PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE: 16 Jan 58	2. LOCATION: Trinidade, Island	12. CONCLUSIONS ☐ Was Balloon ☐ Probably Balloon ☐ Possibly Balloon ☐ Was Aircraft ☐ Probably Aircraft ☐ Possibly Aircraft ☐ Was Astronomical ☐ Probably Astronomical ☐ Possibly Astronomical ☒ Other: Hoax ☐ Insufficient Data for Evaluation ☐ Unknown
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local: 1200 GMT:	4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION ☒ Ground-Visual ☐ Ground-Radar ☐ Air-Visual ☐ Air-Intercept Radar	
5. PHOTOS ☒ Yes ☐ No	6. SOURCE: Military	
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION: unknown	8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS: one	9. COURSE: unknown

10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING

Two leading newspapers in Rio De Janeiro printed photos of alleged "flying saucers" photographed fm a Brazilian naval ship.

11. COMMENTS

Upon investigation the Brazilian Navy refused to make an official statement, and this Center has been unable to obtain copies of the photos. Analysis at ONI is that photos are hoax.

ATIC FORM 329 (REV 26 SEP 52)

NK22

RIO DE JANEIRO, FEB. 25.--(UP)--THE BRAZILIAN NAVY MINISTRY VOUCHED TODAY FOR THE AUTHENTICITY OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS OF A "FLYING SAUCER" TAKEN RECENTLY ABOARD THE NAVY SURVEY SHIP ALMIRANTE SALDANHA.

A NAVY MINISTRY STATEMENT SAID THE PICTURES WERE MADE BY PHOTOGRAPHER [redacted] IN THE PRESENCE OF A LARGE NUMBER OF SEAMEN WHILE THE SHIP WAS CRUISING OFF TRINIDADE ISLAND, 700 MILES OFF THE PORT OF VITORIA, ESPIRITO SANTO STATE.

NAVY MINISTER ADM. [redacted] SAID AFTER MEETING WITH PRESIDENT [redacted] IN THE SUMMER PRESIDENTIAL PALACE AT PETROPOLIS, THAT HE ALSO VOUCHED PERSONALLY FOR THE AUTHENTICITY OF THE PICTURES.

"THE NAVY HAS A GREAT SECRET WHICH IT CANNOT DIVULGE BECAUSE IT CANNOT BE EXPLAINED," THE MINISTER SAID.

DS543P

OFFICIAL FILE COPY

AFCIN-4E2x /Maj Friend/amc/69216/typed 27 July 60 1 AUG 1960

ONI Information Report (Flying Saucer Photographed from Almirante Saldanha)

SAFOI-3d (L/Col Tacker)

1. Attached are copies of the ONI Information Report, subject: "Brazil - Navy - Flying Saucer Photographed from Almirante Saldanha," dated 11 March 1958. This report was requested by L/Col Tacker of SAFOI-3d on 26 July 1960.

2. This report is unclassified. The report is on a standard Navy form with Confidential stamps; however, the word "unclassified" has been typed across the classification box by the office of origin.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

Nicholas Post 7/29/60

PHILIP G. EVANS
Colonel, USAF
Deputy for Science and Components

1 Atch:
Cy ONI Info Rpt, dtd 11 Mar 58

COORDINATION:

AFCIN-4E2x Robert Friend Maj Date 27 July 60

AFCIN-4E2 R N Shoop Col Date 27 July 60

[redacted] FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

CLF

FBI

4E4C (Grigoiff)

CLASSIFICATION [redacted]

DATE OF INFORMATION 21-27 Feb 1958

INFORMATION REPORT
OFFICE OF NAVAL INTELLIGENCE

OPNAV FORM 3820-2 (REV. 5-56)

SERIAL NO. 39-58

DATE OF REPORT 11 March 1958

FROM	SOURCE	EVALUATION	REQUEST NO.
U.S. Naval Attaché, Rio de Janeiro	Contact Press	B-3	

SUBJECT
BRAZIL - Navy - Flying Saucer Photographed from ALMIRANTE SALDANHA

BRIEF (FOR REPORTS OF MORE THAN ONE PAGE, ENTER CAREFUL SUMMARY)

IFI Nº 9600.

Encl: (1) Set of 4 Brazilian Navy photographs of subject

1. Announcement. On 21 February 1958, two of the leading newspapers in Rio de Janeiro printed photographs showing alleged flying saucer photographed from Brazilian naval ship, ALMIRANTE SALDANHA, at approximately midday on 16 January 1958 while the ship was anchored off Trindade Island some 600 miles east of Rio de Janeiro. The ship at the time was engaged in research as part of Brazilian Navy participation in the International Geophysical Year.

2. Photographer. The photographs themselves were taken by a free lance photographer, [redacted], using his Rolleiflex camera set at speed 125., lens opening 8, and were developed in a laboratory in ALMIRANTE SALDANHA. This gentleman has a long history of photographic trick shots and is well known for such items as false pictures of treasure on the ocean floor. Another time he prepared a purposely humorous article, published in a magazine, entitled "A Flying Saucer Hunted Me at Home", using trick photography. [redacted], after the release of his latest "flying saucer" photographs, told the press that the Navy secret service had interrogated him for four hours concerning his photos. "The negatives were projected in large size on a screen. If there was any trick, the gigantic projection would have revealed it. After questioning by officers of the Estado-Maior, the Chief of the Secret Service, the senior officer present said to me, 'I am going to ask you a few [redacted]s. Don't be

[redacted]

ORDER PHOTOS BY ONI NOS. 1322108 THRU 1322111.

THIS REPORT CONTAINS UNPROCESSED INFORMATION. PLANS AND/OR POLICIES SHOULD NOT BE EVOLVED OR MODIFIED SOLELY ON THE BASIS OF THIS REPORT.

