

MORE WEIRD OR 'TALL' (?) STORIES FROM RUSSIA AND THE USSR

By Gordon Creighton



We still have a large accumulation of press-clippings and other reports about things allegedly seen or events allegedly experienced in the USSR, most of which have not yet been published by us.

We emphasise, as we have always emphasised, that we have no possible means of knowing whether any of this material is genuine. But it should also be emphasised that quite a lot of the reports were gathered, on the spot, in Russia and the USSR, by a highly competent and professional Russian-speaking (Latvian-born) American freelance journalist, Henry Gris of California, with whom FSR (through myself) first made contact more than twenty years ago.⁽¹⁾

Much of Mr. Gris's material was published in the allegedly "notorious" and "unreliable" American weekly newspaper *The National Enquirer*, of Lantana, Florida, this having been one of the journals that he represented when on his travels in the USSR. For years we have been told that no respectable UFO investigator would touch any story that came from Henry Gris or from *The National Enquirer*. However, in 1978 Mr. Gris and his fellow-journalist Mr. Dick brought out an enormously important and successful book, *The New Soviet Psychic Discoveries* (pub. by Prentice-Hall, USA, with a British edition by Souvenir Press, London, in 1979).

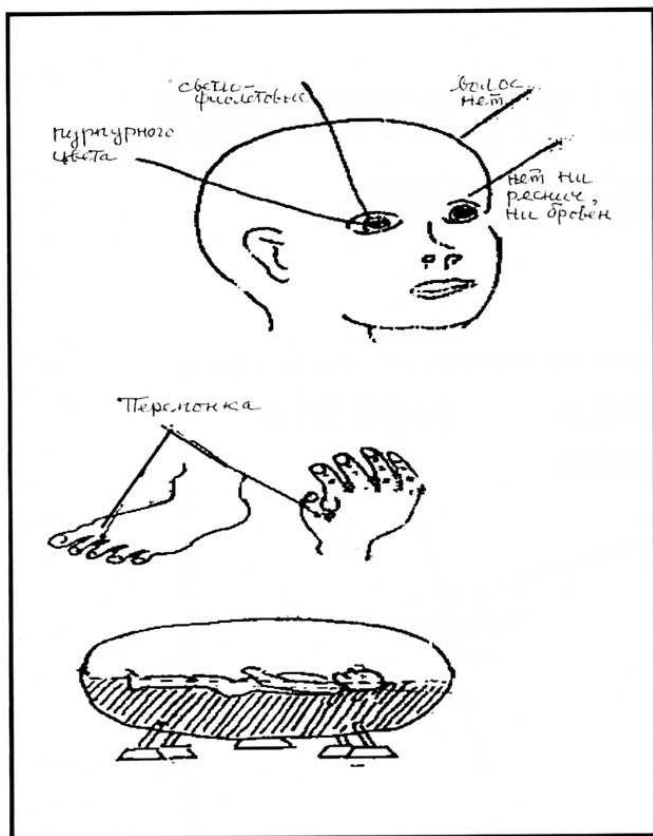
In recent years, furthermore, we have seen

the USA's leading UFO publication, *MUFON UFO Journal*, carrying a series of digests by their Columnist Lucius Farish of some of these more "fantastic" sort of UFO reports from the pages of the *National Enquirer*! One may feel justified therefore in thinking that the time has surely come for our own readers to see some of this extraordinary material. With no guarantees, of course. The reader must make up his own mind about each individual story. And it must always be remembered that, even if every one of these "wild, far-out tales" is totally faked, nevertheless the existence of such a weird fringe is itself an integral part of the "UFO scene" through which we have all been living for the past forty years, and deserves to be evaluated as such. EDITOR.

I. ALIEN "SPACE-BABY" FOUND ALIVE *Researched by Henry Gris and Charles Parmiter*

According to an astounding story told in the *National Enquirer* on November 22, 1983, for more than a month a fantastic child from another world was kept alive by Soviet doctors.

Purple-eyed and web-fingered, the little critter was said to be the sole survivor of a silvery UFO that exploded and crashed in the mountains near Frunze,



in the Kirghizian Soviet Socialist-Republic. (Extreme south of the USSR. The position of Frunze is 42N40, 74E50. The crash was said to have been at 8.00 p.m. on July 14, 1983.)

An egg-shaped or cradle-shaped capsule containing the child allegedly was thrown out and landed in a clearing, and for eleven weeks the doctors of the Frunze Medical Institute kept the infant alive, until it died on October 3, 1983, of a massive terrestrial infection!

Allegedly a Soviet rocket engineer working on the *Salyut-7* programme tipped off the two *National Enquirer* journalists, Gris and Parmiter, who chanced to be in Russia at the time (probably in Moscow).

