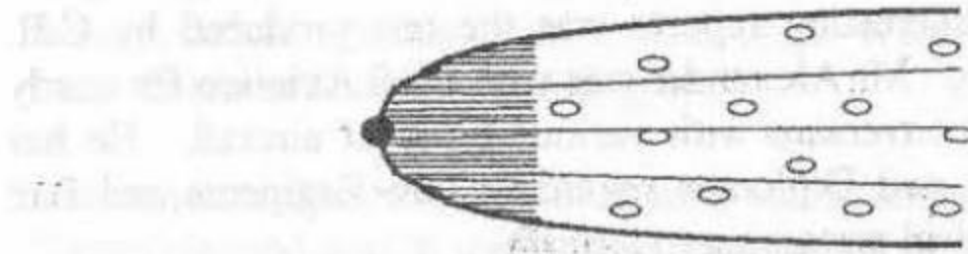
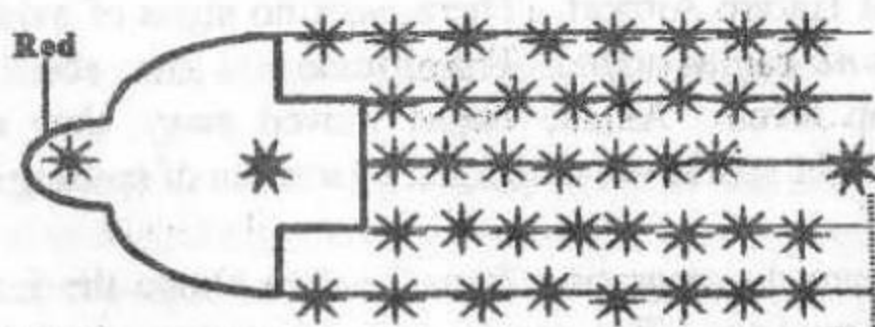


Zimbabwe -- 1994 Sep 14 near 18:51 UTC.

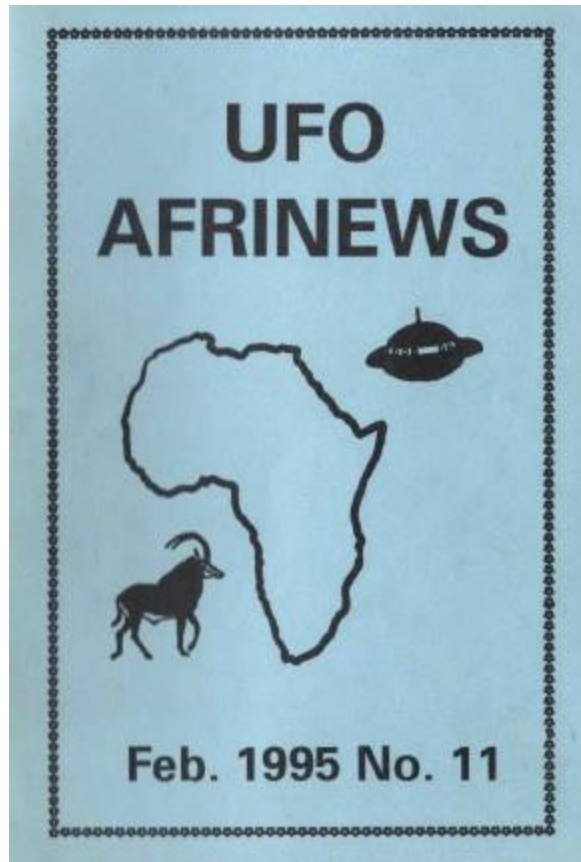


**Object as described by Eva Sibanda**



**One Large Red Star  
at end**

# Excellent documentation



## UFO AFRINEWS

N° 11

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The article is on pages 4-18. Cite: C. Hind,  
"UFO Flap in Zimbabwe Case No. 95", UFO  
Afrinews, Feb 1995, No. 11: 4-11



Fiery apparition moved north to south across south-central Africa, mainly seen from Zimbabwe.

