy and auditing practices during the ensuing year, after which it would become unethical for Mr Connor to continue in office.

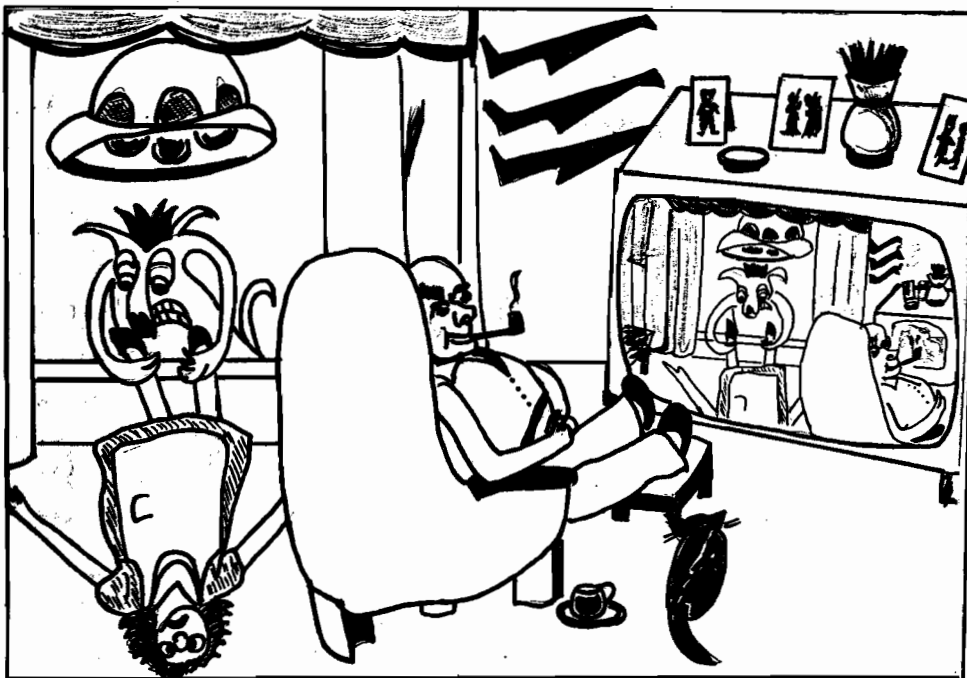
Mr E.W. Perfitt has indicated his willingness to serve as auditor in his stead and a motion to this effect was put to members and carried unanimously.

The Resolution was carried unanimously.

8. As Peter Hill was unable to be present, a summary of his report was read out by Mr Bob Digby.
- (i) Much of Mr Hill's first year as Director of Research had been spent in taking stock and planning for future developments.
 - (ii) Mr Hill had been transferring BUFORA cases onto a punch card system. What was ultimately aimed for was an international standardisation for reports.
 - (iii) Work is still continuing on re-organisation of all BUFORA files.
9. (i) In her report, Miss Jenny Randles, Director of Investigations, explained her aim to raise the standard of reports produced. To help her achieve this, a policy of Accredited Investigators had been introduced and in order to acquire this status, investigators must prove that they are not only able to carry out a detailed investigation of a sighting but are capable of producing a comprehensive case report.
- (ii) A National Investigations Committee had also been formed, consisting of 8-10 Regional Co-ordinators,, each responsible for 3-4 counties.
 - (iii) It is planned to introduce a standard report form in the near future.
10. It was proposed that:-
- (i) Mr John Barrett, Editor of BUFORA Bulletin be elected to the Council.
 - (ii) Mr Ian Mryzglod, Editor of PROBE REPORT be elected to the Council.
 - (iii) Mr Hans Streuli, Treasurer, be elected to the Council.
 - (iv) Under Articles 49 and 50 Mr Lionel Beer and Mr Stephen Gamble were re-elected to the Council. Mr Beer was appointed as Director of Public Relations.
- The nominations were accepted and the Resolution was passed unanimously.
11. In view of her past 15 years service as Honorary Secretary of BUFORA it was proposed and seconded from the floor that Miss Betty Wood be awarded honorary life membership of BUFORA. The Resolution was passed unanimously.
12. The meeting was closed by the new Chairman of BUFORA, Mr Bob Digby. On behalf of the Council and members, Mr Digby thanked retiring Chairman, Mr Leslie Bayer, for his past services to BUFORA.

