

CONTACT CASUALTY ON RÉUNION

This article is taken from the November 1968 issue of the French journal *Lumières dans la Nuit*. Translation by Gordon Creighton.

A SIGHTING of capital importance took place on the Island of Réunion [which is situated in the Indian Ocean between Mauritius and Madagascar] on the plain known as La Plaine des Cafres. The date of the sighting was July 31, 1968, and the time, 9.00 a.m.

The witness, M. Luce Fontaine, is aged 31, a farmer, married, with a family, his wife being a teacher. Everybody is in agreement in considering him a serious, hard-working man, who is completely worthy of trust.

He says: "I was at [the] kilometre 21 [mark], in a small clearing in the middle of a forest of acacia trees, that morning, and I was bending down and picking some grass for my rabbits when I suddenly saw a sort of oval-shaped cabin in the clearing. It was 25 metres from me, and as though

suspended at a height of four or five metres from the ground. The extremities of it were dark blue, the centre part lighter, more transparent rather like the windscreen of a [Peugeot] 404. Above and below it had what looked like two glass feet of shining metal.

"In the centre of the cabin were two individuals with their backs towards me. The one on the left turned right round and so faced me. He was standing, small, about 90 centimetres in height, enveloped from head to feet in a sort of one-piece overall a bit like the suit worn by the 'Michelin man'. The one on the right simply turned his head round towards me, but all the same I had time to catch a glimpse of his face, which was partly masked by a sort of helmet.

"Then both turned their backs to me, and there was a flash, as strong

as the electric arc of a welding machine. Everything went white around me. A powerful heat was given off and then as it were a sort of blast of wind, and a few seconds later there was nothing there any more.

"Then I approached the spot over which the object had been. There were no marks. The object had a diameter of 4 or 5 metres and was about 2½ metres measured through from top to bottom. It was of a bluish colour, with white on the upper and lower parts.

"I told my wife all about it, and then the Gendarmerie, and everyone at once believed me."

Such was the first piece of testimony given by M. Fontaine, and next day the enquiry began. He then explained more precisely to the investigators that, seen "face-on", the machine, egg-shaped in appearance, looked in fact like two whitish saucers, shining like aluminium, placed face to face.

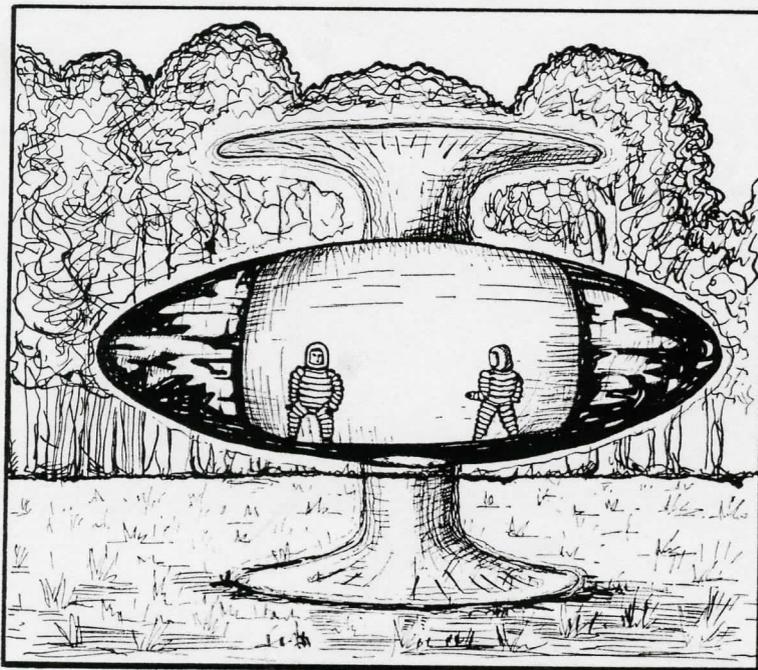
The Gendarmerie enquiry was conducted by Captain Maljean of St.-Pierre, and Captain Legros of the Service de la Protection Civile went to the site with instruments for detecting radioactivity.

A surprise awaited them. They found a certain degree of radioactivity in a radius of from 5-6 metres from the presumed scene of the near-landing, and also even on the clothing worn that day by M. Fontaine.

According to a correspondent in Réunion who is a subscriber to *Lumières dans la Nuit* and who has been good enough to send us this report, M. Fontaine informed him that only the portions of his clothing that were facing the machine bore traces of radioactivity.

