

## **1954: Tananarive, Madagascar**

August 16, round 5 pm

Source: Bulletin du GEPA (Groupe d'Etudes des Phénomènes Aérospatiaux), Issue 6, 2nd semester, 1964 and others



*Avenue de la Liberation and the animals market in the 50s*



*Mr. Edmond Campagnac in the 50s*

August 16, 1954, at 5 pm, an event surprised thousands of witnesses at Tananarive, Madagascar (The number of potential witness is an estimated 200.000).

At 5 pm, Air France's agency personal awaited the arrival of the air mail, delivered by a Lockheed Constellation airplane. One hour after the arrival of the Constellation, the mail was

already distributed and members of the Air France agency, among which Mr. Edmond Campagnac, former military officer and at that time technical director of Air France in Tananarive were quietly chatting together, close to the Avenue of the Liberation, the largest street in Tananarive.

Suddenly somebody saw in the sky an “electric green ball” descending straight towards the ground near the Palais de la Reine. Mr Campagnac pointed at it and everybody watched. The phenomenon disappeared behind a hill, and they all expected to hear a mighty explosion when the thing hit the ground. But the green light did not hit the ground.

The green ball reappeared a minute later, it was bigger. It made a circle over the higher parts of Tananarive, a city built on and inside a series of hills with a “horseshoe” Configuration.

The thing then proceeded to fly above Avenue of the Liberation, at an altitude of 50 to 150 meters in front of thousands of amazed inhabitants. When it flew in front of the Air France personnel, they all could get a good look at it.

Mr. Campagnac realized that the “electric green light” looked like a kind of lens shaped plasma, of approximately 40 meters length, the “size of a DC4 aircraft.”

This green lens was closely followed by a flying machine with a distinct silvery metallic aspect and the shape of a football, also 40 meters long, On the back side of this metal machine, bluish exhaust flames were seen.

The craft was totally silent. M. Campagnac, in his testimony, which he often publicly offered, explained that the craft did not even make the sound of swishing a flier would make through the air.

In this case, it is noticeable that the estimate of altitude was not subject to doubts: indeed, while flying above the buildings of Avenue de la Libération, the craft also passed in front of the hills in the background, with no sky as background.

Several physical phenomena were observed: first of all, the witnesses in the whole city could note that public lights and shop lights went out exactly when the craft passed above them, and were back again at once after the craft passage.

Then the inhabitants quickly noticed that barnyard animals, dogs in the whole city, were howling or barking. In one occasion, during its passage above the city, the object flew above the animal park where peasants keep the animals to be sold at daytime at the city markets.

It was told that all these animals were in total panic when the object flew over them; on the contrary they had no reactions to the Constellation airplane flown over them one hour before, as well as with the other airplanes usually flying over there. Consider that airplanes are always noisy and the object was totally silent.

After having flown over Tananarive, the machine set out towards the West. Approximately two or three minutes later, a similar craft or the same one was observed at 150 kilometers south of Tananarive above a farm school. There again, the herds went in complete panic.

The farm manager had to call for help in order to bring back the animals running around, at risk of death in the marshes. It is this call for help that made the witnesses of Tananarive aware of this second observation.

#### SHORT DISCUSSION:

If the craft observed at 150 km south was the same one of Tananarive, as suggested by the description, although we absolutely have no prove, then its speed was to be about 3000 km/h. According to the statements of Air France, General Fleurquin, commander-in-chief of the French Air Force in Madagascar, gathered a scientific team to investigate the phenomena.

No trace of this investigation could be found in the Air Force records, however issue #6 of the GEPA bulletin (Group of Studies of the Aerospace Phenomena) in the 2nd half of 1964, described this observation. Mr. Campagnac remembers perfectly that Reverend Coze, a Jesuit clergyman, director of the astronomical observatory of Tananarive, was charged for inquiring all the witnesses, including Air France personnel and Malgaches peasants.

This investigation also pointed out that the same phenomenon manifested to the Malgache people on several occasions in the past years, but was always ignored as no one cared to ask about until now.

Mr. Edmond Campagnac, at the time technical director of Air France in Tananarive, took part in the study of the case for the COMETA committee. He expressed himself repeatedly and very precisely on this case, talking at the French TV, and in 2001 again at a television debate concerning UFOs on the TV channel "Planète Forum", supported by Jean-Jacques Vélasco, director of SEPRA, the official French UFO investigation team.

This exceptional occurrence did not disturb Catagnac's life, but as a man of science, he wanted to learn more about UFOs. In particular, he wanted to search in the military records of the French Gendarmerie and learn about many other significant sightings. But this is another story.

Mr. Campagnac remembers that at the time of the investigation they considered the possibility that the object could be a top-secret prototype of a new human flying device, of Soviet origin for example. But now, we actually can state that in 1954 no crafts like that could have been fabricated.

No "secret plane" of today, has nothing in common with the craft of this incident.

Jean Jacques Vélasco has checked and commented the case and points out its interesting features:

The trajectory of the object, descending from a high altitude vertically to the ground, then flying up again instead of crashing; the flight above the ground at low altitude over the city.

The physical phenomenon of public and private lights going out as the object was passing above, and the return to normal.

Phenomena of the animals reactions.

The possibility of the correct estimation of the size since the object passed in front of the hills on the background. The huge number of witnesses.

The heterogeneous cultural background of the witnesses: “Mr. Campagnac might have read about UFOs in Science-Fiction literature, but it is rather doubtful that the Malgaches peasants were all under the influence of US Science Fiction.”

The fact that the case did not happen in the United States or in any European country but in a far away Island, is an indication that UFOs cases exist all over the world.

**Reliability evaluation:**  
**- TRUE -**  
**possible military weapon or craft**