In dealing with the British 1909 and 1913 phantom airship reports which were published in the newspapers I have come across many errors. For instance, names are given a variety of different spellings (occasionally due to typographical errors) and dates can range over a wide spectrum due to carelessness or misinformation, sometimes names and dates are not even given! For these, and other reasons, the reports can only give us an indication of what was allegedly seen. Unlike post-1947 sightings, which can be investigated on-the-spot and interviews can be conducted with the witnesses, the pre-1947 researcher cannot, usually, track down witnesses in order to assess their authenticity and reliability. So, we have to be doubly wary about historical material.

Incidentally, it is worth mentioning that in the Nottingham UFO Investigation Society, UFO RESEARCH REVIEW Annual Abstract Issue (Vol.6 No.1, Winter, 1981) "AN ACCOUNT OF A MEETING WITH DENIZENS OF ANOTHER WORLD, 1871" is described as being the most intriguing book of 1980. I hope they swallowed their tongue-in-cheek. Communications to: Nigel Watson, Westfield Cottage, Crowle Bank Road, Althorpe, South Humberside, DN17 3HZ).



"These television plays get sillier and sillier Florrie."

Letters to the Editor

From: Mrs K. Smith.
Freshwater, Isle of Wight.

INVESTIGATIONS

Sir - May I reply to the comments of Jenny Randles on my letter published in the June, 1983 BULLETIN?

I remain unconvinced by her arguments in favour of concentrating all BUFORA's investigational facilities on only those half-dozen cases which she believes offer hope of scientific pay-off. I think that too much time and effort has already been wasted on producing long accounts of what seem to be non-events (the Rendlesham Forest mystery and other dubious claims). Unfortunately the whole of the Association appears to be geared to this type of study and there is no opportunity for any other approach.

As producer and editor of UFOLOG for about eight years I published all reports received irrespective of my personal evaluation of them so that people could form their own opinions or conduct their own study. BUFORA members cannot do this as the BULLETIN publishes only summaries of so-called interesting reports. What are now regarded by NIC as low grade reports and just lights in the sky revealed in my work on UFOLOG a significant pattern. We must not choose for study only those reports which are exciting for the entertainment of members. A truly scientific study must include the whole, however boring.

JENNY RANGLES replies: I would like to respond on behalf of the investigations committee to Mrs Smith's letter. I would add that I do not regard the subject as of no importance and would hope other BUFORA members might make their views known.

I am at a loss to understand why Mrs Smith seems not to have studied my original reply (BUFORA Bulletin, June, 1983). I say this with all respect because she says, and I quote, that I have proposed "concentrating all BUFORA's investigational facilities on only those half-dozen cases which she believes offer hope of scientific pay-off." First it is not a case of what I believe since (as my reply clearly explained) all BUFORA Accredited Investigators are invested with authority to decide for themselves which cases to pursue. Occasionally I make a recommendation to an investigator that a case is, or is not, potentially valuable, but this is rarely necessary. Similarly, the BUFORA research department feedback is fundamental to this point. They have the authority to advise the investigation team to pursue certain cases in more depth if, in their judgement, such a case warrants it. Mrs Smith considerably overstates my role as Director of Investigations (a title I am not overly happy with, but which I inherited. "National Investigations Co-ordinator" old style, seems much less pretentious).

In my reply I clearly said, and again I quote: "This is not to say we ignore low-grade cases entirely. No such directive exists." If at a time when there is a lack of reports (as at present) there has not to my knowledge been any need to ignore any case...but with a light in the sky there is only so much one can do. I find it difficult to envisage why it is scientifically more profitable to find the precise origin (be it Satellite No.1234 or aircraft flight XYZ 123) for any specific white or red light moving noiselessly across the sky, once an investigator is reasonably happy that an identification is probable in that case. Whereas, if the report refers to a structured disc or to electro-magnetic effects, or landing traces, or whatever, then surely more in-depth investigation is justified in that instance ... even if a solution is ultimately found?

