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"THE GEOGRAPHICAL MIGRATION OF UFO WAVES: A 10-YEAR CYCLE?"

by

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This paper plots the geographical route or track apparently taken by UFO waves occurring between 1950-1979. Since some of these waves were sometimes diffused over a wide area or they may have occurred but were not recorded (such as would have been the case if they occurred over the oceans or where UFO sightings are usually not documented, e.g., over the Sahara or the Amazonian basin), then, by making due allowances for these problems, the hypothetical routes have been plotted for the known, unknown, and probable ufo waves. The results thus obtained seem to suggest that the waves migrate geographically northwards in the Western Hemisphere for 6 years, and then progressed southwards in the Eastern Hemisphere for another 4 years, thereby completing a cycle of 10 years. It should be emphasized here that we shall be talking about Earth-years.

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The chronological distribution of UFO reports shows periodicities in both diurnal (Vallee and Poher: 1975) and weekly (Saunders: 1971) manifestations. While these non-uniform occurrences of the UFO phenomenon continue to be reported even today, the overall pattern appears to be remarkably constant insofar as the phenomenon sometimes bunches. This feature has led some workers to postulate that the stimulus of the various UFO waves is a problem for psychologists (1).

Saunders (2) has demonstrated that negatively-skewed UFO waves progressed longitudinally eastwards, while Dutton (1978 BUFORA Conference) has found that UFO sightings tend to peak along certain great circles of the Earth. Although these findings argued in favour of an "extra-solar co-ordinate" evidence is now to hand suggesting that the waves tend to migrate geographically northwards in the Western Hemisphere and southwards in the Eastern Hemisphere. This evidence also confirms the earlier work by Delair (3), which differentiated two categories of waves, namely major waves occurring approximately every 10 years (which he christened TYPE A waves) and lesser waves occurring every 4 or 6 years (which were termed TYPE B waves).

In order to plot the imaginary or hypothetical track taken by the waves, we have to make one basic assumption: i.e., no major waves occurred more than once per year. The minimum observed period between two known waves of about one year appears, therefore, to support this assumption.

The problem encountered in plotting the locations of specific waves derives from a) the existence of waves that diffuse over a wide area, such as the 1950 wave, and those with two fronts, such as the 1968 wave (4, 5) which started in South America but later manifested in Spain; and b) the occurrence of years in which no major UFO wave is recorded. The problem is overcome for a) by taking the area or locale suspected as being the most likely one, and this we will call a "probable wave". For cases associated with problem b) it has been assumed that one or more waves occurred (but remained undocumented) between two known wave epicentres, e.g., a 1953 wave would have occurred in the Newfoundland-Western Atlantic region between the 1952 Eastern USA and the 1954 Western Europe waves.

Such cases we refer to as "unknowns", as we can never be sure whether there is a wave or not over the area in question. In this instance, all our "unknowns" fall over the oceans or the polar regions.

The waves occurring between 1950-1979 are listed in Table I. In the first column of this table we list 14 waves for which documentation exists. This provides a reliable platform against which to plot the locations of the waves. In column 2 we list the "probable" waves, and in column 3 the "unknown" waves.

These lists permit us to plot the geographical progression of the known, probable, and unknown waves. It is soon seen that the imaginary track joining the locations of individual waves returns to the same geographical region approximately every 10 years, thus suggesting that there is probably a type of heliocentric migratory route round the Earth. The English wave of 1967, for example, is repeated in 1977 --- when a 10-year cycle is completed. Figures 1a, 1b, and 1c show the temporal progression of the imaginary track for the periods 1950-1960, 1961-1972, and 1972-1979 respectively, this last being, of course, an uncompleted 10-year cycle.

