

1954

over Minas Gerais NOV. 21

BRAZIL

In-air near-miss  
(file as CE1)

Case 59, Rio De Janiero, Brazil, Nov. 22, 1954) Saucer events happening in South America are not carried by our newswires, so we got this one from Harold Fulton in New Zealand who got it from the Daily Sketch in England. "The pilot of a Brazilian airliner reported a fleet of 19 saucer-shaped objects, that flew at tremendous speed, less than 300 ft. from his plane. His passengers panicked. Members of the crew had to act 'most violently' to overcome their fears..." CRIFO, 3-55, P. 3.

So much for tin. You wanted information about an incident involving a Brazilian airliner and a formation of UFOs. The case is not fictitious, it really happened. The date was November 21, 1954. The "Douglas" PP-ANM from the "National Airlines" was flying from Belo Horizonte, state of Minas Gerais, toward Rio de Janeiro. Good visibility. Blue sky above the airliner and some clouds below. The plane was at 9,000 feet, flying over the Paraíba Valley near the town of Paraíba do Sul, when the copilot saw the UFOs. The time was 11:30 a.m. Commander Armando Braulino (copilot), Commander Pedro Luiz Teixeira (pilot), Mr. Vicente B. Marques (steward) and José E. Caldeira (radio-operator) were the chief witnesses. The UFO formation came from the northeast flying at 7,200 feet, passed just below the airliner at high speed, and disappeared toward the southwest apparently in the direction of a town called Rezende. The plane was moving on a N-S direction and the UFO formation crossed just under it. The objects did not rotate, seemed to be of aluminum (or a similar metal) and—under the sunlight—showed a bright, polished surface. They were shaped like disks with a kind of cupola (or dome) on top. They might be compared (in shape) to a soldier helmet with a large rim around the convex part. There was a larger one at the center of the formation—"the squadron chief"—and the others were grouped around it at close distance. The whole formation was about 120 feet in diameter and each object measured approximately 15 feet (in diameter). There was a strange bluish glow around each UFO and around the whole formation—this phenomenon (according to the copilot) might be a result of the high velocity of the objects, plus reflection of sunlight (?). The UFOs showed no propellers, jet-tubes, wings, tail or protruding fins. They were unlike anything known—true alien craft. Their trajectory was regular. Some passengers came to the airliner windows still in time to watch the fleet of 15 disk-shaped objects, but others came too late and saw nothing. The sighting lasted about 40 or 50 seconds. It was said that the passengers panicked, but the pilot (talking to the press) dismissed this version as false. He explained that only a few passengers might have seen the UFOs—the scene was too rapid. Those few were, of course, scared—but not the others, the majority. There was no need to act violently to control their panic (he said), because there was no hysteria. On the other side, the passengers refused to comment on the question. Maybe they did not want to confess their fear, maybe the pilot was telling the truth. I don't know. Anyway, the case is excellent. The sighting was immediately reported by radio and there was also a written report—requested by Colonel Adil de Oliveira. FONTES LETTER OF 11/23/58 TO ADMEBANE