According to Captain Legros, their attention was drawn to eight radioactive points, on tufts of grass

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man. There could be no greater distortion of what is actually happening at the present time in man's relation to the spiritual world than to spread the delusion that physical machines are coming to earth with physical beings from outer space. In this way the march of materialism is maintained beyond the earth and a hallucinatory picture is held up before men's eyes. The fact is that the etheric world is beginning to unveil itself in this century, and to slumber away this supremely important event in human development by elaborating fantastic theories based on the present materialistic concepts of outer space will only lead man farther into the abyss which has been planned for him by the Ahrimanic beings.

Conclusion

It is not from some hypothetical "fourth dimension" that what we call UFOs are manifesting. It would be

truer to say that they are deliberately distorted etheric effects, and it should surprise no one to learn that such effects can influence physical matter and create, in turn, physical effects, for the spiritual forces which stream through the Universe are, in their interaction, the creators and sustainers of physical matter.

It is high time that science took off its blinkers and began to investigate the connections between the earth and the other planets of our system by comprehending the nature of these etheric forces in plant, animal and man.

The enigma of flying saucers will, I maintain, only be resolved when man's spiritual perception enables him to discriminate between truth and error here in the physical world, and man's reason is raised from the sub-human to the human level. And the enormous life's work of Rudolf Steiner is the beacon pointing ahead to man's truly human development.

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and on pebbles, where they detected up to sixty thousandths of a Roentgen.

This figure is in fact extremely low from the point of view of dangerous contamination. It is recognised that a rescuer can be exposed for a few moments to a radiation of 25 Roentgens. Up to as much as 100 Roentgens, the damage to the organism is not irreversible, but it becomes so at 200, and at 600 Roentgens death is certain.

But all the observers have pointed out that this enquiry into the radioactivity only took place ten days later, after the abundant rains that occur in those tropical regions, as well as the high altitude, had permitted the terrain to get well washed down. So the level of radioactivity would surely have been much higher than that on the day of the occurrence.

However that may be, the radioactive grass and pebbles are now in a laboratory.

These are concrete findings regarding which there can be no expression of doubt.

The sketch which accompanies this article is reproduced from the drawing made on the spot by the artist Gérard Piednoir of the *Journal de l'Île de la Réunion*, in collaboration with M. Fontaine himself, and the report was written by M. Claude Huc.

Since the receipt of the first

report, dated August 28, we have written to the *Journal de l'Île de la Réunion*, as well as to our correspondent there, to express our concern as to the fate of the witness after his exposure to an unknown but radioactive irradiation. We told them of what had happened here in France, at Brazey,* and asked them to inform the Service de la Protection Civile.

There have been other sightings too in Réunion and in the neighbouring island of Mauritius. On August 11, a cigar-shaped craft was seen over Réunion, while, at Curepipe, in Mauritius, a craft was seen in flight in June. It is described as similar to the one seen by M. Fontaine.

FSR Editor's Postscript

Since the appearance of the first sketchy newspaper accounts of this case, rumours were circulating that not only had M. Luce Fontaine fallen victim to the radiation, but that the effect of this was so severe that he had been flown to Paris where he had been admitted to the Curie Foundation. A "Stop Press" item in *Lumières dans la Nuit*—November 1968 edition—stated that this, according to their Réunion correspondent, had indeed happened. M. Aimé Michel, however, after advising me that his information was that the witness had been irradiated, had counselled the utmost caution while we awaited the

results of further enquiries which he was making. This was before the publication of the *Lumières dans la Nuit* article.

We have now learned from M. Michel that friends of his in the medical profession had learned that M. Fontaine had **not** been flown to Paris, and had **not** been admitted to the Curie Foundation. Subsequent enquiries in Réunion by M. Michel's correspondent in the island had revealed that the false story had been circulated by the Fontaine family to obtain peace and quiet by putting investigators off the scent. Nevertheless it seems that Luce Fontaine had suffered some effects from exposure to radiation, but not of the degree of severity suggested in the rumours.

NOTE (by Gordon Creighton)

* The case referred to occurred at Brazey-en-Morvan in France, and the Editor of *Lumières dans la Nuit* mentions it briefly elsewhere in this same issue, and says there will be a full account of it in the next issue (December 1968).

Meanwhile, it can be stated briefly that the case concerns a machine which landed not far from a flock of sheep. The result was: two sheep missing, one sheep dead (of causes which the veterinarians are unable to explain), while two more died over the course of the next few weeks. Another result discovered at the landing site was that hundreds of slugs were found to have undergone a mutation, and changed colour; all of them soon died.