A difficulty associated with this somewhat monotonous cycle lies in the fact that in order to explain the migration of the waves from Newfoundland and the adjacent North Atlantic in 1953 to Western Europe in 1954, and then their possible return to the same region (i.e., over Britain) in 1956, the track followed by the waves must execute an imaginary loop over the Northern Hemisphere. This situation arises again for the periods 1967-1968 and 1977-1978. Rather surprisingly, this problem apparently does not arise in the Southern Hemisphere. Figure 2 represents this imaginary loop over the Northern Hemisphere before the cross-over into the Eastern Hemisphere.

Further support for the apparent reality of these routes is provided in Figure 3, which shows the cross-over initiated in 1945-1947 was too far North above 60 degrees latitude, resulting in the southwards swing overshooting the International Date Line and hence striking the western USA to usher in the modern era of "flying saucers" as epitomised by Kenneth Arnold's classic sighting and the accompanying blizzard of New World reports comprising the now famous 1947 ufo wave. It is noteworthy that in the 1948 era, the route is back over the mid-Pacific and that it closely approaches the tip of South Africa, before proceeding onwards to form (or join) the 1950 route traceable over South America.

It was decided to check the 10-year cycle for HISTORICAL-era dating of waves falling into the period 1896-1945, where waves are known to have occurred. This check was largely unsuccessful as the number of known waves for that period is very low, and we do not have much of a foundation to work with. The temporal positions of the known waves for this period, however, appear to conform to a projectable 10-year cycle, so it is possible to surmise that presently unknown waves also occurred within the same period falling either side of the known examples. Moreover, it has not always been possible during this period to trace the entire routes of wave migration. In the 1896-7 wave, for instance, we could detect only a quarter of the likely route, although it seemed to follow our expected track from the Pacific in 1895, striking California by late 1896, before moving northeast into the Midwest of the USA by 1897(6). From which we can infer that it crossed the North Atlantic in 1898 in order to be over Western Europe by 1899. If the 10-year cycle posited by Delair is correct then we can, for this particular period, expect it to be completed 10 years later over the same region. The occurrence of a well-marked wave over England in 1909(7) indicates that this 10-year cycle is valid.

It will be interesting to search the literature for relevant reports for the missing waves over the indicated areas, to provide confirmatory evidence.