The engineer, so the story goes, told Gris and Parmiter how mountain villagers near Frunze had seen the explosion — “a cloud of fire” — in the night sky. “A squad of police in a helicopter fitted with searchlights set out, and found the smouldering UFO wreckage and called in the Air Force. Everybody thought at first that it was a simple aircraft crash. But, some 24 hours later, said one of the Frunze Medical Institute doctors, a man telephoned to the Frunze Police to say that he had found the metallic capsule containing the child. This capsule was about three feet long, with a hinged lid, and rested on four short legs. On the underside of the capsule was a small rocket which had served to slow down its descent.

Inside the capsule, the child was lying on a sponge-like material. And there was an oxygen-supply system in the capsule to keep the child alive.

The doctor was quoted further as saying that, to judge by our own terrestrial standards, the child appeared to be about a year old. An examination

by X-rays showed that its body resembled that of a human being, apart from having a slightly larger heart. The brain waves were found to be normal except for increased Alpha-Wave activity. This latter feature would possibly have indicated the presence of highly developed telepathic and telekinetic abilities (i.e. the capacity to move objects at a distance by mind power).

A nurse (one of twelve assigned to watch the alien baby around the clock) allegedly told the two reporters of the *National Enquirer* when they arrived secretly in Frunze:-

“The baby has no hair at all — no hair on his head, no eyebrows and no eyelashes. His pupils are bright purple at the centre, fading to a light lavender on the outer rim. He never closes his eyes, even to sleep.

“We can tell when he is sleeping by monitoring his pulse and respiration rate — but his eyes remain open day and night.

“The baby has made no attempt to walk or even crawl, and no attempt to talk, laugh, or cry. He has made no vocal sounds at all that I have heard.

“The only real emotion I have seen him express was when I tried to feed him mashed spinach one day. He spat it right out.”⁽²⁾

“At present he is perfectly healthy. But the doctors are worried, because he has no natural immunity to human diseases. They are afraid that even a simple cold might develop into a massive infection that could kill him.”

When Gris and Parmiter telephoned again to the Medical Institute for information about the child, they learned that the doctors had been only too right. This time they were told that the child was dead. “It was just as we had feared. An acute and massive infection. The baby went into shock in a matter of hours. We tried everything to save it, but nothing worked.”

The accompanying sketches were secured by Henry Gris from the Russian doctor and nurse at the Frunze Medical Institute. The journalists found the security so intensely tight all around the Medical Institute that there was no hope of their being allowed in to see the child. And the members of the medical team were so fearful of drastic Government retaliation that they agreed to talk to Gris and Parmiter only on condition that their names should not be revealed.

The notes in Russian handwriting around the head in the sketch read, from the left: “Purple colour”, pointing to the pupil of the eye; “light-violet”, indicating the rim of the eye; and “no hair” and “Neither eyelashes nor eyebrows”. The note over the hand and foot reads: “webbing”.

The sketch of the capsule shows the infant lying on the “spongy material”; the four short pedestals of the capsule; and the position of the central apparatus underneath, which was described as some sort of “rocket-motor”.

Our thanks to several FSR readers who sent

this story in to us, and in particular to reader Mordhai Shpasser of Ramat-Gan, Israel, who forwarded an interesting Hebrew translation of it from the journal MAARIV of June 22, 1984.

Nobody with any modicum of sense would of course contemplate such a wild story as this without instantly trying to evaluate the probability of a "Soviet hoax".

We all know that Soviet officials were very competent liars. But it is important not to forget that Henry Gris knew Russian fluently, having been born a Latvian; that he visited Russia frequently, several times a year, and had done this for years on end, and that he is one of the two authors of an important book which is extremely relevant to "our subject" and should be studied carefully by all who desire to know what has been going on in Russia in connection with both UFO research and Parapsychology.

To conclude: I see no reason why Russian officialdom should have wanted to "plant" this sort of story on Henry Gris and I prefer, at any rate for the time being, to suspend judgement and accept it as just one more of the weird UFO tales that have come out of Russia. Maybe time will show in due course how much credence we can attribute to it. G.C.



We are indebted to FSR reader Mrs. Oweenee Beaton of Canada for the following delightful story, which we feel sure *is* a fake (and, although not claimed to be Russian, maybe inspired by the Russian story from Frunze?). It comes from another American tabloid, the New York *Sun*, of May 29, 1984. (Does not even the name "Jankron" look like a "phoney"?)

II. SUPERBABY: EARTH CHILD'S FATHER CAME FROM THE STARS — AND SCIENTISTS CAN PROVE IT!
By Gordon Jankron (In The Sun, New York, May 29, 1984.)

Scientists investigating a series of UFO sightings in remote Nepal have found an incredible superbaby they believe was fathered by a creature from Outer Space.

"The child, outwardly, is a perfectly normal human being — but any resemblance to a human ends right there", said Dr. Wah Singh, head of the expedition.