We all know that there are countless things meandering around the skies that can be seen as lights

Undoubtedly some lights may really be UFOs, but experience dictates that the percentage is low. Even if a light is put down to being a UFO its scientific value is minimal. A light, is a light is a light (whether or not it is UFO, ellipse or meteorite). However, satellite encounter reports take us to the heart of the UFO mystery. They are either/or cases. Either we can explain them, or they strongly suggest a new kind of phenomenon. Scientists will find it fairly easy to dismiss a dozen sightings of coloured lights (unless they have additional evidence to support them). But a dozen sightings of structured objects, and close encounter effects, is a much less simple thing to dismiss.

Mrs Smith suggests that, from her own studies, lights in the sky revealed a significant pattern. I hope she will share this with BUFORA, as it is potentially most interesting. But as things stand I am not aware of any pressing reason why the NIC "direction" (and it is only that, not a set of order!) is in error. Choosing cases for in-depth study has nothing to do with their excitement value for readers. Most BUFORA investigators are well aware that they should spend more time on cases that contain more data. But surely one must accept that investigators are human and will get bored by spending time and effort on case after case of very basic light phenomena? They are entitled to make their own decisions on what they consider important, unless scientific factors expressly suggest that the line they are following is erroneous.

As for publication criteria within BUFORA Bulletin I sympathise with Mrs Smith and found her UFOLOG publication very interesting when it was operative. Since 1974 I have been editor of Northern UFO News which, in over 104 issues, has published information collated from the files of all local groups in the north and midlands associated with NUFON, UFO Research North. The brief of Northern UFO News includes the publication of

at least basic information on every sighting reported to NUFON, be it explained or unexplained, LITS or CE4. Over the 104 issues probably in excess of 1500-2000 cases have been referenced. This policy has often brought comments from readers about boring and irrelevant material. However, since a slight switch in emphasis two or three years ago these comments have invariably become favourable. This switch involved the understressing of low-grade cases and additional space being devoted to higher grade cases. But all cases are included. In this way researchers can use the newsletter as a research tool but do not become bored by its content. It should be noted that this policy matches that adopted by the BUFORA NIC.

The question of report publication has been (and still is) discussed in Council and I have expressed my view that an annual checklist of all cases be published by BUFORA and made available to members. Prior to Peter Hill's resignation as Research Director, he and I were co-ordinating a catalogue of all BUFORA cases prior to 1983, so that the annual lists in future would be updated to that. This catalogue was to have been ready for Congress. It is my hope that the project will continue.

Mrs Smith's other point worthy of comment is that "much time and effort has already been wasted on producing long accounts of what seem to be non-events." I would be interested to know which cases she means. Obviously there will be occasions where a promising case crumbles under proper investigation. That is actually a triumph for the NIC not a failure, since we exist to investigate UFO reports, not to investigate spaceships, or psychic projections or earthlights. If we identify a case then it is a matter of "chalk one up" for the investigator involved.

Certainly is better for a proper investigation to "waste time" on finding that an apparently classic case is a "non event" than to leave it to stand in the UFO records as a potentially classic case.

However, I cannot recall more than a very rare instance where a non-event has been found to be the root of a case into which a lot of effort has gone. I would be interested if Mrs Smith could suggest three such cases to me as I would gladly go over the files on these to see what we might learn from them and then raise the matter at the next NIC meeting.

The one case she does cite is that of Rendlesham Forest. Mrs Smith is entitled to dismiss it as a "non event" but she would in fact be extremely premature to do so. The report by SCUFORI in "PROBE REPORT" should not be taken as the final word on the matter as this dates from summer, 1982 and a great deal has happened since then. Suffice it to say that, in my view, and those of everybody who has seen the file collected by Brenda Butler and Dot Street, this is probably the most important UFO event to occur in Britain since the Lakenheath radar/visual case in 1956. Strong words, I know, and contentious ones! But I believe the facts of the case as they will emerge over the next year or two will prove them correct.

However, my personal views about this case are irrelevant. The fact is that no BUFORA resources were expended on it! Indeed I have tried in vain to interest other ufologists in this potentially vital case. One BUFORA AI (Dot Street) has spent an enormous amount of her own time and money on chasing up what others regularly told her were phantoms. I am very pleased for her (and her colleague Brenda) that she has proven them wrong. But surely an incident of the magnitude suggested by the stories had to be investigated, whatever the outcome? Regardless of our views on UFOs (and three years ago mine certainly did not include crashed UFOs!) we would have been derelict in our duty had we failed to respond. BUFORA's lack

of response here might be more a subject for debate than "wasted effort."