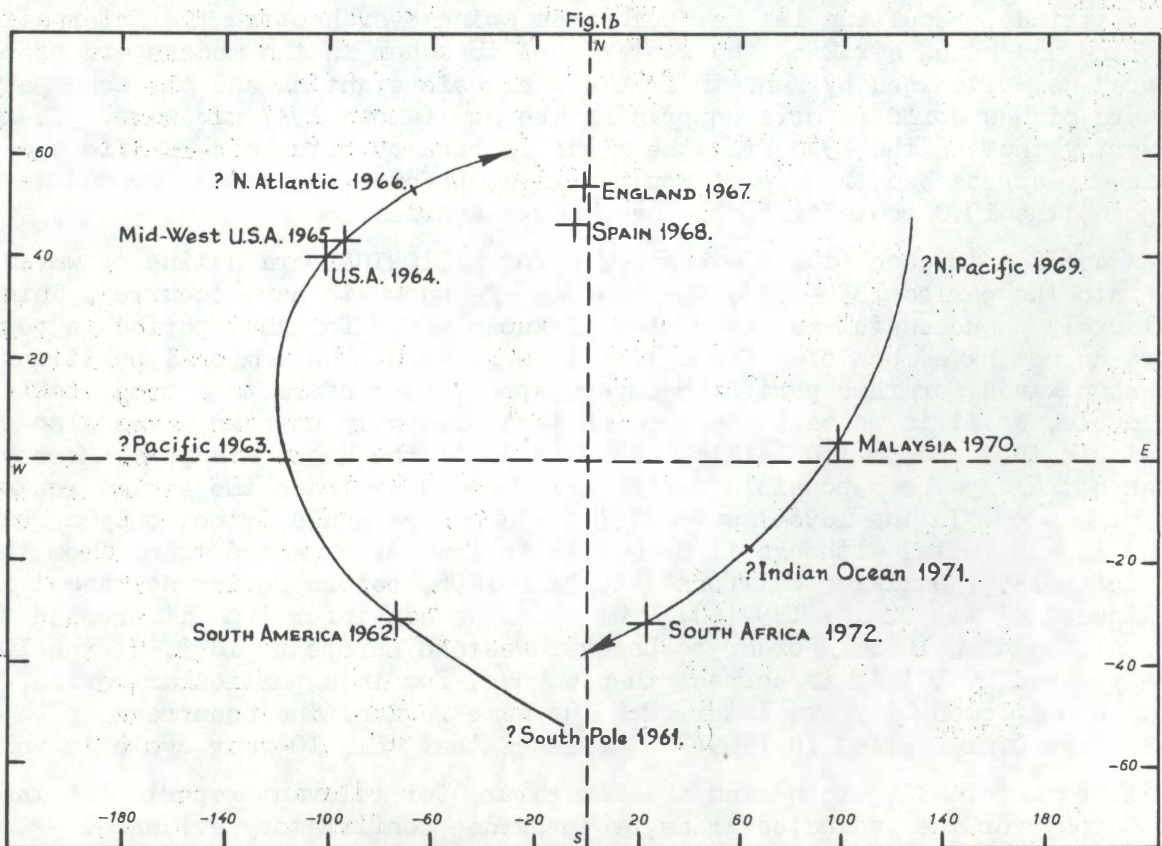
