

1955: Sechura Desert,
Peru

probably a
CEI at closest
approach.

2 military witnesses
(fairly elite)

APRO
Interview by
Richard Greenwell on
other side of
Following...

31 January. Sechura Desert, Peru. (2:00 a.m. or 3:00 a.m.)

Guillermo Serpa, Commander Peruvian Air Force.

Interview by APRO-Peru:

“APRO: ‘Your full name please?’

Serpa: ‘Guillermo Serpa, Commander Peruvian Air Force, retired.’

“APRO: ‘When did you retire?’

Serpa: ‘Six months ago.’

APRO: ‘When did you enter the service?’

Serpa: ‘In 1943.’

APRO: ‘Your age?’

Serpa: ‘43 years. I enrolled in the Officer’s Academy as a cadet, spent two years in the United States...’

APRO: ‘What part?’

Serpa: ‘Texas. I took special training at Corpus Christi.’

APRO: ‘Do you know the exact date of your observation?’

Serpa: ‘The night of January 31st, 1955.’

APRO: ‘Location?’

Serpa: ‘The Sechura Desert. I was with Colonel Juan Rodriguez Cavero.’

APRO: ‘How can I contact this officer?’

Serpa: ‘He is currently in service with the Chief of Staff’s office in the Air Ministry.’

APRO: ‘So, what happened?’

Serpa: ‘Well, we had been on vacation and were returning to duty. Our base was the Fiura Air Force Base, and we were crossing the desert to get to it. It must have been about 2 or 3 in the morning, I don’t remember the exact time. We had been driving all day and night, had had some trouble with the car and were quite tired.’

APRO: ‘It was a clear night?’

Serpa: ‘Completely.’

APRO: ‘And there was only sand?’

Serpa: ‘There was just the road ahead of us, and the sand.’

APRO: ‘There is a good road there?’

Serpa: ‘Of course, the Pan American Highway. We talked to each other in order not to fall asleep. During the conversation, flying saucers came up and I said something about what if we saw one now. Suddenly, we did see a bright object at about 25 degrees elevation. We could not determine its distance as it was night and there was no reference points. It was stationary at about 45 degrees to our right. When I saw it I said ‘Look, a flying saucer!’ But he answered ‘No, I don’t believe in those things.’ But gradually as we were coming abreast of it he slowed down and we watched it.

APRO: ‘Did the car suffer any electrical disturbances?’

Serpa: ‘No. We turned off the engine ourselves. But we left the lights on. Later, Colonel Rodriguez turned off the lights of the car and at that moment the disk inclined itself at about 45 degrees so that its surface was visible.’

APRO: ‘What could you see then? Were there any structural details visible?’

Serpa: ‘Well, it wasn’t that close to be able to distinguish that. Instead of seeing it from the side we saw it as more circular, seen from the top.

APRO: ‘But could you see the dome on top?’

Serpa: ‘Well, I wasn’t able to notice then...but when it did this, it changed from a stationary position to a fantastic speed and seemed to be coming right towards us. We immediately panicked. We thought that the object was coming right for us and had intentions which...well, we couldn’t know.’

APRO: ‘How far did it come?’

Serpa: 'Well, we didn't notice. We went into first gear and sped off fast...'

APRO: 'But you must have seen at what elevation it was when it approached?'

Serpa: 'We saw it coming towards us, up above us. We drove away and didn't see it again. On the way back I said we should look in the morning's papers to see if someone had seen a flying saucer that day. It was the first thing we did the next day and sure enough someone in Arequipa had seen one. We thought it was probably the same object that had traveled across the country.'

APRO: 'Did the paper give a description of the object seen in Arequipa?'

Serpa: 'No, it was just a strange light. We reached our base at about dawn. All the officers were sleeping. I suggested to Colonel Rodriguez we waken some of our friends in order to take them out to see the phenomena, so they would not think we were lying. They would probably not believe us when we told them and would think we were crazy and continually bother us about it. However, we took this risk and told them all about it.'

APRO: 'How did they take it?'

Serpa: 'Well, some of them took it sort of skeptically, but frankly we don't care if people believe us or not. We know what we saw.'

APRO: 'What do you think you saw?'

Serpa: 'Well, we saw a strange object which, at that time, could not have been constructed by man. We had jet planes at that time but the fastest they went was about 1,200 kilometers per hour. The movements that this object performed were much, much faster.'

APRO: 'How long did the observation last?'

Serpa: 'It was a long time. I can't rightly remember now...maybe 20 minutes maybe more. But it was quite a while. The strange thing was that out there in the middle of the desert, well..there's just nothing there. Nobody lives there. There could be no light source to account for the brilliance of the object we were watching.'

APRO: 'What was the temperature like? Was it hot?'

