

INTERVIEWS OF HOSSAIN PEROUZI, AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLER

(Combined interviews of Hossain Pirouzi by two reporters. On the left is information obtained by an Iranian reporter (Petrozian) on Dec. 22, 1976. On the right is information obtained by a British reporter(Scheckler) in January 1977 (exact date not known). Supplementary information was supplied by the reporters to form useable stories for print. The interview/stories are being presented in parallel to facilitate comparison of the accounts given by the same person at different times to different people. Quoted statements are presented in full. Some of the supplementary material has been deleted or shortened. Unfortunately the interview material was not supplied in a question and answer form. Therefore the reader must assume that some modifications of the information were made to make this material read smoothly, in a manner suitable for tabloid publication.)

-PETROZIAN-

Time: 10:30 P.M., Sept. 18, 1976. In the northern part of Tehran an object was hovering 1000 feet above the ground. It didn't belong there.

Control tower of the Mehrabad Airport: night shift supervisor (Pirouzi) was not aware of anything unusual. The radar was blank, since it was under repair.

A woman called and excitedly described a strange airborne object above her house. Perouzi (35 years old; controller for 13 years) asked her to describe it:

"It's kind of difficult," she said , "but the closest thing it looks like is a fan with four blades. Actually I think there are two different objects. Sometimes there is just one of them and then it seems to separate and become two. Could you tell me what it is?" "

Perouzi told the lady not to worry.. he would check. But he didn't. He wasn't interested.

About 10:45 another woman called to report a strange object in the sky. By 11:15 or so there had been two more such calls. All the addresses of the callers were in the same part of the city (northeastern part.)

"By the fourth call I was worried. I took my binoculars and went to the terrace area next to the tower. " He had no difficulty finding the object.

"Suddenly I saw it. It was rectangular in shape, probably seven to eight meters long and about two meters wide. From later observations I made, I would say it was probably cylindrical. The two ends were pulsating with a whitish blue color. Around the mid-section of the cylinder there was this

-SCHECKLER-

Tehran Airport is one of the busiest. It handles 800 or more civil takeoffs and landings a day, many overflights, and also military flights.

"I was on duty from 10 P.M. (Sept 18) to 7:00 A.M. A lady called on the telephone and said, ' I see a strange object, like a sun in the sky, about 1000 meters above me. The colors change through orange , red and yellow. '"

"I told her we didn't have any aircraft in that area. Our radar was not working, but it was out of operation for 24 hours maintenance, so we had nothing on radar either. I told the lady that I would see if anything was in the area and would she please call me again if she saw anything special. I did nothing about it then because I was busy with overflying aircraft and I thought, frankly, that she had been seeing a star. I didn't believe there was anything there . We had no radio contact or anything in the area. After 10 minutes another lady called. I asked her where her house was, and she told me the general area was in the northeast of Tehran, the same as the first person, and she said 'I was walking on the roof of my house with my child and suddenly saw, and I am still seeing now, a strange object, lighting up and changing direction and sometimes dividing into two and joining together again. I began to think, I began to wonder what was* It was now 11 P.M., about 10 minutes after the lady first called. She said 'I can still see it and I am sure it is not a star, and it is definitely something not an aircraft. It looks like the sun. ' "

"I had three trainees on duty with me and asked them if they could see anything. They couldn't. Then came a third call, this time

*happening over there."

small red light that kept going around in a circle. It reminded me of the flashing light of an ambulance, but this one was not flashing. The circular motion of the red light was not continuous. Every 90 degrees or so it it paused just for a fraction of a second. I would say it took about a second or two to make a full circle." Perouzi could see that the object oscillated like a see-saw with the two ends describing 20 degree arcs.

"I was amazed. Flabbergasted. I didn't know what to think. There definitely was a very strange object there in the sky right over Tehran. I could see the details I've described only through the binoculars. To the naked eye, from the distance I was at, it looked like a very large star low in the sky, but without the twinkle, of course. I watched it in this position for a total of perhaps five minutes. And then it disappeared. I swept the sky with my binoculars until I located an object about two miles further south. I'm sure it was the same object but this time it looked different. It was a circle of blue color...probably six meters in diameter. I was able to observe it for about three minutes before it too disappeared. But this time it was easy to locate. It was only slightly further south and a little higher. Once again it was a different shape. It looked like a fan with sometimes three, sometimes four drooping and tapered blades. The blade sections were not clearly outlined. They were fuzzy. There were dark orange near the hub, gradually dissolving to yellow at the tips. The hub itself was made up of two concentric areas of color. There seemed to be a large green surface, and then a smaller core which glowed like a piece of red hot coal."