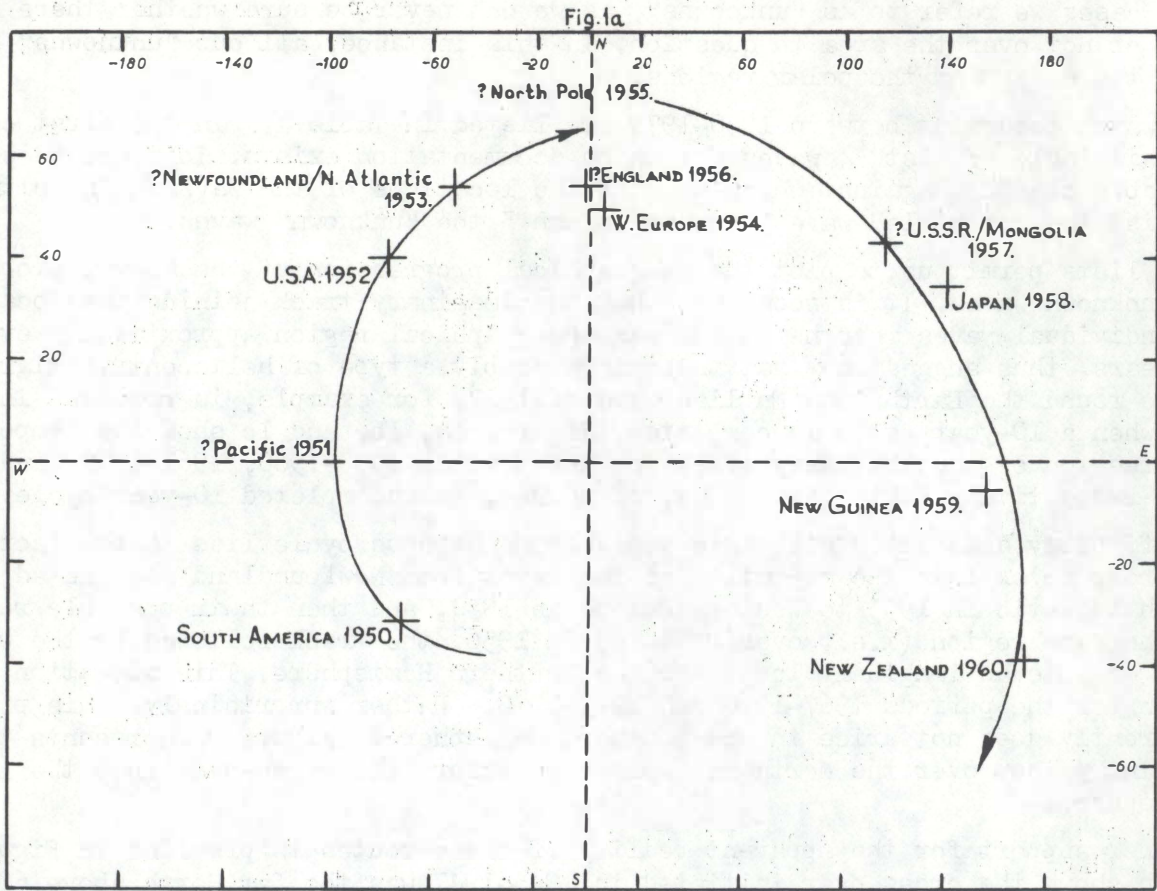