Dr. Singh⁽³⁾ said X-ray studies show the child does not have human internal organs — other than a stomach-like tube terminating in another tube similar to human intestines. "The youngster has no heart, kidneys, appendix, pancreas, lungs — nothing", he said.

"Instead, there is a single mysterious organ about the size of a walnut in its chest. We conclude that it is a combination of all the necessary organs and glands."

Dr. Singh, a noted lecturer at European uni-

versities including the Berlin Institute of Research, said the superbaby and its teenage mother were found living alone in a hut outside a mountain village.

"The young woman had been expelled from the village because she became pregnant out of wedlock", the scientist said. "She delivered the baby herself and supported herself and the child by begging."

The girl told Dr. Singh and his assistants of a nighttime visit by a beautiful, strange man. She said she became unconscious, and has no memory of the sexual encounter.⁽⁴⁾

Dr. Singh said the region in which the superbaby was found is one of the busiest UFO areas in the world. "We were simply gathering information on these objects in the sky when we heard of the baby," he said. "Villagers spoke of a white baby, hardly six months old, who never cried, walked as easily as an adult, and spoke a strange unknown tongue," Dr. Singh said.

Dr. Singh said the mother and child were being readied for a trip to East Berlin, where a careful study of the superbaby will be made by top East German scientists.

"The scientific community is particularly interested in the multi-purpose organ in the child's chest", he said. "It appears to do the job of many human organs. In many cases it seems to do that job far better."

(Well, here we have, (presumably?), a magnificent spoof. As for the "walnut-sized organ that does the job far better", one might have thought it a terribly dangerous state of affairs, from the point of view of *survival*, to have been designed "with all one's eggs in one basket", like that!

I recall that, somewhere around 1984, Her Majesty the Queen paid a visit to Nepal. I wonder whether anyone remembered to tell Her Majesty about "*das Wunderkind*"? I'll bet they just forgot.

And most likely they had never heard the story anyway. Our own feeling is that this tale might have emanated from one of the bars near NASA in Houston, Texas G.C.)

III. "RUSSIANS MEET SPACE ALIENS IN ORBIT". INCREDIBLE REPORT FROM BEHIND THE IRON CURTAIN. SOVIET OFFICIALS SAY MAP, HAND-SIGNALS, AND AN EXCHANGE OF NUMBERS HIGHLIGHTED THE FOUR-DAY ENCOUNTER.

By Henry Gris

This, another super-UFO report from Henry Gris, was in the *National Enquirer* for August 7, 1984.

"In a heart-stopping encounter in space, Russian cosmonauts flew side by side with extraterrestrials for four days, say high-level Soviet sources.

The tall, large-eyed aliens even climbed out of their sphere-shaped spacecraft and floated untethered with no space suits or visible source of oxygen.

At a top-secret meeting of about 200 Soviet

officials on the third floor of Moscow's Ministry of Planning, General Georgiy Beregovoy, Head of the Soviet Space Training Programme, revealed the astonishing details of the encounter.

Those at the meeting were sworn to secrecy — but three sources who were there have disclosed the whole story to *The Enquirer*.

Soviet cosmonauts Vladimir Kovalyonok and Viktor Savinykh were nearing the end of a 75-day Space mission. They were aboard the *Salyut-6* space-station when, on May 14, 1981, a silver, perfectly round alien ship appeared outside.

"The alien ship was only half the size of our bottle-shaped, 49-foot long Soviet craft", said one of the Soviet sources, who was at the briefing.

A respected Soviet engineer who was also there continued: "Somehow the alien craft had joined *Salyut-6* in its orbit. For a while the cosmonauts watched the object. One whipped out a movie camera, and took several feet of film. During the first 24 hours, the alien object remained about 3,000 feet away, showing no signs of life.

Close Approach

"Then, suddenly, it moved in to less than 300 feet. The cosmonauts counted 24 windows — plus three large circular portholes. And, peering from the three portholes, were three heads that looked human.

"They wore tight-fitting hoods. Using binoculars, the cosmonauts could see that the aliens had bushy, straight eyebrows and firm, strong noses. But what really struck them was the size of the aliens' blue eyes — they were about twice the size of human eyes.

"Their skin was brown — like an East Indian — but their faces remained expressionless, giving them a robot-like look.

Close Approach to within 100 feet

"Eventually the alien craft came within 100 feet of *Salyut-6*. On an impulse, one of the cosmonauts displayed a celestial map to the aliens.

"His heart skipped a beat when one of the aliens pulled out his own map. The cosmonaut could see it through the window — it had our own solar system on it!

"One cosmonaut gave them the 'thumbs up' signal. Without expression an alien repeated this gesture."

A Soviet scientist who was at the briefing revealed that the cosmonauts actually tried to communicate with the aliens, using a flashlight to send Morse Code messages. But they got no response.