Perouzi's colleagues came out on the terrace and looked. all but one agreed on the general shapes described. One said it looked like an orange-red horse-shoe with the space in between a blue color.

from a man also living in northeast Tehran, and he said 'I'm sure I'm seeing an object that is not an aircraft. What is it?' This is five minutes later. I was busy for another 10 minutes with traffic. Then one of the trainees got another telephone call which said, almost like the others, that her husband had seen the object. 'We don't know what it is. Can you tell us whether it is an aircraft or not?' (BSM note: time now about 11:15 P.M.)

"I reassured her 'You can be sure it is nothing coming against you, but I will report it. Call me again if you see anything'. Then I really wondered what was going on. We had four callers, all from the same area, and they were worried about what was happening so I went out onto the terrace with my binoculars. First I focussed them carefully on the tail of an aircraft parked on the ground, so I could read the registration letters. When I was sure there were focused properly I then changed them to look towards the area of northeast Tehran very carefully."

"After about five minutes I saw the object, a rectangular shape about five miles away at a height of about 6000 feet and north-east of my tower. The right end was blue, the left end was blue, and in the middle was a flashing red light. The object was seesawing up and down and moving toward the north very very slowly. Suddenly, it appeared at another position one mile further on. In other words, it was travelling slowly north, then momentarily disappearing, then suddenly reappearing one mile further or just a few seconds later."

"Just a few seconds later, one mile from where it had been. I could see it this time as bright as a sun. It was all yellow, like a star, but much bigger. Then it appeared to me to be like a starfish."

"I can't be sure of the order of the colors but there were blue, orange, red and yellow lights. I gave the binoculars to one of the others on duty and they saw the object as a half-circle, in the same colors, blue orange, red, and yellow."

Perouzi did not agree with the other descriptions. He saw the object change shape so often, no single description would suffice. Initially it was a "cylinder" with a blue base and top, then a blue disc about six meters in diameter, then a fan-like object, and later on a "cylinder" on its side with the top left corner curved instead of angled.

While stationary the UFO rhythmically glowed, oscillated and emitted lights that rotated around it. Every few minutes it would change positions, seemingly disappearing from the observers at the control tower, and almost instantaneously reappearing at another spot in the sky, miles away.

It was past midnight and Perouzi called the Air Force. He told one of the deputy commanders , a general, about the object he and his colleagues had seen and about its strange behaviour. The general told him to hang on the line while he went up to the roof of his north Tehran house to have a look himself. When back on the line he said 'Yes, I confirm it. There is something there.'

An F-4 Phantom jet was scrambled from Shahroki airbase south of Tehran around 1:00 A.M. In 15 minutes it was over the Mehrabad Airport in west Tehran. "O.K., what can I do for you?" said the pilot.

Through Perouzi the General gave orders to the pilot to head 10 o'clock*and investigate an unidentified object flying at 12,000 feet. The pilot reported "Yes I can see it. Are you sure you don't have an aircraft there?"

Perouzi said there was no airport radar and that there was no question of the object being an ordinary aircraft. But the pilot could now see the object on his own radar screen.

"I ordered the pilot to approach the object and recognize it, but not to take any action."

*Note: presumably this means for the pilot to turn 60° to his left.

"We had no aircraft expected to land although around this time several aircraft were due to cross into our flight information area

They started to report by radio that they could hear emergency signals coming from an automatic aircraft distress transmitter. The first report in was a BOAC, who called and said ' Do you have any crashed aircraft in your area? We are receiving an automatic signal on 121.12 megacycles.' We said we had no crashed aircraft of missing in the area, nor had we any that had made a forced landing."

"Then a Swissair, a Lufthansa, and an Iran Airlines plane all reported hearing the emergency signal. I decided to report the whole thing to the Air Force because, by now, I was really getting worried."