Fig. 1c

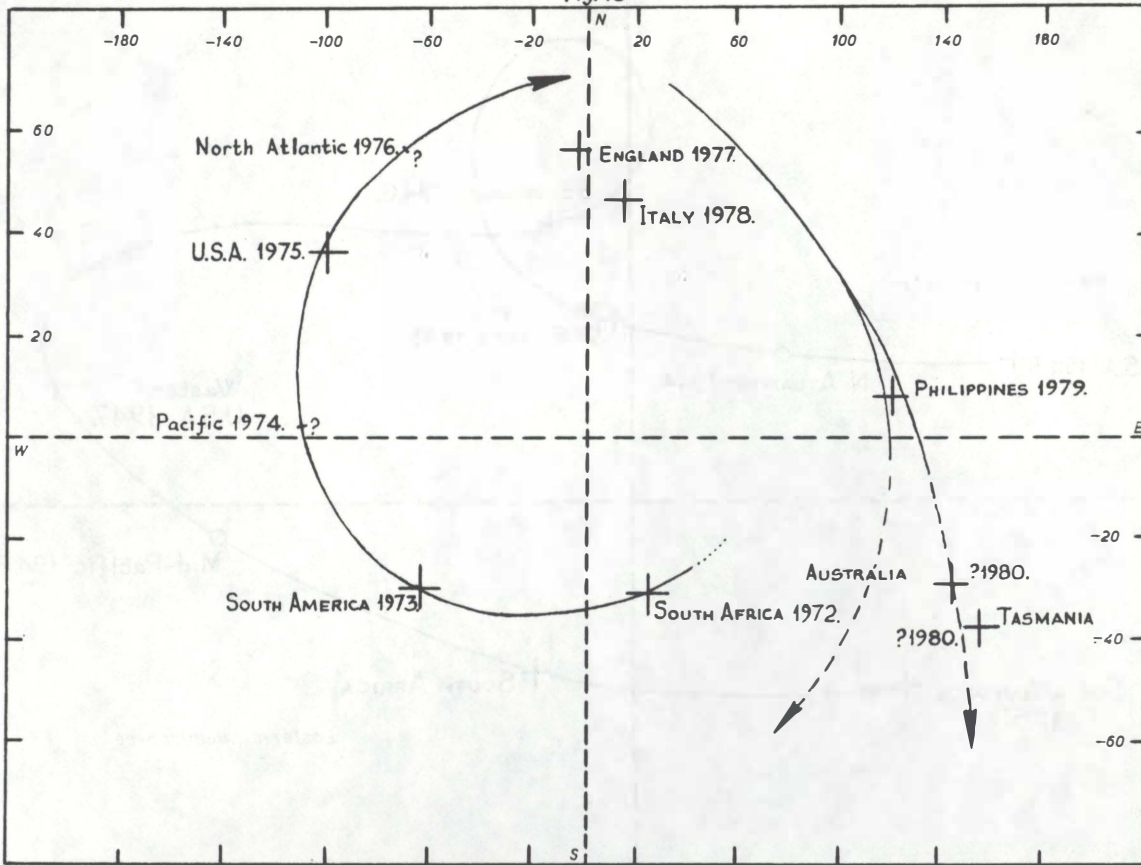