I thank Mrs Smith for her interesting and provocative comments.

From: Mr C. Strevens.
London, SW19.

1983 CONGRESS

Sir - I attended BUFORA's Congress in August, 1983 and believe I have some useful comments to make on the papers.

Dr. Hynek opened the Congress and suggested that we might have to look for very esoteric explanations for the so far unexplained sightings. He suggested that interseller travel was too difficult even for the most advanced civilisations and if some one could travel here it would be by means unknown to present science we could in no way predict the modus operandi of such an advanced civilisation. He mentioned the Photon rocket in passing and said that it was not a possible method of travel because it would need too much energy and even if matter could be converted into radiation then the mass ratio would be higher than practically possible.

We must not forget Stanton Friedman's lecture where the present state of knowledge was given and here power levels of 4000 million watts were achieved. This is only one thousandth of the power required by the Photon rocket and thus is nearly within reach of Earthmen. Note I say MEN not LINGS and this puts mankind on par with other intelligences in the universe where I believe Earthmen belong. Mr Friedman did not mention the Photon drive but suggested that "holes in space" could be the answer to the dilemma of the enormous distances. I feel that speed is the answer to this question and the Photon rocket can reach 80 per cent of the velocity of light with a mass ratio of three and if you need to stop nine is the required mass ratio. Mr Friedman said a

craft could easily refuel at its destination by mining hydrogen from a planet such as Earth whose water contains hydrogen. He covered the subject very well and suggested a cover-up. I agree. I have heard of one unpublished case where a witness was silenced until the time of his death.

I feel we have a complex UFO situation and that even the sightings at Hessdalen have a mundane explanation, possibly aircraft lights seen at a large distance since they too possess the characteristic of a flashing red light even down to the fine structure of the flash. This possibility should be eliminated before spending money on the investigation. The same applies to Dr. Rutledge's sightings which are in any case highly dubious (of UFO evidence). Because of the type of movement they certainly were not, in my opinion, extra-terrestrial craft.

Paul Deveraux's explanation is too all-embracing and although earthlights are probably an explanation for lights they do not explain craft. Earthlights, known to science as earthquake lights, do account for some UFOs and the location of some ancient religious monuments - they are not a complete explanation by any means. Mr Friedman's idea that extraterrestrials could be surveying the fault line is really just as bad a statement (bad science) because he is attempting to explain all UFO phenomena under one explanation. There are many causes of the phenomenon.

Jenny Randles' talk was refreshing but had a disappointing conclusion in that the mind could generate physical events.

The idea that complex molecules could exist on the sun is somewhat unlikely simply because the high temperature will dissociate all molecules. Only plasma can exist, even in the convection zone, but it was fascinating to hear the theory.

Hilary Evans was right, there are many liars and lunatics in the UFO field. His talk gave much food for thought.

I went home from the Congress very satisfied with all

I had heard. I hope that my comments will be of interest to readers.

From: Bill Ritch.
Cowbridge, South Wales.

WELSH TRIANGLES

Sir - With reference to Lionel Beer's article "The Welsh Triangles" (BULLETIN, June, 1983) I would like to furnish further details on this case. Two people phoned me after reading the local press items. A Cardiff woman with her twin children had an extraordinary experience on the Saturday prior to the eventful Wednesday.

In the Fairwater district of Cardiff at approximately 1800 hours the trio saw what at first appeared to be a star. However it moved quickly towards them and appeared to change shape and colour. It finally stopped 50-60ft above the road and, in her own words, "wobbled." The object at this time was in the shape of a large conventional saucer, green round the edges with a large pulsating red light in the centre. No noise was heard and the witnesses now very frightened, ran down the road to a neighbour, pursued by the object. She asked the neighbour to come and "have a look" whereupon the object twisted and shot off rapidly.

Another called, a Dr. Hamilton had a daylight sighting of a huge triangle with 14 pulsating lights around the edges. This was an unrecorded sighting in November, 1978. He was driving through the city at the time, the triangle disappeared into low cloud in the direction of Newport.

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