DISTRIBUTION BY ORIGINATOR
CINCLANTFLT - COM 15

CLASSIFICATION
UNCLASSIFIED

DISTRIBUTION BY ONI (only to those addressees preceded by copy number)

9	CIA		CinCPac/Flt		ComSubPac		NRL		OP	1	Y1		ENCLOSURE (1)
5	STATE		CinCLant/Flt		ComSubLant	1	ONR		OP	5	Y1Z		
4	DI/USAF		CinCNelm		COMSTS		PIC		OP		Y2		
4	G2, USA		FICelm		ComALSeaFron		OP25		OP92		Y3		
	G2, USMC		ComTDC		ComCaribSeaFron		OP30	6	921E				H1
	USIA		ComNavFe		ComEastSeaFron		OP31		F1C	1	H2		681
	OSI, USAF		ComNavGer		ComHawSeaFron		OP33		F1E				G3
	FBI		ComNavMarianas		ComWestSeaFron		OP34		F1W	1	H3E		G4 [redacted]
	ICA		ComMidEastFor		JAG		OP36		F2				H1(Ec) [redacted]
	Commerce		ComNavPhil		BuSandA		OP37		F3	1	GBI(Ad)		
	AEC		Com1STFlt		BuShips		OP40		F4				
0	USCG		Com2NDFlt		BuAer		OP41	1	H1	1	G9		40-4
			Com6THFlt		BuDocks		OP50		H3L				I.R.
	SecNav		ComServ6Flt		BuMed		OP55		H3M				5043078
	SecDef		Com7THFlt		BuOrd		OP60		H3T				
	ASPPA		ComMinPac		BuPers		OP61		N1				
	OASD		ComMinLant		NOL		OP62		N2				
					NEL		OP63		N3				CONFIDENTIAL
								1	V				

[redacted] GLF

INFORMATION REPORT

OPNAV FORM 3820-2 (C) (REV. 6-55)

CLF

CLASSIFICATION	FROM	REPORT NO.	DATE
CONFIDENTIAL	U.S. Naval Attaché, Rio	39-58	11 March 1958

offended because I don't doubt the authenticity of your photos but I need to hear from you. If you were going to make a flying saucer appear on a negative, how would you proceed?' Comandante, I am an able photographer specialized in trick photography but not one would withstand close and accurate examination."

3. Brazilian Navy Stand. Immediately after the photographs of the flying saucer were publicized, the Brazilian Navy refused to make any official statement confirming or denying the incident. However, proofs from the original negatives were sent to the other armed forces and to the President via an officer-messenger who related the complete story. According to the press, the narration so impressed Mr. [redacted] that he became convinced of the veracity of the happening.

On 24 February, three days after the photos were first published in the press, the Navy Ministry finally made an official statement: "With reference to the reports appearing in the press that the Navy is opposed to divulge the facts concerning the appearance of a strange object over Trindade Island, this Cabinet declares that such information has no basis. This Ministry has no motive to impede the release of photographs of the referred to object taken by [redacted], who was at Trindade Island at the invitation of the Navy, and in the presence of a large number of the crew of ALMIRANTE SALDANHA from whose deck the photographs were taken. Clearly, this Ministry will not be able to make any pronouncement concerning the object seen because the photographs do not constitute sufficient proof for such purpose."

4. Statements of SALDANHA Personnel. On the morning after the photos of the flying saucer were published in the press (February 22), the ALMIRANTE SALDANHA departed Rio to continue its mission in connection with the IGY. Two days later, however, the ship docked at Santos (February 24) for voyage repairs and this was the first chance that newspapermen had an opportunity to interview officers and men aboard. The Assistant Naval Attache was in Santos at this time in connection with the visit of USCGC WESTWIND (Alusna Rio IR 36-58 of 10 March) and had an opportunity to visit aboard. The commanding officer, Capitao-de-Mar-e-Guerra (CAPT) Jose Santos Saldanha da Gama, had not seen the object and was noncommittal. The executive officer also had not seen it but, arriving shortly thereafter, had formed the opinion that those on deck had seen it. The captain had reported that his secretary, a LCDR, had seen it but this officer when personally questioned avoided discussing the matter. Later, it was learned that the photographer was accompanied to the dark room by an officer who waited outside the door while [redacted] developed the negatives alone.

At the time of the official visit of the commanding officer of WESTWIND to ALMIRANTE SALDANHA, Captain Saldanha da Gama freely discussed the flying saucer and showed the original proofs to the callers but again did not commit himself.

[redacted]

CONFIDENTIAL

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1955—J-85013B

REMFOXT FORMS INC. — NEW BRUNSWICK, N. J.

[redacted]

INFORMATION REPORT

OPNAV FORM 3820-2 (C) (REV. 6-55)

CLASSIFICATION [redacted]	FROM	REPORT NO.	DATE
	U.S. Naval Attaché, Rio	39-58	11 March 1958

5. Publicity. The press reports after the publication of the photographs covered a great deal of newspaper space for about a week, tending to prove or disprove the authenticity of [redacted] photographs. DIARIO CARIOCA reported that personnel of SALDANHA were under rigid orders of silence. O GLOBO published a story with photographs by photographer, [redacted], of flying saucers (china) taken at Cabo Frio.

Federal Deputy Sergio Magalhães sent a note to the Navy Ministry on 27 February protesting the Navy's failure to secure sworn statements of witnesses. "For the first time in flying saucer history, the phenomenon was attended by large numbers of persons belonging to a military force which give these latest photographs an official stamp. Threats to national security require greater official attention and action," said the Deputy. In the middle of all the publicity, other "flying saucer" sighting reports came out including a naval officer who saw a flying saucer a month before sighting from SALDANHA off the coast of Espirito Santo. CO and crew of ATA TRIDENTE saw flying saucer several days before SALDANHA sighting but kept information secret.

[redacted]

CONFIDENTIAL

UNCLASSIFIED

☆U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1955—341 438

REPRINT FORMS INC. - NEW BRUNSWICK, N. J.

[redacted] GLF

FORMATION REPORT

AV FORM 3820-2 (C) (REV. 6-55)

CLASSIFICATION	FROM	REPORT NO.	DATE
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~	U.S. Naval Attaché, Rio	39-58	11 March 1958

Preparing Officer's Comments:

1. Most flying saucer stories are not worth wasting much time or effort, but this story apparently substantiated by official Navy photographs taken in the presence of large number of Navy personnel under closely controlled and almost ideal circumstances should have absolutely proved the existence of an unidentified flying object. Unfortunately, further investigation provided only frustration at every turning. A number of Brazilian Navy officers profess to believe the story implicitly but whether they have more information than we is unknown.