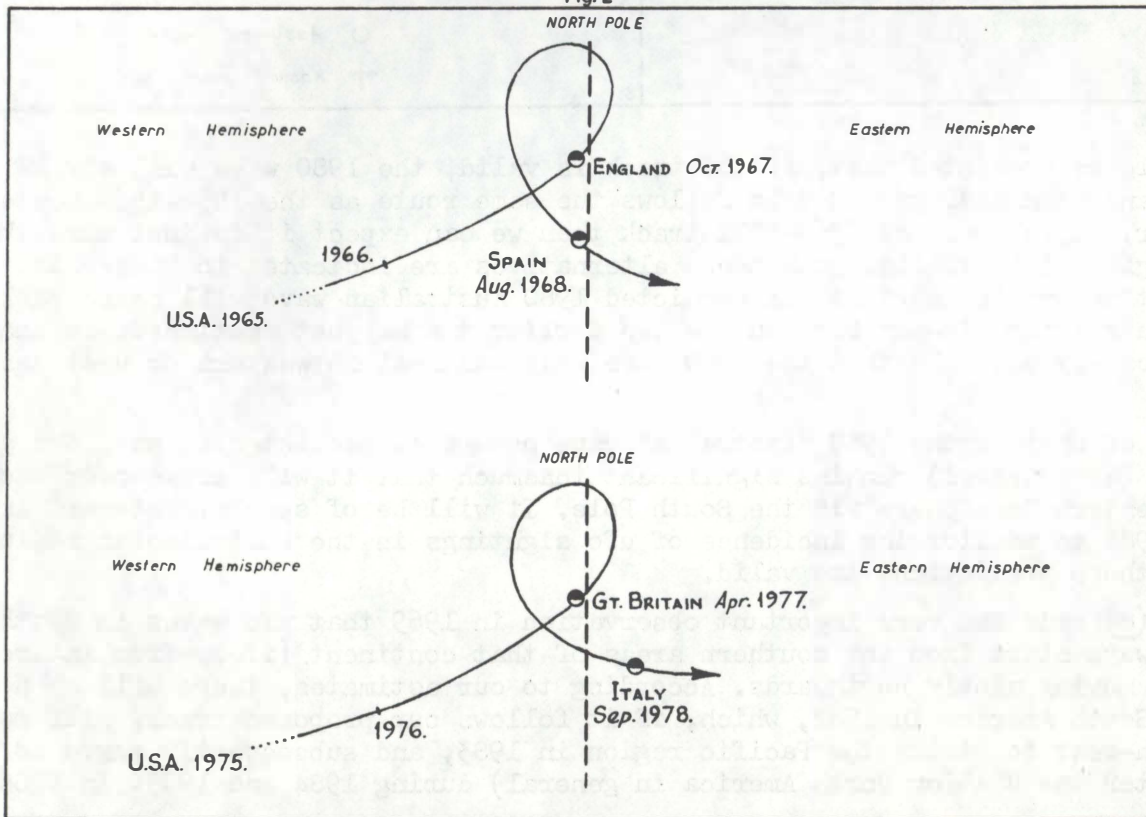
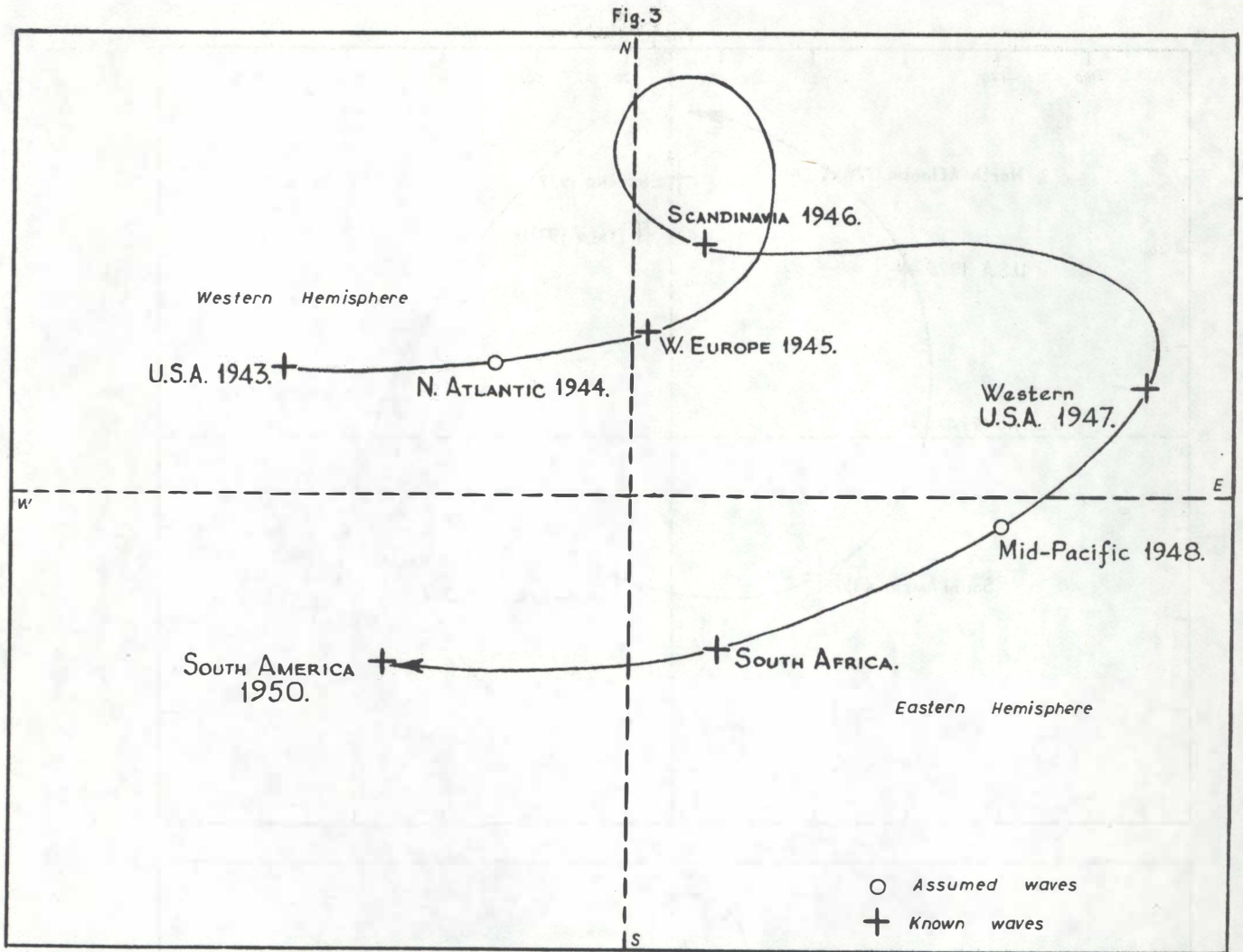