Identified as Kosmos-2290 rocket body [NORAD 94-053B]

courtesy Ted Molczan

# Cynthia Hind's careful narrative:

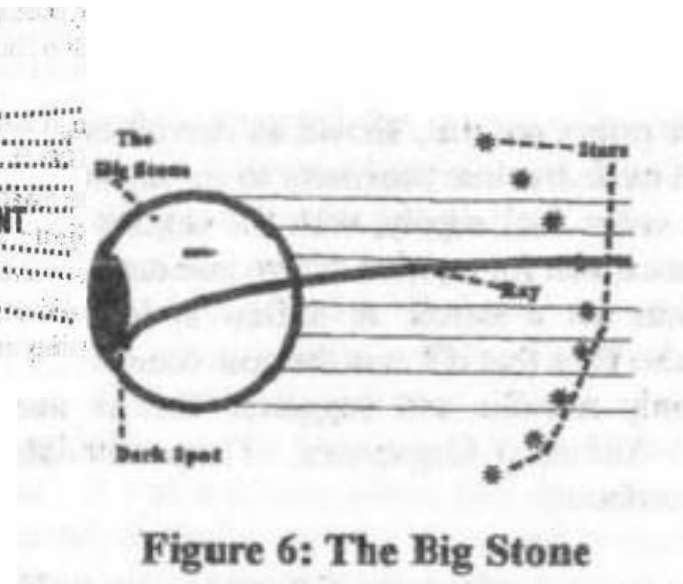
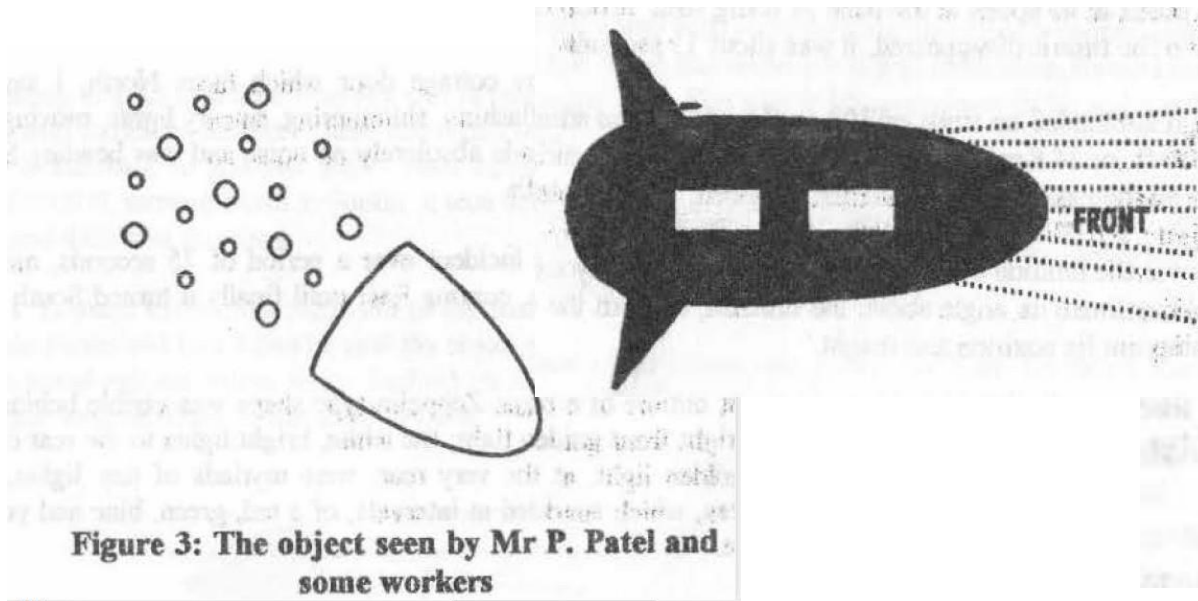
- “Wednesday, 14th September, 1994 was an exciting night for southern Africa. Round about 20:50 to 21:05 hours, a pyrotechnic display of some magnificence appeared in the almost clear night skies of this part of the Continent.
- “I was first aware that *something* was going on, when I heard what I thought was a loud explosion at 21:04 hours that night. Later, I learned that it was a sonic boom as pieces of debris entered our atmosphere.”
- “The general consensus was that the lights were preceded by a ball of fire which seemed to have a point to it, with a long tail of sparks. It was of a white or goldish colour and lit up brilliantly in the sky. Some people saw three huge lights at the front, with smaller lights behind; the count of the smaller lights varying from 8 - 20. Many reported that the objects were travelling very fast North to South, others that it moved slowly, and one man actually walked along with it for more than a hundred metres.
- The incredible point to me is that although most of the reports are *similar*, it seems that the witnesses are viewing two or three different objects.

