

WHO WERE WATCHING WHOM?

Vancouver Airport, B.C. - June 13, 1958

Flying Saucer Review

The Province of British Columbia, Canada, this year celebrates its 100th birthday. The Russian jet airliner, the Tupolev 104, was invited to put in an appearance at Vancouver Airport. The famous Russian ship was due to touch down on Canadian soil in the early evening of June 13. However, a delay in Saskatoon, Sask., made the arrival very late. It was close to 11 p.m. before the craft landed. Thousands of spectators were on hand to watch the huge ship land. Mr. and Mrs. I. L. Pedersen and their son Carl were also there. Carl was carrying his 35 mm. high-speed camera.

After the official reception had taken place the Pedersens were on their way to their car. Traffic was very heavy. They stopped to study for a moment the sky and the night scene, the crowded road and the brightly lighted hangars. The weather was clear with a light cloud layer coming in from the east. Looking upward, Carl's attention was suddenly riveted on a tiny orange light coming in from the west. This light was performing in a most unusual manner, blinking at irregular intervals, in a sort of pulsating fashion. The Pedersens watched attentively as the light appeared to make a descending oscillating approach toward the main runway, finally rising erratically to considerable height where it hovered directly, it seemed, above the Russian aircraft. By this time a crowd was gathering nearby to watch the light, excitedly discussing among themselves what the light might be.

Immediately the light had completed its descending movement, Carl had his camera trained on it and was taking pictures. All this while Mr. Pedersen, senior, had been observing the light through binoculars. He could distinguish no background silhouette whatever, nor could his wife distinguish any such silhouette. While the light was hovering over the airport runway, they observed a brightly luminous white cloud immediately over their heads. It was ellipsoid in

outline and was very clearly defined. This white luminosity was quite distinct and separate from the pinkish glow, caused by the city's neon lights, reflected by the clouds drifting in from the east. Mr. Pedersen was concentrating on this cloud for a moment and, to his surprise, something either within the cloud, or behind it, seemed to explode fanwise upward, displaying a number of brilliant, pinpoint lights in a brief flash. The cloud then divided itself into two separate clouds of equal brightness, with fringes touching, and remained so for a moment before again coalescing to become one cloud. This process of separation took place a couple of times. Mr. Pedersen looked about to see if there were any searchlights in operation to account for the phenomenon, but there were no such lights anywhere to be seen, nor was there any sign whatever of the customary beam from such lights.

Mrs. Pedersen, meanwhile, had been occupied observing closely the manoeuvring of the orange light following its hovering position. She startled us by shouting, "It's dancing!" The light, apparently, was going through a hopping, or dancing motion, as it set course in the direction of the luminous cloud, passing it and disappearing momentarily in the incoming cloud-layer, to re-appear beside the white cloud describing a pulsating, oscillating movement then curving off in a great sweep, disappearing in a north-easterly direction.

The whole affair, to them, took on an added interest when it was considered that the first Russian jet airliner to visit Canada was reposing on the ground below the orange light. They observed the phenomenon from 11.15 p.m. to 11.22 p.m. They have since been wondering just who was watching whom?

Flying Saucer Review would like to hear from anyone else who observed this phenomena at Vancouver Airport.

Source: <https://ufobc.ca/Reports/MusgraveFiles/>