Fig. 2





In Figure 1c we predicted that, if the track is valid, the 1980 wave will strike Australia and Tasmania, provided it follows the same route as the 1958-1960 route. If, however, it follows the 1969-1972 track then we can expect it to just miss the western region of Australia. Both these alternatives are indicated in Figure 1c. Nor must it be overlooked that the predicted 1980 Australian wave will conceivably select a path lying mid-way between the two earlier tracks just mentioned: in that event it is very possible that the 1980 wave will manifest in western or west-central Australia.

Regardless of whether the 1980 "Australia" wave occurs as predicted or not, the general route (as proposed) remains significant inasmuch that it will cross-over back into the Western Hemisphere via the South Pole. It will be of special interest in 1980 and 1981 to monitor the incidence of ufo sightings in the Australasian region to see if these predictions are valid.

Creighton (8) made the very important observation in 1969 that ufo waves in South America always start from the southern areas of that continent (i.e., from Antarctica) before moving slowly northwards. According to our estimates, there will be a ufo wave over South America in 1982, which, if it follows our proposed track, will move north-north-west to strike the Pacific region in 1983, and subsequently curve north-east to enter the USA (or North America in general) during 1984 and 1985. In 1986 it

can be expected to be back over the north Atlantic and, by 1987, to be once more over or near to the United Kingdom, thus completing another 10-year cycle.

Naturally, during each cycle (6 years in the Western Hemisphere and 4 years in the Eastern Hemisphere ---- ??? the TYPE B waves of Delair) localised "flaps" will continue to occur anywhere on Earth, and even major waves diffusing out of the main predicted routes. These, especially the latter, will tend at the time to obscure the true existence and line-of-advance of these routes, although in the long analysis it is expected that their reality will be fully confirmed. The main problem here is that we really need to wait for four or more complete 10-year cycles to be completed before being able to positively assert that comparatively accurate wave routes can be predicted. Present evidence suggests that this will indeed become a possibility in the near future.

Naturally, during the formulation of this paper, various anomalies and alternative treatments have been noted. At this early stage of enquiries these are, in fact, to be expected, and certainly we anticipate encountering others before present investigations are brought to fruition. Nevertheless, we hope this paper has demonstrated the importance of these cyclic routes, so that future predictions of where and when ufo waves will occur can be achieved with a far greater degree of accuracy than hitherto. It takes little imagination to appreciate that, once personnel and equipment can be assembled at a given locality or region in advance of a predicted ufo wave, and where it can be predicted to manifest, some significant progress can be not only theoretically but probably actually made in ufology.

The ideas and material presented in this article will be explored and developed still further in a series of later papers, when additional corroborative evidence will be offered for consideration. Already, exploratory efforts in particular directions have suggested some exciting possibilities regarding the origin/s of ufos.

TABLE I

(UFO Waves ---- knows, probables, and unknowns ---- from 1950 to 1979)

YEAR	KNOWN LOCALE	PROBABLE LOCALE	UNKNOWN LOCALE	DIRECTION OF MIGRATION	LONGITUDE
1950.	diffue.	S.America.	-	North	West
1951.	-	-	Pacific.	North	West
1952.	E. USA.	-	-	North	West
1953.	-	-	Newfoundland/ N.Atlantic.	North	West
1954.	W. Europe.	-	-	North	East
1955.	-	-	North Pole.	?	?
1956.	-	England.	-		West
1957.	diffuse.	USSR/Mongolia.	-	South	East
1958.	Japan.	-	-	South	East
1959.	New Guinea.	-	-	South	East
1960.	New Zealand.	-	-	South	East

1961.	-	-	South Pole.	?	?
1962.	-	S. America.	-	North	West
1963.	-	-	Pacific.	North	West
1964.	USA.	-	-	North	West
1965.	Mid-western USA.	-	-	North	West

1966.	--	--	N.Atlantic.	North	West
1967.	Great Britain.	--	--	North	West
1968.	--	Spain.	--	South	East
1969.	--	--	N.Pacific.	South	East
1970.	Malaysia.	--	--	South	East
1971.	--	--	Indian Ocean.	South	East

1972.	South Africa.	--	--	South	East
1973.	diffuse.	S.America.	--	North	West
1974.	--	--	Pacific.	North	West
1975.	USA.	--	--	North	West
1976.	--	--	N.Atlantic.	North	West
1977.	Great Britain.	--	--	North	West
1978.	Italy.	--	--	South	East
1979.	Philippines.	--	--	South	East

It will not have escaped the notice of observent readers that the two first sets of data in the above table each cover eleven rather than ten year periods. This is because the actual (or apparent) ufo wave cycle more nearly occupies an eleven year period (see Delair: 2), evidently having some sort of relationship to the similar eleven-year sunspot cycle. This aspect of the migration of ufo waves will be discussed at greater length in a subsequent article.

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