# Scientific observation nails course, altitude



- Hind: “Dr. Euan Nisbet, a Zimbabwean, who is Professor of Geology at London University, was working in the Mberingwa area with his colleague Ms. Kathy Silva. They took bearings on the largest light (which he thought was a meteorite at the time) from their camp in Zvishavane. He said the largest light rose above the horizon due North of them and disappeared over the horizon about 20 degrees E of S. It was about  $65^\circ$  to  $70^\circ$  above the east horizon at the highest point of its path. From the bearings the two were able to plot a rough trajectory that showed the shower was moving along a path angled about  $10^\circ$  away from the north to south line.
- “The two scientists thought the sonic boom was two to four minutes later (it was 21:04 on my watch in Harare). This would suggest the debris was at least 50 km high and could have been even higher. Dr. Nisbet saw the debris as white, turning orange as the path neared the horizon, while Ms. Silva saw definite shades of deep orange. They both said the light faded abruptly and this made them wonder if the- meteors could have skipped out of the Earth's atmosphere. (This information appeared in THE HERALD, Harare, Zimbabwe, on the 17th Sept 1994.)”
- Satellite orbital inclination was 64.8 degrees, and was observed near 20.5 s, 29.9 e, so this leads to a calculated flight path originating about 25 degrees west of north. Brightest debris fireballs are in the 60 to 80 km altitude. Nisbet's estimates in both factors were extraordinarily good and highly unusual.