Serpa: 'It was normal. It might get quite hot in the day but at night its always cool. I would like to say that we saw a vehicle that was controlled by intelligent minds, a vehicle that does not fall within the human technology of that time. It was impossible for us to have made a mistake in what we saw. After all, We were pilots of some experience...'

APRO: 'What sort of planes have you flown?'

Serpa: 'A wide variety of planes. Just about everything our Air Force has had.'

Serpa: [Serpa continued without waiting for a question] 'We then started to discuss what it was we were seeing, to be sure of what we were seeing. We didn't want to have any doubts. The shape of the object was that of two dishes stuck together with a sort of dome on top. It appeared to be about twenty centimeters in size...'

APRO: 'At arm's length?'

Serpa: 'More or less.'

APRO: 'And it had a dome on top?'

Serpa: 'Well, what I could see was a bright object, about two centimeters thick, at arm's length, with a sort of, of bigger part in the center.'

APRO: 'Was it all the same color, or did this center part have another color?'

Serpa: "No, I saw it all of the same color. It was of a bright orange color. Later, when it began moving, it changed color. It began moving downwards, then up again, then down and so forth; it did this on its own axis, as if it were an elevator. Every time it made a movement downwards or upwards it changed color and gave the impression that it got brighter when it was at maximum velocity. It gave off bright rays like...like you see around the planet Venus. You know when the planet Venus has these bright rays around it?"

APRO: "Do you remember the color changes corresponding to the different speeds?"

Serpa: "Yes. When it was motionless it had a dull orange color, almost red. As it gained speed it would get brighter, brighter, until it was just a plain bright white."

APRO: "White?"

Serpa: "Yes, bright white and giving off these rays of light."

APRO: "When it was bright like this, could you see it clearly?"

Serpa: "No, as it got brighter it became more difficult to define the form. These rays became more intense and it seemed to change form. I could also hear a strange...something...like something metal...a sort of clicking..."

APRO: "What could you compare this noise with?"

Serpa: "Well, I've never heard it again so...its not a buzz...it's a strange noise... like a click, click, click. Of course, the sound carried because out in the desert, I mean we were the only people for many miles..."

APRO: "Were you afraid?"

Serpa: "Well, we started talking between ourselves to make sure that we were not seeing an illusion. We would ask each other like: "are you sure of what you are seeing? Do you think that the object could be of man's creation, in accordance with the present state of science?" He would answer no, he didn't believe so, and I said the same thing. I would have liked to have been near the base at that time to call out the other officers, but we were still about 200 kilometers away."

APRO: "When the object descended, what elevation did it have? What was the lowest it got? It didn't land?"

Serpa: "No, no. It would come down to about five degrees and would rise again to about 20 or 25 degrees."

APRO: "What distance do you think you were from the object, taking into consideration the size you saw it at?"

Serpa: "Well, I couldn't really tell because out in the desert at night there are no references like trees."

APRO: "Was there a Moon that night?"

Serpa: "I don't remember."

APRO: "And jet planes?"

Serpa: "Well, I've flown in the T-33 but as a passenger. I'm too old for jets!"

APRO: "And Colonel Rodriguez?"

Serpa: "He is a very experienced pilot."

APRO: "Did you inform the Base Commander?"

Serpa: "Yes, we told the Commander and all the officers."

“APRO: ‘Did you believe in the so-called flying saucers before your experience?’

Serpa: ‘No, not really.’

APRO: ‘It was your observation that made you change your mind?’

Serpa: ‘Yes.’

APRO: ‘Do you know other officers who have observed such phenomena?’

Serpa: ‘Only Colonel Rodriguez. But then there was another time I saw a strange light that I think was a flying saucer. I was with Major German Alvarado in the town of Huanta and as we were watching the stars (that night there was no clouds) I noticed a strange bright star near the constellation of Orion. After a few seconds it moved away at a fantastic speed and disappeared after a few seconds. It could not have been a satellite. The next day it appeared in the papers that communications in Huancayo had been disturbed as a strange light had passed overhead. This was three or four years ago [1964-65].’ (xx.)

- (xx.) “Report on the Observation by Commander Serpa.” By Richard Greenwell, APRO-Peru. “The Sechura Desert Peru 55-1-31.” APRO files. Greenwell added these comments, for APRO headquarters’ benefit, to the report: “I was put into contact with Commander Serpa by Major Alvarado. The interview with Commander Serpa took place on October 5, 1967. On June 24, 1967, I sent you the report from *El Comercio* dated July 15, 1964, covering this observation. I intend to interview Colonel Rodriguez and send his report together with this one.” (I never found the Rodriguez interview in APRO files, if it indeed did take place—L.E. Gross)
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