2. There appear to be only two explanations for this peculiar incident:

(a) Some overwhleming power has told the Brazilian Navy not to officially verify this incident (which they should easily be able to do, if it occurred) nor to deny it (which they should easily be able to do, if it is a fake). I personally do not believe that anyone has told the Brazilian Navy to keep quiet about it because there has been no hint of such suppression in either Brazilian or U.S. circles; and also because I doubt their control of the individual officers and men is good enough to hold the line.

(b) The whole thing is a fake publicity stunt put on by a crooked photographer and the Brazilian Navy fell for it. This seems like the most likely considering Brazilian's love for sensationalism and gossip, their well known propensity for never letting the truth stand in the way of a good story, and general bureaucratic inefficiency.

3. In addition, the photographs furnished by the Brazilian Navy are unconvincing. Details of the land are extremely sharp but the disc is hazy and has little contrast and shows no shadow effect. It also appears that the object was inverted in photograph 2 compared to 1 and 3. Also the papers have mentioned extremely high velocities and there appears to be no lateral blurring as would occur with any reasonable shutter speed.

4. It is the reporting officer's private opinion that a flying saucer sighting would be unlikely at the very barren island of Trindade, as everyone knows Martians are extremely comfort loving creatures.

Prepared and forwarded:

M. SUNDERLAND
CAPT, USN

[redacted] GLF 4

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1956—J-346138

REDIFIX FORMS INC. / NEW BRUNSWICK, N. J.

[redacted]

CLASSIFICATION [redacted]

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

OFFICE OF NAVAL INTELLIGENCE

SERIAL NO. 39-58

DATE OF INFORMATION 22-27 Feb 1958

DATE OF REPORT 11 March 1958

ONAV FORM 3-22-1 (REV. 5-58) Obtained

EVALUATION B-2

REQUEST NO.

FROM U.S. Naval Attaché, Rio de Janeiro

SOURCE Press

SUBJECT BRAZIL -- Navy - Flying Saucer Photographed from ALMIRANTE SALDANHA IFI No 9600.

BRIEF (FOR REPORTS OF MORE THAN ONE PAGE, ENTER CAREFUL SUMMARY

Encl: (1) Set of 4 Brazilian Navy photographs of subject

1. Announcement. On 21 February 1958, two of the leading newspapers in Rio de Janeiro printed photographs showing alleged flying saucer photographed from Brazilian naval ship, ALMIRANTE SALDANHA, at approximately midday on 16 January 1958 while the ship was anchored off Trindade Island some 600 miles east of Rio de Janeiro. The ship at the time was engaged in research as part of Brazilian Navy participation in the International Geophysical Year.

2. Photographer. The photographs themselves were taken by a free lance photographer, [redacted] using his Rolleiflex camera set at speed 125., lens opening 8, and were developed in a laboratory in ALMIRANTE SALDANHA. This gentleman has a long history of photographic trick shots and is well known for such items as false pictures of treasure on the ocean floor. Another time he prepared a purposely humorous article, published in a magazine, entitled "A Flying Saucer Hunted Me at Home", using trick photography. [redacted] after the release of his latest "flying saucer" photographs, told the press that the Navy secret service had interrogated him for four hours concerning his photos. "The negative were projected in large size on a screen. If there was any trick, the gigantic projection would have revealed it. After questioning by officer of the Estado-Maior, the Chief of the Secret Service, the senior officer present said to me, 'I am going to ask you a few questions. Don't be

[redacted]

ORDER PECTS BY CIN NO. 1322103 ZEN 121321Z

THIS REPORT CONTAINS UNPROCESSED INFORMATION. PLANS AND/OR POLICIES SHOULD NOT BE EVOLVED OR MODIFIED SOLELY ON THE BASIS OF THIS REPORT.

DISTRIBUTION BY ORIGINATOR

CINCLANTFLT - COM 15

CLASSIFICATION [redacted]

DISTRIBUTION BY ONI (only to those addressees preceded by copy number)

	CIA		CinCPac/Flt		ComSubPac		NRL		OP		Y1
	STATE		CinCLant/Flt		ComSubLant		ONR		OP	5	Y1Z
	DI/USAF		CinCNelm		COMSTS		FIC		OP		Y2
	G2, USA		FICelm		ComALSeaFron		OP23		OP32		Y3
	G2, USMC		ComTDC		ComCaribSeaFron		OP30	6	321E		
	USIA		ComNavFe		ComEastSeaFron		OP		F1C		
	OSI, USAF		ComNavBer		ComNavSeaFron		OP		F1E		
	FBI		ComNavMarianas		ComWestSeaFron		OP		F1W		
	IDA		ComMidEastFor		JAG		OP90		F2		
	Commerce		ComNavPhil		BuSandA		OP91		F3		
	AEC		Com1STFlt		BuShips		OP50		F4		
	USCG		Com2NDFlt		BuAer		OP51		N1		
			Com3THFlt		BuDocks		OP53		N3L		
	SecNav		ComServ6Flt		[redacted]		OP31		N3M		
	SecDef		Com7THFlt		BuOrd		OP60		N3T		
	ASPPA		ComMinPac		BuPers		OP61		N1		
	OASD		[redacted]		[redacted]		[redacted]		[redacted]		
					NEL		OP63		N3		

[redacted]

CLASSIFICATION [redacted]

50430

FOR [redacted] ONLY GLF

INFORMATION REPORT

UNIT 3320-2 (C) (REV. 6-55)

[redacted]	FROM U.S. Naval Attaché, Rio	REPORT NO. 39-58	DATE 11 March 195

offended because I don't doubt the authenticity of your photos but I need to hear from you. If you were going to make a flying saucer appear on a negative, how would you proceed?' Commandante, I am an able photographer specialized in trick photography but not one would withstand close and accurate examination."