"At 0030 local time (12:30 A.M.) I reported to the Air Force. I told them I was sure that all the aircraft in our area had either landed or were overflying safely. And I told them ' I can see this UFO to the northeast of us at 6000 feet, and it is changing positions and its color is changing. I am sure it is not a star or an aircraft! I told them we didn't have anything on radar because our radar was inoperative, but visually I could see the object. It was my duty to report to them what I have seen and I asked them ' What is your decision?' "

"The officer on duty called (Brig.) General Youssefi, who was the senior officer responsible on duty, and the general himself called me.

He went out onto the porch of his house and on the telephone he said to me 'Yes, I see can see something. It isn't a star.' So he ordered one of the Phantom jets on standby at Hamadon, 200 miles away, to scramble (note: Shahroki Air Base is near Hamadon). This was about 10 minutes flight time away . One took off and arrived over Tehran at 0100 (1:00 A.M.) and came under my control. The pilot reported he was over Tehran and I gave him radio instructions. At this time the object was at about 15,000 feet."

" I was getting instructions from Gen. Youssefi and passing them on to the pilot on radio. I told him to go higher, and he

"But when the pilot got to within about 15 miles of the UFO his communication system and some of the electronic equipment went out of action. Then, with the plane still on course, the object suddenly disappeared. When the pilot had his radar operating again the UFO was now 50 miles away."

The jet followed the UFO toward the Afghanistan border, but could get no closer than 50 miles, although flying at twice the speed of sound. The pilot was afraid of overflying the border so he turned back toward Tehran. While he was still 170 miles from Tehran the UFO appeared over the city again, over the suburb of Rey in the southeast of Tehran. Sometime during this period the pilot was ordered to shoot down the the UFO with a missile, but when he got within firing range he could not activate the firing system. Running short of fuel the pilot radioed for another jet. The two jets communicated by radio, and the second Phantom took over the chase. The following account is based on what the second pilot told Perouzi after it was all over:

(continued on the next page
for comparison with the right
hand column)

said 'Yes, yes, I can see it. Are you sure it is not an aircraft? What is the order? What can I do if I reach it?' "

"I told him 'Get close, describe its shape and do no more.' On the radio he replied 'Okay, I will follow.' A few minutes later he reported passing the speed of Mach 2 and radioed 'I'm going Mach 2 and I'm 50 miles behind the object. I can't catch him. Its no use to follow any more. I can't catch him.'"

"He described the object as rectangular shaped, more like a star. The object was going faster than Mach 2 and I, at this time, was in contact with the pilot on UHF radio. I ordered him to return towards the Tehran base. He turned back. By this time he was heading toward the border with Afganistan. When he was about 150 miles away, still coming back toward me, the object suddenly appeared over Tehran. It had beaten him back and was now ahead of the Phantom jet fighter. The pilot radioed, 'I can see the object ahead of me, the same shape as before'. "

"At this time the pilot was about 14 miles away from the tower, and reported that every time he came close to the object it affected his radio and all his instruments. He radioed me, 'My navigation aids are not working', and he asked 'What was that emergency call?' I told him that four planes had already heard the emergency call, and he said, 'Yes, I am getting some emergency signals now.'"

"But every time he got close to the object his navigation aids went out, his radio went dead, but his engines were working normally, the lights on the instrument panel were working, all his navigation aids were out, and; at one point as he was talking to me, his radio went dead completely as he got close to the object."

"I ordered him to close again and said, 'Maybe you can recognize him better,' so he came within 20 miles of the object again, and this time he lost all his navigation aids again, this involved all the electronic equipment aboard the aircraft."

(continued from previous page)

"When I first went towards it, it suddenly shifted to the right. As I changed course it kept shifting positions. We went around like this for a full 70 degrees. It was obvious to me that this thing was very very powerful and could do anything. When it was obvious to it that I meant to continue following, the UFO ejected a luminous object at me. That's when I headed straight back for Mehrabad Airport."

From the control tower Perouzi and the others saw the bright object detaching itself from the larger bright object ("mother UFO") and approaching the Phantom. To Perouzi it appeared to be three times the size of the full moon. On the radio the pilot was saying ; "I'm coming back. It's about 20 miles behind. It's following me. Oh! Now..." And the radio went dead.