Finally, one cosmonaut flashed some *numbers* in Morse code — and the aliens responded by flashing some numbers of their own. Russian mathematicians on Earth soon realised that the figures they had been exchanging were related by

a complex series of formulas.

"Clearly, at least in mathematics, we speak the same language", said the Soviet scientist.

Aliens Walk in Space

On day three, the aliens took several Spacewalks, the scientist continued. What amazed the two Soviet cosmonauts was that the aliens — measuring about 6ft. 6inches in height — were wearing no space suits.

"They floated untethered, far away from their ship, and had no discernible breathing apparatus", he said.

After four days, the aliens finally left, said the Soviet engineer. And the cosmonauts caught their departure on film.

"The silver sphere began retreating into the distance, growing smaller and smaller, taking its time", said the engineer, who saw the film.

"It was as though the ship was saying a friendly cosmic farewell: 'So long, new friends'."

IV. From National Enquirer, December 21, 1984.
RUSSIANS PROBING UFO MYSTERIES AFTER RASH OF
BIZARRE SIGHTINGS.

By Henry Gris

Spurred by a spectacular year-long series of UFO sightings, the Russians have set up a special commission headed by a veteran cosmonaut to solve the UFO mystery.

Astounding objects in the sky — one resembling a giant airborne jellyfish — have terrified eyewitnesses and triggered off near-panic in some areas of the USSR.

"People are scared — they have been clamouring for a valid official explanation of what is up in our skies for far too long", declared Dr. Vladimir Azhazha,⁽⁵⁾ a leading Russian authority on UFOs.

"Their patience has worn thin. That's why the Government has set up this commission — and good luck to it."

The new commission is headed by a senior Soviet cosmonaut, retired Major-General Pavel Popovich, who made a solo space-flight in 1962 and commanded a two-man 15 day mission in Space in 1974.

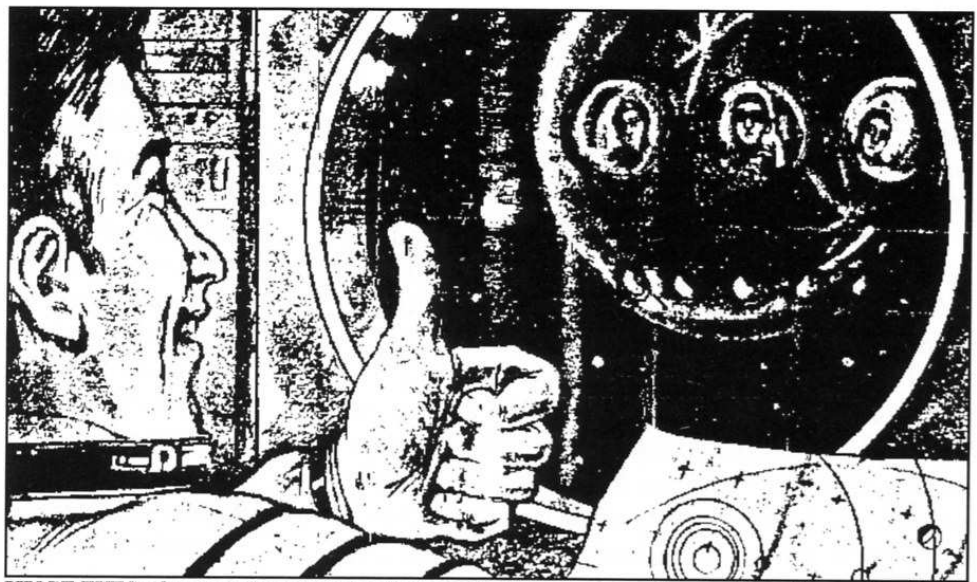
The commission was formed, and an intensive scientific investigation launched, after a rash of incredible UFO sightings. Among them the following may be mentioned:-

1. March 27, 1983. A wingless, cigar-shaped UFO as big as a 747 jumbo jet zigzagged over the city of Gor'kiy, and was tracked for 40 minutes on Gor'kiy Airport radar. *Observers said it made sharp turns that would be impossible for a conventional aeroplane.*

2. June 21, 1983. Another cigar-shaped space-ship circled for 18 minutes over strategic nuclear research installations in the city of Dubno.



Cosmonauts Kovalyonok (top) and Savinykh.



HUGE EYES of space aliens remained expressionless as one exchanged thumbs-up sign with Russian.

3. September 20, 1983. (Wrong date? It was possibly September 20, 1977. - G.C.) A monstrous "jellyfish" surrounded by a glowing fiery mist hovered over the city of Petrozavodsk for 14 minutes, sending down a shower of what was described as "luminous rain". Panic erupted in the streets, as many terrified residents tried to flee. Army troops were ordered to seal off the local railway station and restore order.

NASA official, Mr. James Oberg of Texas, the world's leading expert on the Soviet Space Programme and the world's leading expert on the non-existence of UFOs, says that this thing which hovered above the north Russian city of Petrozavodsk for 14 minutes was merely a Russian rocket launched from the secret base at Plesetsk.