3. Brazilian Navy Stand. Immediately after the photographs of the flying saucer were publicized, the Brazilian Navy refused to make any official statement confirming or denying the incident. However, proofs from the original negatives were sent to the other armed forces and to the President via an officer-messenger who related the complete story. According to the press, the narration so impressed Mr. [redacted] that he became convinced of the veracity of the happening.

On 24 February, three days after the photos were first published in the press, the Navy Ministry finally made an official statement: "With reference to the reports appearing in the press that the Navy is opposed to divulge the facts concerning the appearance of a strange object over Trindade Island, this Cabinet declares that such information has no basis. This Ministry has no intent to impede the release of photographs of the referred to object taken by Mr. [redacted], who was at Trindade Island at the invitation of the Navy, and in the presence of a large number of the crew of MMNF ARIH SAMDANHA from whose deck the photographs were taken. Clearly, this Ministry will not be able to make any pronouncement concerning the object seen because the photographs do not constitute sufficient proof for such purpose."

4. Statements of SAIDANHA Personnel. On the morning after the photos of the flying saucer were published in the press (February 22), the MMNF ARIH SAIDANHA departed Rio to continue its mission in connection with the IGY. Two days later, the ship docked at Santos (February 24) for voyage repairs and this was the first chance that newspapermen had an opportunity to interview officers and men aboard. The Assistant Naval Attache was in Santos at this time in connection with the visit of USCGC WESTWIND (WAGW-Rio IR 39-58 of 10 March) and had an opportunity to visit aboard. The commanding officer, Capitao-de-Mar-e-Guerra (CMPT) Jose Santos Saldanha da Gama, had not seen the object and was noncommittal. The executive officer also had not seen it but, arriving shortly thereafter, had learned the opinion that those on deck had seen it. The captain had seen it but this officer was positively questioned avoided discussing the matter. Later, it was learned that the photographer was accompanied to the dark room by an officer who waited outside the door while Beraldo developed the negatives alone.

At the time of the official visit of the commanding officer of WMSTWND to MMNF ARIH SAIDANHA, Captain Saldanha da Gama briefly discussed the flying saucer and showed his original proofs to the callers [illegible] did not commit himself

TRINDADE ISLAND

1958

The Air Force received its information on this case from the U. S. Navy; it evaluated the photographs as a "trick."

Although a detailed investigation was not undertaken by the Navy, the photographs furnished by the Brazilian navy were reviewed and found to be unconvincing. Land details are extremely sharp, but the disc is hazy, has little contrast, and shows no shadow effect. It also appears the object is inverted in one photograph when compared with the other two photos. Also, the photographer mentioned extremely high velocities, and there appears to be no lateral blurring as would occur with any reasonable shutter speed.

The man who made these pictures had no connection with the Brazilian navy; he was a professional photographer, noted particularly as an expert in trick photography. No member of the Brazilian navy reported seeing the UFO; in addition to the photographer, only two persons, both of them friends of the photographer, reported seeing the UFO.

This sighting is still carried as a TRICK in Air Force files.

Sightings Over Trindade

Part II

Admirante Saldanha Incident Is Also Proven Authenticated by the Brazilian Navy

In January, 1958 the ship Almirante Saldanha left Rio de Janeiro's port and proceeded toward the Island of Trindade with a crew of three hundred. The ship had been previously a Brazilian Navy school-ship, but it had been converted into a hydrographic unit used for investigations connected with IGY research. It belonged to the Hydrography and Navigation Division of the Brazilian Navy and, since October, 1957, the ship had made several trips to the Island, most of them connected with the Navy's oceanographic studies for the IGY.

Several civilians were aboard the ship this time, invited officially to collaborate with the Navy Ministry in the scientific studies which were underway at the Island. One man was Almiro Baraúna, a photographer and former newspaperman now working as a "free lancer." He was an expert in submarine photography and had been invited to work in the IGY for the Navy.

After a routine trip the ship arrived at the Island and stayed there for several days. It was scheduled to leave for Rio de Janeiro on that day, at 12:45 p.m., and the ship was preparing to depart, when a strange object was sighted simultaneously by a number of observers gathered on deck. The UAO came toward the ship at high speed, hovered briefly over a peak, disappeared behind it for a short time, and appeared again to move away toward the sea. Mr. Baraúna was taking pictures of the ship's maneuvers at that moment, he spotted the UAO and took four pictures of it.

To review what happened as told in the witnesses' own words, let's begin with Almiro Baraúna's report. He was interviewed by reporter João Martins and his statements were published in the magazine O CRUZEIRO (March 8, 1958) and are transcribed below:

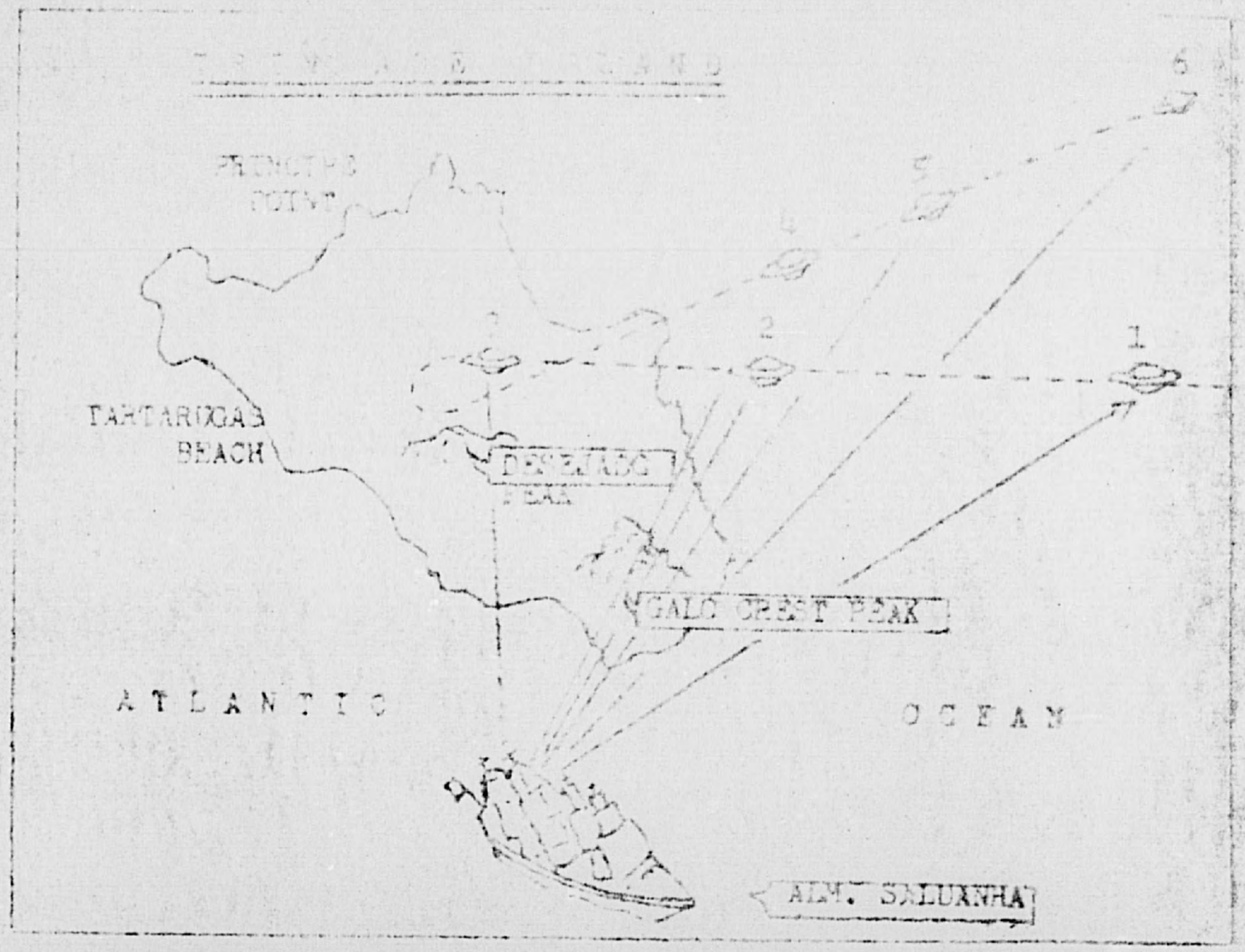
Baraúna's Report

"Mr. Baraúna, what were the reasons for your presence aboard the NE Almirante Saldanha? A. The Navy has several teams specialized in submarine hunting to visit the Island of Trindade. I am a member of the Icaraí Club of Submarine Hunting, and our group was invited for the last trip. So, on January 4, when the ship left Rio, I was on board, together with the following members of my group: Amilcar Vieira Filho, a friend of mine from Government engineering school who has a job at the CNPEN; Rodoaldo Arêgas, instructor at the Federal District Fire Department. We were going to try to beat some records on submarine hunting. Personally, I was going to take underwater photographs for the Navy, and also to write some articles about the Island and the activities of the scientists working for the IGY.

"Q. Was any other civilian aboard besides your group? A. Yes. There was Prof. Fernando, a geologist with two assistants, and also a photographer, and a reporter from the newspaper 'JORNAL DO BRASIL'. The three scientists left the ship and went to the island.

"Q. Please tell me what was the date of the sighting? What happened? A. It was on January 16, at 12:15 p.m. The ship was preparing to leave the island, to come back to Rio. I was on the deck observing the operations to take aboard the boat used in the trips between the ship and the island (the island has no harbor). The sea was agitated. The weather was cloudy, clear, with no shadows. I had my Rolleiflex 2.8—model E—which was kept inside an aluminum box for protection against the corrosive effects of water and salt. I had left by Leica with a telephoto lens in my cabin a few moments before. The deck was full of sailors and officers. Suddenly Mr. Amilcar Vieira and Captain Aregas called me, pointing to a certain spot in the sky. What it was, Lieutenant Homero—the ship's dentist—came from the bow toward us, running, pointing out to the sky and also yelling about an object he was hunting. He was so disturbed and excited that he almost fell down after colliding with a cable. Then I was finally able to locate the object, by the flash of light it emitted. It was already close to the island. It glittered at certain moments, perhaps reflecting the sunlight, perhaps changing its own light—I don't know. It was coming over the sea, moving toward the point called the 'Galo Crest'. I had lost 30 seconds looking for the object, but the camera was already in my hands, ready, when I sighted it clearly silhouetted against the clouds. I shot two photos before it disappeared behind the peak 'Desejado'. My camera was set at speed 125, with the aperture at f:8, and this was the cause of an over-exposure error, as I discovered later.

"The object remained out of sight for a few seconds behind the peak—reappearing bigger in size and flying in the opposite direction, but lower and closer than before, and moving at a higher speed. I shot the third photo. The fourth and fifth ones were lost, not only because of the speed the saucer was moving, but also for another reason: the confusion



ALMIRANTE SALDANHA *was anchored close to the point named the "Galo Crest". From the photographer Baraúna was at the stern. The UAO was first seen over the sea, coming toward the island. The first couple was taken at position 1 with the object flying at low speed. Photo number 2 was not taken. It was placed behind the "Galo Crest". Photo 3 was taken a few seconds after the turn made by the UAO near "Desejado" Peak. Photo 4 and 5 failed to show the UAO, which was then flying at high speed. The last picture, number 6, was taken when the object was coming over close to the horizon, and disappeared a few seconds later.*

Trindade ...

(Continued from page 5)

persons also trying to spot the object and, as a consequence, photographed the sea and the island only—not the object. It was moving again toward the sea, in the direction from which it had come, and it appeared to stop in mid-air for a brief time. At that moment I shot my last photo (the last on the film). After about 10 seconds, the object continued to increase its distance from the ship, gradually diminishing in size and finally disappearing into the horizon.

"Q. Did you hear anything unusual during the sighting? Was the object emitting any sound? A. I am not sure, to be honest, because of the noise made by the sea waves against the island's rocks, as well as for the yelling aboard the ship at the time. However, I think that I heard nothing besides those sounds.

"Q. What was the color of the object? A. It showed a dark grey color, appearing to be surrounded—mostly in the area ahead of it—by a kind of condensation of greenish, phosphorescent vapor (or mist).