As the plane went "screaming" over the control tower Pirouzi and the others say they saw a dark rectangular form almost sitting on top of the jet. That was when radio communication with the pilot had been cut off in mid-sentence. When the plane was over Saveh, some distance south of Tehran, communications were restored. .

The pilot reported "It overtook me and my radio went dead. I couldn't even communicate with my copilot."

A little later the pilot reported "They're back together again. They're hovering next to each other, almost like talking with each other. Now they've reunited."

"Finally he said he would have to come to base because his navigation aids were gone and his fuel was running short. When he turned for base the object was about 15 miles from me and at about 12,000 feet. By now a second jet had been scrambled by the Air Force and the pilot called the second plane on the radio and said, 'You go back to base...I'll follow the object.'"

"I told the first pilot, 'Ask him, can you see the object?' The second pilot, who was still 100 miles away, said 'Yes, I can see the object.' This was visual."

"The second plane then got within 25-30 miles of the object and reported, suddenly, 'I've lost all my navigation aids. My needles are fluctuating. I cannot get near the object. I can't get close because I've lost every aid I've got. What can I do?' "

"General Youssefi ordered him to remain over Tehran, orbiting at 15,000 feet. At this time the object was below him. The general could hear all our radio conversations and I was passing on his orders. Then the second pilot reported 'I can see his lights. He keeps changing his position very fast indeed. I cannot follow the path of the object. I can see his position but I cannot follow his track. He appears here, suddenly he appears there, and I can't track him.'

"We could all see the object with the naked eye."

"This pilot decided to come back to land, but when the object was about 10 miles away, he radioed ' It has divided into two and an illuminated object has separated and is following me.' "He reported on the radio, ' It keeps coming towards me.' He swung the jet around in a tight turn and the light followed him, and as they swept over the tower at Tehran the light which was chasing him by now was 500 feet above and just behind him. I saw this light for the first time, though only for a few seconds. Then the pilot reported that the light had come back and was stopped only one or two meters from the main object , and he reported, 'They now appear to be discussing together.'"

"This was 15 miles from the control tower. Then the pilot radioed, 'Now they have joined together.'"

"The Phantom jet pilot (thought)

it was too dangerous to go any closer and decided he would come in to land. He also

Perouzi said that from the ground the second luminous object had been visible only when it was separated from the original object and in the initial stages of the chase. Thereafter he was able to notice only the dark, 2 x 2 meter, rectangular form above the passing Phantom.

The Phantom climbed to 50,000 feet and again approached the UFO. Then he changed his mind and radioed, "It's too dangerous. I'm returning."

While descending he radioed "The luminous object is separating again...it's descending. It has landed by the refinery (the oil refinery near the suburb of Rey). It has such a strong light I can see almost everything on the ground for two miles around."

Perouzi and the others also saw the descent from the tower. But the buildings hid the landing spot from view. They could see a glow in the sky near the refinery.

He gave a quick briefing to the general who was still on the phone. The general ordered the pilot to go to 6000 feet, midway between the object on the ground and the "mother" object above. But again, when the pilot got within 15 miles of the UFO he lost all his navigational aids. This second pilot was also ordered to try to shoot down the UFO, but he also could not activate his firing system. Since he was running short of fuel he was ordered to return to base. The time now was close to 4:00 A.M. The light on the ground was no longer visible, and the sky was clear of all flying objects except the original UFO. It climbed upward and eventually disappeared from view.

reported that every time he got close his navigation and all his electronic systems went crazy. Then he radioed, "Oh! The illuminated object has separated again and is coming toward the ground. Now he is settling on the ground. Can you see him?"

"I couldn't see him because we didn't have enough height from the tower, but the pilot radioed that the object had settled on the ground southeast of Tehran near a place called Rey, and he radioed, 'The main object is orbiting slowly over the illuminated object on the ground. It is so bright I can see stones on the ground. It is like daytime.'"

"The pilot did not try to fire on it, but their navigation systems went out of action every time they got close. There was strong interference on the radio and they heard these emergency signals which were false. They couldn't get locked onto the object at all. Their radar was not working when they got close, even though all indications were aboard the aircraft that their radar was working. The screens just went blank. The distance was 15 to 20 miles, where his navigation aids failed. The second pilot reported that sometimes it was ten miles and sometimes as much as 35 miles away from the UFO when his systems went haywire."