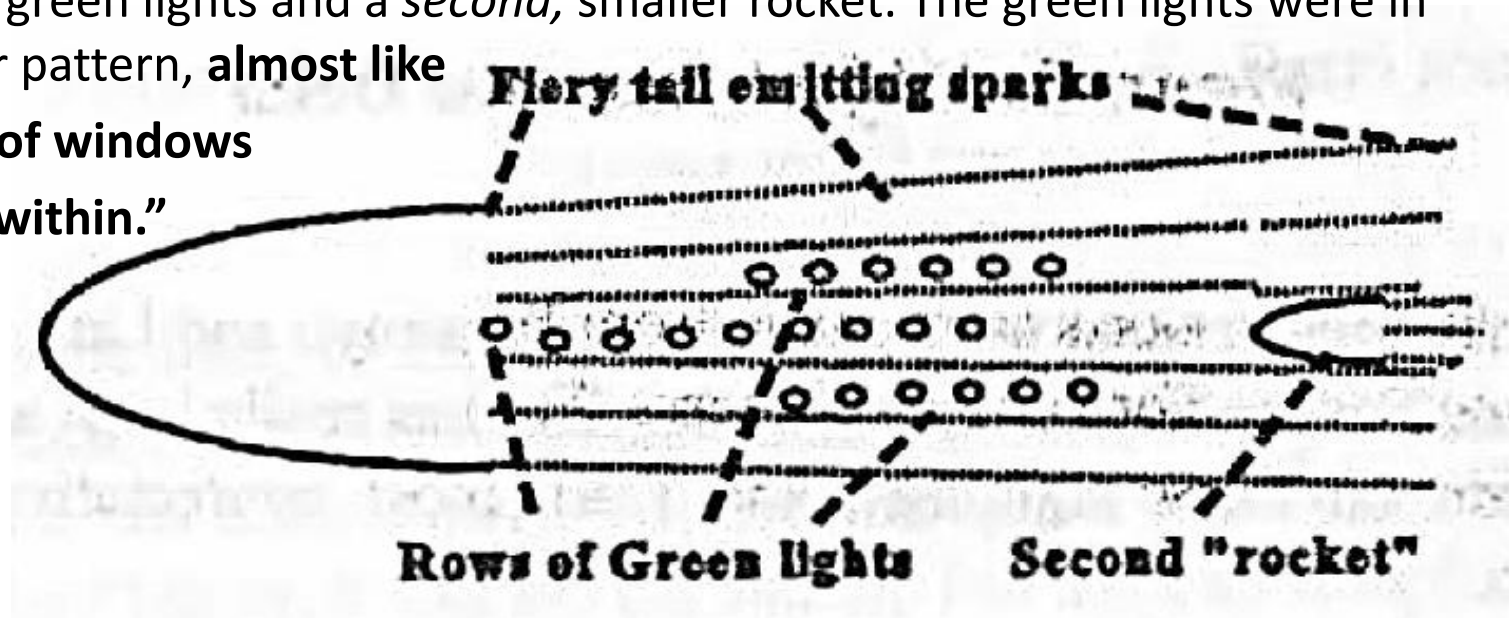
# Testimony and sketches



- Hind: “At 21: 10 in Hwange area, near Deka, seven people saw what looked like a slow-moving aeroplane, as big as a Boeing 747 Jumbo, with cabin lights. It was as low as the tree tops.”
- Hind quotes witness: “I saw an enormous object with flashing, shimmering, smeary lights, moving low in the night sky. 'A faint outline of a basic Zeppelin-type shape was visible behind the very bright front golden light; the white, bright lights to the rear of the head golden light, at the very rear, were myriads of tiny lights, like satellites, which sparkled at intervals, of a red, green, blue and yellow mixture.’”

# Rex Taylor report & drawing

- Hind: "An excellent observation was made by Rex Taylor of Kariba Yacht Safaris, from the deck of the Cutty Sark Hotel. Rex says, "It appeared in the northern sky at about 20:15" (Hind: I am amazed at the discrepancy in times: either watches were not working properly which I find difficult to believe, or this bears out a theory of mine where UFOs [as in alien spacecraft] affect Time).
- Taylor: "The fiery tail emitting smoke and a faint trail, was accompanied by a row of green lights and a *second*, smaller rocket. The green lights were in a regular pattern, almost like a series of windows lit from within."



# Witness interacts with object [per Hind]

- “As [witness] moved towards the boat she could suddenly see this light in the sky; it looked like a small plane, but what shook her most of all was that it was coming directly towards her.
- “She could feel the panic rising and realising that her flashlight was *still* on and that she couldn't switch it off quickly, she was sure that whatever it was, was attracted by the brilliant light in her hand.
- “Immediately, she hid it behind her back and watched with relief as the object turned away and, following the tree-line, went off along the lake shore.
- “At this stage she could see it was enormous, several times bigger than a Boeing 747.”



# Pilot watches, and “sees” an airplane [Hind]

- C.H. Alexander of Harare ...was with Civil Aviation for nearly five years, and is conversant with various types of aircraft. He said it was similar to a wide-bodied aircraft such as a Boeing 747 wide-body.
- He says, 'There was a cluster of small white lights extending across the fuselage from one wing to the other; it was moving from N to S as if to land on Runway 06 at Harare Airport There was no signs of aviation lights and there was *no* engine sound.
- The altitude was low: about 20 metres above tree-top level.
- As the object moved away, they noticed an emission of bright sparks accompanied by streaks of spitting flame.
- The sparks were disintegrating from the area above the fuselage and nearer to the cockpit. The sparks were continuous and trailing off towards the tail of the aircraft. Puzzling was the sighting of a bright ball of fire in continuous flame on the left-wing engine.
- Mr Alexander was certain this was not a meteor as it flew in level flight during his sighting.

# Discussion

- Details are a tribute to legions of dedicated amateurs around the world who for decades have striven to record all relevant information on unusual events
- Most accounts indicated a swarm of multi-colored lights
- But many others indicated a “Zeppelin-type shape” with with a row of lights suggestive of windows.
- One team of scientists analyzed their observations and produced remarkably accurate estimates of object course
- One witness experienced complex action-response with her and her flashlight, and the object and its intentions
- One aviation specialist perceived object in line with his professional experience, reporting aircraft-specific details not observed by any other interviewed witness.

Kosmos-2290 R/B [94053B]