"Q. Did the object appear to be metallic? A. Yes. It was obviously a solid object.

"Q. How was it flying? Any special characteristic? A. Yes. It showed an undulatory movement as it flew across the sky, like the flight of a bat. And when it came back, it changed speed abruptly, with no transition, in a jump.

"Q. Do you know how many persons aboard the 'Almirante Saldanha' sighted the object? A. The object was sighted by almost all the people on the deck at that time, including Lieutenant Homero, Captain Viegas and Mr. Amilar Vieira.

"Q. What happened after the sighting? A. The ship's commander and several officers from the garrison wanted to see what I had got in the photos. As I was very curious too, I decided to develop the exposed film at once, aboard the ship. The processing was done under the supervision of several officers, including Com. Carlos A. Bacellar. But only the negatives were seen aboard. The reason: there was no photographic paper for the copies on the ship at that time. The negatives, however, were seen and examined by the whole crew.

"Q. Did you keep the negtives in your hands? A. Yes.

"Q. Were you under any pressure to give up those negatives to the Navy's authorities? A. No. Com. Saldanha da Gama (the ship's C.O.) and the other Navy officers aboard were very kind. They never tried to get the negatives from me.

"Q. What happened when the ship came back to Rio? A. The ship stopped first at Vitoria, in the State of Espirito Santo, where the civilians from the submarine hunting group only—to leave the ship there and to take a bus for the rest of the trip. Later, two days after the arrival of the 'Almirante Saldanha' at Rio, Com. Bacellar (ex-commander of the Navy Post at Trindade) appeared at my residence. He wanted to see the enlargements made from the negatives, and asked permission to take them to the Navy's authorities. Two days later they were returned with congratulations. I was also requested to appear at the Navy Ministry as soon as possible. They wanted to ask me certain questions, and to see the negatives again.

"Q. And what happened there? A. I was interviewed by several high-staff officers, who asked me all kinds of questions. I went there twice. At the first meeting, they requested the negatives for examination. They were sent to a civilian organization, the 'Cruzeiro do Sul Aerophotogrammetric Service', remaining there for four days. I was told by the Navy officers that the analyses proved they were genuine — excluding definitely the possibility of a trick or falsification. On the second visit, they performed several 'Time-tests'. While I worked with my Rolleiflex, taking shots at the same time-intervals I had used to photograph the object, three Navy officers with chronometers registered the times. They came to the conclusion—based on these tests as well as on studies concerning the ship's position and examinations of charts of the Island—that the object was flying at a speed between 900 and 1000 Km./hour (600 m.p.h.). The object's size was also estimated, on the basis of studies related with the Island's details also appearing on the photos, diagrams drawn on charts, graphs, etc. The object was about 120 feet in diameter, and about 24 feet high.

"Q. Do you know anything about the official report on the case? A. I saw a 'dossier' which was consulted many times during the interrogation. However, I didn't read what was written there. I was also informed that my photos, mixed with other pictures, had been shown to witnesses of the sighting—to be identified. The result was positive.

"Q. Do you know anything about any photos by other people aboard the ship? A. No. Besides myself, there were at least four other persons with cameras at the time of the sighting. But apoarently they were not able to spot the object in time, or were paralyzed by their own emotions.

"Q. Were you warned against something by the Navy's authorities? Was there some recommendation? A. Yes. They requested me to keep the matter secret for some time. I was permitted to publish the case only after authorization from the Navy. The permission was granted, verbally, on the night of March 3rd. I made only one restriction, which I cannot mention for the reason that I have given my word. ...

"Q. Do you know if your sighting was the first over the Island of Trindade? A. I was informed of four other sightings over the island during those thirty days preceding the incident of January 15. I was also informed of another thing: At one of those sightings, the 'object' was photographed by a Navy sergeant. His photo obviously was not released and probably never will be—the reasons are evident. Besides those four sightings, there was also the radar case. A 'target' flying at supersonic speed was tracked through the radar of the 'Almirante Saldanha', on January 15.

"Q. Did you receive any money from the Navy for your work at the Island of Trindade? A. No. I was there as a guest.

"Q. Did you receive any money from the Navy for your photographic work, or for the enlargements you made for them? A. No. I only received the photographic paper to be used for enlargements.

"Q. How many enlargements have you given them? A. Thirty-eight.

"Q. One last question: What kind of impression did you get from observing the 'flying saucer'? A. I am absolutely sure it was a controlled object—either directly or by remote control—but very well operated, in any case. The general impression of people aboard the ship was the same: it had come to make a close observation of the ship." Unquote.

The interview transcribed above was rechecked and confirmed by the witness. However, Mr. Barauna also talked to the press reporting additional details not mentioned previously. The more interesting were the following ones:

(1) "I cannot estimate the number of persons on the ship's deck at the moment of the sighting. However, during the official investigation ordered by Com. Saldanha da Gama, about one hundred members from the ship's crew confirmed that they had sighted the UAO.

"The radar was not in operation at the time. The object was already gone when it was put to work.

"I shot the six pictures in about 14 seconds." (Rio de Janeiro ULTIMA HORA, February 21, 1958)

(2) "I was worried for a few days after an officer told me that I was under military regulations, as any civilian aboard a Navy ship, so that the film was going to be confiscated according to orders from the Navy Headquarters, at Rio. But nothing happened. Now I am convinced that he was joking." (Rio de Janeiro ULTIMA HORA, February 22, 1858)

BARAUNA'S INTERROGATION AT THE NAVY MINISTRY

On February 24, 1958, the newspaper "O GLOBO" printed an exclusive interview with Almiro Barauna about his in-

Trindade . . .

(Continued from page 6)

terrogation at the Navy Ministry. As that part of his story had not been reported yet in full detail, it is interesting to know what he said in that interview, which is transcribed below:

"I went to the Navy Ministry for a four-hour interrogation about the photographs. The negatives were projected on a large sized screen. After a careful examination by all officers from the Navy General Staff gathered at the place, the Chief of the Intelligence Service (who was the officer of highest rank there) told me the following. 'I am going to ask questions. Do not be offended, for I do not doubt the authenticity of your pictures. But we need your answers for some questions. Now, if you were going to fake a photo, how should it be done in order to escape detection?'