4. December 2, 1983. A squadron of seven luminous, globe-shaped UFOs in V-formation circled the city of Minsk and was seen by hundreds of people.

5. January 12, 1984. A similar squadron of UFOs flew over the city of Vladimir.

6. February 6, 1984. Dozens of frightened eyewitnesses described an eerie formation of triangular and round lights flying across the night sky near Gor'kiy.

7. February 26, 1984. A huge fireball exploded in the atmosphere, about 60 miles above Siberia, in the same area where a massive explosion devastated 1,500 square miles of the Tunguska forest in 1908.

8. March 14, 1984. Six UFOs, described as "like a brilliant orange string of sausages", zipped through the skies over Sverdlovsk, and then suddenly changed colour simultaneously to fluorescent blue, red, and then back to orange.

(We have not yet seen Mr. James Oberg's precise rulings on these last five of Henry Gris's UFO reports, but no doubt we shall hear that they were simply Soviet rockets. Many of these UFO reports were given to Henry Gris directly by Dr. Yuri Feliks Zigel', Professor of Cosmology at the Moscow Institute of Aviation, one of the officials then in

charge of the training of the Soviet astronauts. Dr. Zigel', who was one of the leading experts in the USSR on the UFOs, had been collecting UFO reports for many years. One of the cases which he gave to Henry Gris had come to Zigel' from a high-ranking Red Army officer named Lt. Col. Oleg Karyakin. This officer told Dr. Zigel' that, on the night of June 14, 1980, he was returning to his home in Moscow when a huge reddish-orange thing was hovering in the sky above that city. As he turned into his street, and was about to open the door of his house, he beheld "a round flattened object, a classic 'flying saucer', just like a big bowl reversed on top of a



Artist's impression of the monstrous "jellyfish". Mr. James Oberg of NASA, world's foremost expert on non-existence of UFOs, has "proved" that it was a Soviet rocket!

slightly smaller plate, and hanging stationary at a distance of about 30 metres from my house".

The craft was emitting a luminous pink vapour and a faint, scarcely perceptible hum. At first Karyakin stopped dead in his tracks. Then he thought of trying to get nearer to the object, but was repelled sharply by what seemed to be a totally invisible and insurmountable barrier.

After Lt. Col. Karyakin had stood there for about two minutes, the small UFO, still quite silent, emitted several bluish-green flashes, which came from its belly downwards towards the ground.

At once the machine rose into the air, quite slowly at first, then with increasing speed, and it was gone from sight in a few seconds. As it rose, many people in the houses round about were at their windows, all shouting and asking each other: "What the devil is going on?"

When Lt. Col. Karyakin spoke to these neighbours about the affair next morning, he found that all their descriptions of the small saucer agreed with his own down to the most minute details.

One fellow-tenant in that same block of flats as Lt. Col. Karyakin told him that he had been at his window, on the third floor, about five minutes before Lt. Col. Karyakin came home, and, looking down, had seen a human figure, quite small and dressed in a space-suit, inside the transparent cupola of the saucer. (Karyakin explained that he himself had of course been unable to see this small human figure, since his own position, down on the street, was far too low.)

We have not seen Mr. James Oberg's precise ruling about this report. It must, however, have an explanation, and we can only assume that some Russian circus dwarf, unauthorised, had clambered aboard a Soviet rocket, which later wandered off course and found itself in a Moscow street. (We would hate to be in the shoes of the official responsible for such a blunder. G.C.)

V. MORE UFOS REPORTED OVER RUSSIA

A Bombay English-language paper, *Jam-e-Jamshed*, of January 21, 1985, quoted a report (no source given) about a close encounter between Soviet forest-rangers in the snowbound expanses of Soviet Karelia. As a result, a top-level Soviet research team had gone into the region and found much evidence of UFO activity there.

One of the forest-rangers, Ari Sarvi, aged 36, was shot at by a UFO entity and, as a result, lay sweating and near death, racked with pain, and vomiting, and passing black urine. Sarvi had all the symptoms of radiation-poisoning — and how could he have got that in the Soviet Karelian Republic just below the Arctic Circle?

The second forest-ranger, Mauno Erkkö, aged 38, suffered no such effects and explained: *The little man didn't shoot at me — only at Sarvi.*"

When being interrogated later, after his recovery, Sarvi explained what had happened. In January 1980 the two men were out in the forest setting wolf-traps, at a place 5 kms. from their home village of Kestenga, when "a luminous cylinder landed like a corkscrew in front of them". A slanting beam from the 'cylinder' cut a sort of 'red ring' in the snow, 'like a Devil's circle of fire', temporarily blinding them both.

Sarvi felt something tugging at his belt. He looked down and beheld a creature only one metre high, with spindly arms and legs, and a waxen face with neither eyes nor mouth.