"Both pilots said when they landed that it seemed as though the object could appear or disappear just as they liked, and could judge in advance what they were going to do. One told me, 'It was as though they could read my mind.'"

"One pilot told me, 'It was as if the object was very wise and didn't want to hurt me. When I got close, it went away and moved about as if telling me, 'Go away, don't bother me.'"

The UFO finally disappeared shortly after 4:00 A.M. local time.

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Transcript of a conversation between John Cathcart (reporter)
and Lt. Gen. Azarbarzin, deputy commander-in-chief of operation of the
Imperial Iranian Air Force; headquarters in Tehran, Iran

Date: Jan 4, 1977

- Q: The story we have indicates that two jets were scrambled after a UFO---
is that true?
- A. That is true. They both were scrambled and they locked on the target but they
received a very strong jamming. And then they lost almost every avionics
system they had on the airplane.
- Q. Is it true that they were unable to fire their missile?
- A. No, they could not because they had very strong jamming.
- Q. Jamming...some jamming you obviously couldn't find a reason for?
- A. No, we couldn't because that happened to three different airplanes.
We had two fighters...that happened to both of them...and one airliner which
was flying in the area at the same time.
- Q. Right. The equipment on the airliner was also jammed?
- A. Well, yes, it was jammed. Of course they only had radio.
- Q. Was the order given to the fighters to shoot and...
- A. No, no. We have not given that instruction. We asked the pilot...he
said 'I have everything locked on, but when I reached the firing range
the whole system went out.' That means the fire control, radio, navaid (?),
even the interphone...the intercom.
- Q. On the airplane?
- A. Yes.
- Q. But where you say the firing mechanism was jammed the.....
- A. It was in the range of 15 to 20 miles....
- Q. Right. But the firing equipment that would have fired the missile was jammed?
- A. Yes, it was jammed.
- Q. But the order was not given to fire?
- A. No, it was not given.
- Q. If the system hadn't been jammed, might the order have been given to fire the
missiles?
- A. No, no, no. Why? Why should we? You do that in the States?
- Q. No...
- A. It was harmless. No reason to shoot at them. We wanted to get as close as we could.
- Q. Have you come up with any information as to what the UFOs were?
- A. Uh, well, of course we pass all the information to the U.S. Air Force, but
no, we don't know yet.
- Q. But as far as you're concerned they are still unidentified flying objects?
- A. It was unidentified, definitely it was. Because we had six witnesses.
- Q. Yes, we had some comments from the men in the control tower.
- A. Well, in addition to the control tower we had four crews that they have reported
and of course one of the general officers.
- Q. When you say four crews, Sir, what do you mean by four crews?
- A. Well, there were two f-4's. Two Phantoms and each one of them had two crews
(crewmen).
- Q. So you had four "crews" all together.
- A. Yes.
- Q. And these crews have reported the object as the same as reported by the
people on the ground?

++ This is a copy of Cathcart's transcript, with very minor editing to clarify
some "typos" and condense the transcript from double to single space.
Sentence construction and "poor English" have been retained as in the original.

A. Yes.

Q. Are you planning to take any further action?

A. No, no....we do not but we have...all we have done we have given all the information....of course that was the request from the U.S. We have given all this information to our MAG(?) *I think they send it to the organization in the States and...we haven't done anything since that time.

Q. You mean you passed the information to the United States Air Force?

A. Yes.

Q. They requested it, did they?

A. Well, actually, they have this procedure if we have some information on UFO we're just exchanging all this information and we did it.

Q. Right. As far as you are concerned, Sir, this incident is extremely strange and unexplainable, is it?

A. It is. I can say it is because we found out, this technology they were using for jamming was something we haven't had before and we don't have it. It doesn't exist because it was a very wide band and this jammer could jam different bands, different frequencies at the same time. It's very unusual.

Q. Have you seen reports or spoken to the crews involved yourself?

A. Ahhh...I have interview with them and I have talked with them.

Q. And you obviously believe what they say because they are experienced pilots?

A. Yes. Yes, we could believe them. There is no doubt. There is no doubt.

Q. Apparently at one period the UFOs went out as far as the Afghan border?

A. Uh...where?

Q. Apparently one of the fighter planes had to follow the UFO almost to the Afghanistan border?

A. No, no, no, we didn't. This was only in the vicinity of Tehran. And it went to westbound instead of east. Afghanistan is on the east.