"'Commander, as an expert in photography, I am well aware that no photo of such a kind could resist an accurate examination,' was my answer.

"'In your opinion,' said the Commander, 'what should be done to distinguish a faked photograph from a good one?'

"'A laboratory examination of the negatives should be made on the following points: granulation, emulsion, and large-scale projection. The definite proof, however, good enough to detect any tricks would be a microscopic examination,' I said to them. 'It would demonstrate the increase in granulation connected with the double-exposure needed for the trick,' I concluded.

"After a few more questions, the intelligence officer said: 'We want your negatives for those examinations. Do you agree?' I agreed, of course, and he got the film. These things happened three days after the arrival of the 'Almirante Saldanha,' at the Navy's Intelligence Headquarters. A few days later, the negatives were returned in an official envelope with a card informing me about the results of the analyses.

Some days later I was called again. This time they also asked for my Rolleiflex. They wanted to make tests in order to estimate, if possible, the speed of the flying saucer at the moment of the sighting. The tests were performed. They showed that I had taken my six pictures in 24 seconds, and that the saucer was flying at 900 to 1000 Km./hour. One of the photographs, taken when the saucer was hovering over the 'Desejado' Peak, stopped in space, did not show (as they said) the turbulence in the surrounding air observed in the others with the object moving. There was a kind of vapor or condensation in front of the flying object when it was moving—similar to that produced by the engines of a jet plane.

"At the end of the meeting, the Intelligence officer showed me another photo which had been taken by a Navy telegraphist-sergeant—also at Trindade. A box camera had been used. I was surprised. That photo showed the same object seen in my pictures. It was evidently the final proof. They told me it had been taken some time before my arrival at the Island." Unquote.

ADDITIONAL REPORTS ABOUT THE INCIDENT

When the curtain of security around the sighting was broken, the Navy General Staff released special instructions forbidding the ship's crew and Navy officers to have any contact with the press on the matter. The Navy authorities refused at first to make any comment on the incident. All military chiefs interviewed by the press denied any knowledge of the matter, or said that only Minister Alves Camera was entitled to say anything. Some Navy departments even tried to show a complete lack of interest, explaining that the pictures had been taken by a civilian eventually aboard a warship. On the other hand, the NE "Almirante Saldanha" remained off Rio de Janeiro's harbor and finally received orders to leave Guanabara Bay "to make another trip related with IGY studies." This occurred on February 21, at a time when newspapermen were making desperate attempts to reach the crew kept aboard the ship. At the last moment before the ship's departure, it was divulged that reporters were free at least to contact the crew and get their reports on the flying saucer. However, the permission was denied by a counter order, for the Navy General Staff was against it. New instructions were issued to sailors and officers aboard the ship emphasizing that no contacts with the press were permitted. That same day (Feb. 21), a Navy spokesman called the press to say that the Navy had no responsibility regarding the incident, and that no official statement was to be released about it. But he agreed that the following information—with no official support—might be published:

"On the morning of January 16, 1958, over the Island of Trindade, the crew of the school ship 'Almirante Saldanha' sighted an unidentified aerial object for a few seconds. A civilian who was aboard the ship took some pictures of the object. The Navy has no connection with the case, and its only connection with the occurrence was the fact that the photographer was aboard the school ship, and came back with the ship to Rio." Unquote (ULTIMA HORA, Feb. 21)

Another spokesman, from the Navy High Staff Command, released the following statement to the newspaper O GLOBO, the same day:

"The news about a flying saucer sighted over the Island of Trindade were received here with utmost reserve. There No officer or sailor from the NE 'Almirante Saldanha' witnessed the event."

It was evident that the Navy authorities didn't realize the incident was too big to be concealed. Their desperate attempt to give the impression that the Navy had nothing to do with the incident was a foolish move. To deny any connection with the incident was a childish thing. The "unofficial statement" should not have been released. The press and the public already knew enough to see where the truth lay. On the other hand, the strict orders which forbade military people to give out any information on the matter did not apply to civilian observers aboard the ship. They talked to the press. Captain J. T. Viejas, from the AF (ret.), was the first to confirm Barauna's report in a press interview on February 22. His report is transcribed below:

"I was on the deck. My friend Amilar Vieira Filho suddenly called my attention to what he thought to be a 'big seagull.' I looked toward it and was unable to control my excitement, shouting: 'Flying saucer!' Mr. Barauna was 20 yards away with his Rolleiflex, watching the maneuvers. He heard my shouts and came running—in time to take four pictures of the object. Other people were also alerted by my alarm: a sergeant, sailors, the ship's dentist (Lieutenant-Captain Homero Ribeiro), and other persons. They all sighted the object. The photographer Farias de Azevedo, who was more distant, didn't come in time to get photos.

"The first view was that of a disk shining with a phosphorescent glow which—even at daylight—appeared to be brighter than the moon. The object was about the apparent size (angular diameter) of the full moon. As it followed its path across the sky, changing to a different position, its real shape was clearly outlined against the sky: that of a flattened sphere encircled, at the equator, by a large ring or platform. Its speed was around 700 miles an hour at the moment it disappeared into the horizon.

"The object was sighted at 12:20 p.m. when the ship was preparing to leave the area. It caused a tremendous confusion aboard. Mr. Barauna found it very difficult to operate his camera, being pushed and pulled by excited observers around him. In fact, he was almost thrown into the sea. He got so nervous after the sighting that he needed more than an hour to calm down and be able to develop the film. However, in his excitement he forgot to rewind the film before opening the camera, and it would have been ruined if he had not been warned by an officer at the last moment.

"The negatives were immediately developed by Barauna in the presence of Com. Bacellar. The whole crew was

Trindade...

(Continued from page 7)

anxiety for the results. The negatives were seen by everybody on the ship.

"When the ship arrived at Rio, the negatives were taken to the Navy Ministry and projected on a screen, together with a picture of a flying saucer sent from the U. S., in a military report informing the Navy about sightings made in that country. A comparative study demonstrated that the object sighted at Trindade was similar in shape to the one photographed in the U. S.