"It had a dark-green body-stocking, long white

gloves over hands of skin and bone, and a black tube dangling from its scrawny neck", said Sarvi. "Although very much alive, the thing looked 'dead'".

Soviet UFO investigators stated that the description resembled other reports that had come from the northern regions of the USSR. Yet neither Sarvi nor Erkkö could imagine, or had even heard of, such a thing as a UFO, or "Space aliens", or even the very idea of other inhabited worlds.

When asked what the creature was which they had seen, Erkkö grinned sheepishly and replied: "The Devil?"

From the separate interrogations of both men, it emerged that Sarvi had instinctively thrust his ski-staff at the creature, which promptly levelled the tube hanging from its neck at Sarvi and ejected a pulsating beam of light. This beam was so intense that it blinded both men.

When Sarvi and Erkkö were able to see again, the "cylinder" was just taking off, enveloped in a red haze. They could not see it very clearly, but other eyewitnesses, townspeople, got a good view of it as it flew over.

As Sarvi and Erkkö turned to set out for home, Sarvi suddenly realised that he was paralysed down his right side. He collapsed, and was carried home unconscious by Erkkö.

It was two weeks before Sarvi had recovered fully from the episode. He then returned to the spot, and was promptly overcome with nausea and collapsed.

When the story told by these two forest-rangers became known, numerous other villagers of Kestenga began to pluck up courage and to reveal various "sightings of strange things in the sky" about which they had hitherto been afraid to talk, lest they be ridiculed.

As a result of these investigations, it became evident that the big "jellyfish" seen hovering above Petrozavodsk in 1977 had been seen at various places in Karelia, including the village of Kestenga, and also at Murmansk, where the huge Soviet weapons base is located. (This is the famous "jellyfish" that James Oberg has proved to be a hovering Soviet rocket. G.C.)

The Kestenga villagers have set up their own UFO surveillance team, and speak of 135 local sightings in a year.

Meanwhile, Dr. Azhazha's Committee, which has been investigating these stories for the Soviet Government, has compiled a Report, but the Government has no intention of revealing its contents.

On the contrary, Dr. Azhazha's Committee was suddenly ordered to be disbanded just before presenting its report to the authorities, and Dr. Azhazha himself was stated to be more or less confined, in house arrest, in his own flat in Moscow.

Seemingly no reason was given by the authorities for their actions, and it remained unclear whether they feared public panic, or were planning to put all UFO research under secret military wraps.

Said Dr. Azhazha: "But the world must know. There is scientific proof that we are not alone".

(So much, then, for this "new Russian UFO report" (sic) which reaches us via the English edition of a Gujarati newspaper published in Bombay! But it rings quite a few bells in our memory, for it is actually an old chestnut. While the core of the story is no doubt entirely authentic, there has been some amusing "re-engineering".

For, as many of FSR's older readers will certainly recall, the case was given in FSR years ago. ("A Humanoid Was Seen At Imjärvi", in FSR Vol. 16, No. 5, of 1970, and again in FSR Vol. 26, No. 5, of 1981.)

The two foresters in the case were *Finns*, Aarno Heinonen and Esko Viljo. They had their encounter with the UFO and the weird little *troll* on January 7, 1970, and most of the striking details have come through unchanged, such as, for example, the "black urine". Soviet Karelia is in fact Finnish territory. The Karelians are *Finns*, being that half of the Finnish people who were not lucky enough, as Finland (Suomi) was, to achieve some sort of pseudo-liberty from the Soviet clutch. So all that has happened is that some enterprising wit has seen fit to shift the location of the story and change the names of the participants. Maybe he thought it was just too good a story to happen anywhere except within the confines of the Sacred Iron Curtain?

(As the original episode was about 22 years ago, it would be fascinating to find out what other variants of it got spun off on its long journey from Finland to Bombay!) G.C.)

VI. "RUSSIAN JET WINS DOGFIGHT WITH A UFO" "STARSHIP WRECKAGE LIES ON BOTTOM OF BALTIC SEA"

Another "sensational" American tabloid, the *Weekly World News*, dated January 21, 1986, carried this extraordinary story.

It claimed that a Soviet fighter plane escorting a new type of bomber on a top-secret test flight suddenly broke from formation over the Baltic Sea and fired a heat-seeking rocket and downed a 60-foot wide UFO.

Film-footage recording the encounter was allegedly captured by a gun-camera aboard the MIG-23 fighter.

The story went on to say that Western Intelligence Services had learned about the dramatic dogfight and the existence of the film from the statements made by a Romanian defector who had been undergoing pilot-training in the USSR at the time of the incident (the date of which is not given).