Q. Do you know what heights the pilots went up to?

A. That I don't have all the details.

Q. We understand he was about 50,000 feet....is that seem reasonable?

A. That might be but I can't say definitely. But according to the pilots' report they said they were about 30...35,000 feet high. Since they were 20,000 feet high (?) that might be 45,000 feet.

Q. But as far as you were concerned, we had one report there was an order went out to fire the missiles but you say in fact that wasn't true?

A. Oh, no. Why should we?

Q. They were posing no danger to anybody??

A. No, why should they? And actually since it was unknown we just wanted to identify it, so we did.

Q. But so far you haven't been able to identify these UFOs and as far as you're concerned they go down as unexplainable?

A. No, that's true. But I think if you get the report from our military attache, it would give you more information and more detail. So we're trying to send this information to (military attache)....

Q. This is an extremely interesting story, General. It's one of the most bizarre...

A. I think so. This was the first time actually we had....we were trying to intercept that....

Q. What were you hoping the planes would be able to do when they went up?

A. Well, we just wanted to see....we didn't know if it was a UFO at the beginning. But then later on we just wanted to get as close as we could to get more information.

Q. But no intention to destroy the UFO?

A. No, no.

*MAG should be MAAG: Military Assistance and Advisory Group (made up of US AF officers)

- Q. Were you a skeptic yourself before now....has your attitude changed somewhat to these objects or is it just a daily occurrence to you?
- A. I don't understand you.
- Q. What I'm saying is, you know, obviously as a general were you previously skeptical about the reports of UFOs and strange vehicles, are you now, have you changed your mind somewhat?
- A. No, we haven't changed our mind yet. But we know there is something and we have seen even the shape because according to the report from one of our pilots who was almost crossing under the UFO he explained the shape of the cockpit and the kind of lighting and all these things.
- Q. Apparently the shape and the objects were nothing like any airplane known to us anywhere?
- A. No. It was quite circled and just like a saucer, and the shape of the cockpit was a ball...half a ball, and then the color of the lighting the cockpit was different with what it had on the outside. It was,
- Q. Nothing like any vehicle we have up in the sky? close to yellow.
- A. No, no, no. Not at all.
- Q. I'm understand that at times the UFOs were extremely more fast, had more speed than the Phantomms themselves?
- A. Oh, yeah. We were estimating 3 Mach.
- Q. 3 Machs? How fast is the Phantom capable of?
- A. Well, it depends upon the targets...
- Q. But certainly not 3 Mach..
- A. ...and the configurations ...
- Q. ...certainly not 3 Mach, though?
- A. No, no it's not. But it's ...the way we saw it it could go faster. It could go faster. This is what we estimated and calculated.
- Q. Have you spoken to any of the people on the control tower?
- A. Well, they were not the only ones. They did inform the Air Force and various senior officers in the air force, they have reported they have seen the object.
- Q. But as far as you're concerned, you're conducting no further investigation?
- A. No.
- Q. After having chased these objects with your jets , General, do you now intend to keep any special watch on them, jets on alert for this sort of thing or...
- A. Well, we don't know if we saw it again we might try.
- Q. I mean, try to find out much more about these objects or...
- A. We want to get as much information as we could.
- Q. But were you unable to gather much information this time other than the shape, speed, etc.?
- A. Well, this is all we got this time. And what I can add actually was very fast acceleration, especially when going from zero speed maybe to Mach 3. Pretty fast. And this is something you don't find in any other flying object...
- Q. There was also one report of a very bright object apparently falling from one of the UFOs into some of the hills below Tehran there and there had been a search by the gendarmerie. Was there any truth to that or was anything found?
- A. Well, that I cannot answer at the moment because I don't have the file. I'd have to look in the file . So, these are the things we're sending to our military attache....I don't have that information on here right now.
- Q. But if something had been found ; presumably you would know about it?
- A. Well, we have mentioned something in that report. But we haven't found anything.
- Q. You haven't found anything?
- A. No.