"Flying saucers have been sighted several times in the past months by members of the Navy Post at the Island of Trindade. Some of those people observed UFOs on more than one occasion last year, and were even able to guess with accuracy the time a saucer would be sighted again over the island (the exact hour). But it was believed that they were mistaken. There are a lot of sea-gulls in that region. In any case, Com. Bacellar was so worried about the presence of UFOs around weather balloons launched from the island that, in November 1957, he sent a radio message to the Navy reporting the strange events." Unquote (Rio de Janeiro DIARIO DA NOITE, O JORNAL, etc., February 22, 1958)

Captain Viegas' interview was a tremendous blow for the group who still tried to keep the secrecy about the incident. The press reaction to the Navy's attitude was going to be dangerous unless the policy to deny any connection with the case was changed at once. It was obvious that to forestall any more trouble the Navy had to talk freely about the facts and not try to hide them. As a result, statements of several Navy authorities were released that same day—all of them confirming the sighting and the existence of the photographs. Some of these statements will be transcribed in another part of this report, but one of them will be presented now—for it came from an officer who was aboard the NE 'Almirante Saldanha' when the UAO was sighted.

This officer was Com. Paulo Moreira da Silva, of the Navy's Hydrography and Navigation Service. He was interviewed on February 22 by reporters from the newspapers "O JORNAL" and "DIARIO DA NOITE," releasing the following statement:

"The object sighted in the skies of Trindade was not a weather balloon, neither an American guided missile. I cannot give yet my conclusions, for the data are being analyzed in a secret session at the Navy Ministry. I can tell, however, that the object was not a meteorological balloon—for the one which we had launched that day was released at 7:00 a.m., two hours before the appearance of the object in the sky. This proper altitude. Besides, while the object was encircled by a greenish glow, our balloon was of red color. Also it was not a guided missile from the U. S., because the Island of Trindade is off the route of those rockets; they are launched from Florida in the direction of Ascension Island." Unquote

The reports from other civilian observers aboard the NE "Almirante Saldanha" were also printed in the press. One of them came from Mr. Mauro Andrade, employee of the London Bank of South America, and member of Barauna's group. In an interview published in the newspaper "O GLOBO" (Feb. 22, 1958), he said:

"I didn't witness the sighting because I was inside the ship, not on the deck, when the object was seen. But I can give a list of responsible people who saw it and saw the photographer Barauna take the pictures as well as develop the negatives.

"I don't know how I was tracked by the press. I was startled by the publication of news and photos related with the incident because we had promised—all of us—to keep the whole thing secret.

"I was somewhere inside the ship, was alerted by the shouts, and ran outside to see what was happening. Yet I didn't see the object. But all people I found on deck told me that they had really sighted a flying saucer. I believed them, and my belief was confirmed by the film developed aboard. In fact, I saw a thing on the negatives which looked like a flying saucer, although I cannot be sure if it was really one of them. The film was developed before the eyes of witnesses, and was shown later to every one aboard." Unquote.

The other report came from Mr. Amilar Vieira Filho, president of the Icarai Club for Submarine Hunting, and member of the CACEX Research Division (a Federal Department). He avoided any contact with the press for several days, but was finally interviewed by a reporter from the newspaper "O GLOBO" on February 27. He explained that his attitude was based on two reasons: first, the compromise assumed by the whole delegation of his Club to tell nothing about the strange sighting of January 16, at Trindade; and second, his natural aversion to any kind of publicity. However, after the Navy official release on the matter, and after the interview given by other members of his group, he felt that the silence he had imposed on himself was not justified anymore. He made the following statement:

"First, I want to make it very clear that I don't know if what I saw was really the so-called 'flying saucer.' What I saw, in fact, was an object of grey color and oval in shape when first sighted, which passed over the island and then—emitting a fluorescent light it didn't possess and was gone, vanishing just on the horizon line. Everything happened in just a few seconds, in no more than 20 seconds, and for this reason I cannot give you more details about the curious craft. It looked like an object with polished surface and uniform color. I am sure it was not a balloon, an airplane, or a seagull."

He was not going to tell anything more, but the reporter decided to ask a last question:

"Flying saucer or not, can you tell me if the strange object you sighted was the same registered on Barauna's photos?" After a brief hesitation came the answer:

"As I said before, the thing was too rapid. It was almost impossible for the human vision to fix any detail of the object. Mr. Barauna, however, was operating with a camera of modern type which was able to register those details. Generally speaking, the shape of the object sighted was the same seen on the negatives developed aboard the NE 'Almirante Saldanha.'"

The reports of Captain Viegas, Mauro Andrade, and Amilar Vieira Filho represent additional evidence confirming the story told by Almiro Barauna. They were rechecked with the witnesses and confirmed. They were not denied by the Brazilian Navy. However, two things are still lacking to meet the challenge of the UAO agnostics—the non-believers. One of them is an official release from the Navy confirming the whole thing. The other is a written statement signed by Com. Bacellar, former chief of the Navy Post at Trindade.

These important documents will be presented in the conclusion of this report, together with other additional facts connected with the case.

UAO PHOTOGRAPHED IN VIENNA

The Vienna newspaper Wiener Montag devoted its whole front page to a picture of a glowing white object against a dark background on March 7, and labeled it the "most sensational photograph of our century."

The newspaper photographer Edgar Schedelbauer, snapped the picture on the 2nd of March, over a wooded area in the Styria Province. Schedelbauer said the object moved slowly, then hovered for about 10 seconds. He took several pictures during this time. The newspaper issued a statement that they published the picture only after careful consideration and after experts had checked the negative to determine whether it was a hoax.

The photographer stated that when the object, which disappeared after hovering, left, he heard a sound similar to

Q. What about the Brazil Picture? What was the conclusion of this, and is there any way I can get a picture of this?

g. Analysis of the Brazil picture by ATIC led to the conclusion that it was probably a hoax. ATIC does not have any information as to how the witness who took this picture could be contacted.



Cameraman on International Geophysical Year vessel took this photo at Trindade Isl., Brazil, in 1958.

16 Jan 1958 Trinidade Island
Almirante Saldahana Photos