According to the classified reports, the encounter had begun shortly before dawn one day recently, when a prototype of Russia's advanced *Blackjack* bomber took off from the Kazan' Airframe Factory with an escort of four MIG-23 fighters on a

test flight to the Soviet Air Base near Riga, in Latvia, on the coast of the Baltic Sea.

Three hours later, the bomber and its four fighters were circling over the Baltic, at a height of some 8,000 feet, and preparing to make their final approach to the Soviet Air Force Base at Riga.

Suddenly, the brightly-lit saucer-shaped UFO darted into view.

Yuri Serobada, a Latvian major and ace-pilot in the Red Air Force, at once broke away from the formation and climbed to 14,000 feet.

The Intelligence reports said he came to within a mile of the UFO before firing a heat-seeking missile which automatically activated his MIG-23's gun-camera.

The film allegedly shows the UFO taking evasive action and then bursting into flames as the rocket finds its mark. The final frames of the film show the burning UFO plunging into the sea. Moments later the *Blackjack* bomber and its escorts landed at Riga.

According to the story as reported, Soviet scientists were still studying the film. The UFO was thought to have been at least 60 ft. wide. The reports also spoke of Russian plans to try to recover the UFO from the Baltic Sea.

Soviet officials, questioned about the affair, are reported to have replied that no such incident ever took place, and that the story is consequently just an elaborate hoax.

VII. YET ANOTHER SOVIET "UFO STUDY COMMISSION" SET UP IN 1984, HEADED BY COSMONAUT PAVEL POPOVICH

According to another passage in the same report by Henry Gris in the *National Enquirer* for December 21, 1984, two of Russia's top scientists were appointed to serve as assistants to Comrade Popovich⁽⁶⁾ on this UFO Commission. These were (1) Professor Anatoliy Logunov, Vice-President of the Soviet Academy of Sciences (!) and head of Moscow University, and (2) the astronomer (!) Nikolai Yerpylev of the Moscow Observatory.

Said Nikolai Yerpylev: "Our UFO Investigation Commission will have as many as 2,000 men in the field before the autumn. They will be reporting to a headquarters in Moscow staffed by 150 scientists. Said Pavel Popovich: "We have a gigantic task facing us."

N.B. The report added that "Soviet amateur astronomers all over the U.S.S.R. were being recruited to give their help in the massive sky search aimed at solving the UFO riddle."

Well, of course, when you see a report like that you can only conclude, can't you, that in Russia they must all have gone stark, raving mad. *Because nobody is mounting any such sort of UFO search in any other country, are they? (Or are they?) G.C..*

VIII. "ARE WE BEING WATCHED?"

According to a report published in the *Scottish*

Times for April 30, 1984, a Soviet astronomer, Dr. Boris Fesenko, says that he has been studying a glowing nebula over 1,000 light-years distant from Earth, and that he thinks it is a giant beacon sent out by some distant civilisation as a signal to our world.

According to his statement, the position of *Nebula NGC 6543*, a gaseous cloud of planetary matter with a hot star at its centre, is "too closely matched to the position of our Earth to be natural".

He said that, because such nebulae had a life-span of only a few thousand years (*sic?*) it could be concluded that the Nebula in question had been deliberately sent out to appear in its present position at a time when the Earth was entering its technological age.

Dr. Fesenko added: "It means that the signal was conceived at least 3,000-odd years ago. It was conceived by those who had studied the Earth, and foreseen our development."

(Needless to say, other Soviet scientists were all reported to view his ideas as nonsensical, and most of us will probably agree. G.C.)

NOTES & REFERENCES, BY EDITOR OF FSR

- (1) See FSRs 23/4, 24/3, 25/1, 26/6, 27/1, 27/3, 27/4, 27/5, 27/6, and 28/6, all of which contain UFO reports from Russia, some of which had come to us directly from Henry Gris.
- (2) Fans of POPEYE THE SAILOR (not *Popovich!*) should take careful note of this!
- (3) "Dr. Singh" is very conveniently obscure, since "Singh" is not a surname anyway in the sense that we know it. Every male Sikh employs the title "Singh" after his name — and there are about 15 million Sikhs in India — not to mention quite a few abroad!
- (4) Throughout the centuries, this sort of story has been regarded as the classic excuse for the maiden who finds herself pregnant. On the other hand, see also the powerful traditions, running right through all folklore and mythology, of "fairy lovers", "succubi", "incubae", etc. (In which connection see *A Brief Account of the True Nature of the "UFO Entities"*, in FSR 29/1, and see also *Passport to Magonia* by Jacques Vallée and *Trojan Horse* by John Keel.) (Maybe we are wrong, after all, in thinking this queer tale from Nepal to be a hoax, for it has to be admitted that we have on file contemporary material from South America, which we have never used or even mentioned, and which seems to bear on this very subject. If these reports turned out to be true, the situation would be anything but funny. For example, they include recent reports from the Amazon Basin of Brazil about women being rendered unconscious by beings from UFOs and then impregnated!) Let us not forget, furthermore, that in the world's great religions, all the great *Avatars* and Teachers simply *have* to be shown as "different", and this is achieved by having them conceived and born in some unusual or special fashion, in order to be "pure" and free of the normal conditions associated with "sex", which some of our cultures (*not all!*) seem to have branded as "unclean" or at any rate "unworthy" for employment in connection with the mechanism by which souls acquire bodies and are "born" here.
- (5) For details of Dr. Vladimir Grigorievich Azhazha, who in 1979 reportedly held the post of Director of the Underwater Research Section of the USSR Academy of Sciences (this "underwater research" connection is surely mighty interesting!), see FSR 25/1 and 27/1. He seems to have been running some kind of official UFO investigation committee at the time, and in FSR 25/1 we published a translation of a lecture delivered by him in 1979 and entitled "Life In The Cosmos". After that, he seems to have "come unstuck". The

Soviet authorities disbanded his Committee and placed him under "house-arrest" in Moscow.

After that, we heard no more of him and concluded that — like so many others — he had probably ended up in one of the Soviet death labour camps. Maybe he *did* have a spell as a prisoner, but at any rate those who have read Dr. Jacques Vallée's recent book *UFO Chronicles of The Soviet Union*, will know that, when, in January 1990, Dr. Vallée visited Russia again to investigate the current UFO situation there, his principal host was Professor Vladimir Azhazha, Head of the Soviet Government's Committee For the Study of Anomalous Phenomena. So it is clear that Azhazha has successfully "bounced back" — a rare feat in Russia!

As already mentioned in the text above, the next head of the Soviet UFO investigation group was the former astronaut Pavel Popovich, whose appointment was announced in the summer of 1984. British newspapers, reporting this, attempted at the time to suggest (as we can well imagine they would) that prior to that date Russia had never had any sort of official UFO investigative group. But this is patently nonsense, because we know that, as far back even as 1967, there was the Red Air Force General Porfiriy Stolyarov, Chairman of the USSR All-Union Committee on Astronautics. Those who read the book by Gris and Dick will know that Stolyarov also set up a special group inside that Committee on Astronautics, the purpose of which was to study UFOs. Together with the astronomer Dr. Yuri F. Zigel', Stolyarov was publicly active (even on radio and television) urging the Russian public to send in their UFO reports. In those days we learned from Jacques Vallée, on his way back from Moscow via Britain, that not only were the Soviets busily studying UFOs, but they already had "half as many again" UFO reports on file as the U.S. Air Force (*i.e. about 15,000 to the USAF's 10,000.*)

We learned that Stolyarov had been promised that, when he got his UFO study group properly functioning inside the All-Union Committee on Astronautics, the Air Force's UFO files would be turned over to him. But, when he went to ask for the files, the reply was a resounding: "Nyel!" And when he asked "why?", we understand that the reply was "because this is too big a matter and you are too small!" Nor is there any reason whatever to believe that, long before his appointment in 1967, the Russian Government did not already have its department secretly studying the UFO Problem, just like all the other Governments.

- 6) After the disgrace of Azhazha some time after 1979, we heard that the "No. One" in Soviet Ufology was — as indicated in Note 5 above — the ex-astronaut Pavel Popovich. Popovich has now evidently "popped out" of the overall control position in Soviet UFO research, but, according to Dr. Vallée's book (page 30), Professor Azhazha said that Popovich was still working under him, and running a Countryside Investigatory Commission.■

OBITUARIES

We record, with great regret, the passing of two more pioneers in our field. These are Captain S.L. Plunkett (aged 88), formerly of the British Aeroplane Company at Bristol, and founder of the old British Flying Saucer Bureau.

The second important figure to leave us is Denny Densham (aged 71) who was the Government's Film Officer at the time of the famous Lifjell films of saucers over Norway during the eclipse of the Sun on June 30, 1954.

A NOTE ON DR. ANDREI SAKHAROV AND THE "TWIN UNIVERSE THEORY"

By Gordon Creighton

As FSR readers will know, the Russian philosopher-scientist Andrei Sakharov was the so-called "Father of the Soviet Atom Bomb", although he subsequently deeply regretted his participation in such work — just as the American Oppenheimer did. In fact Sakharov ended up as one of Russia's great reformers and dissidents, dying in 1989 after years of house-arrest and exile, and so just a little too soon to see the final collapse of the monstrous Marxist tyranny that he had once served.

Sakharov was known for his outstanding contributions to scientific knowledge in several spheres, notably such areas as MHD (Magnetohydrodynamics) and the Quantic Field Theory. But one of his great early enthusiasms had been for Cosmology, and after 1967 he returned very frequently to these themes. He published a number of important articles on the "Twin Universe Theory" (a two-sided Universe, with a sort of "Mirror World" in close association with our own, but with its time-flow going in the opposite direction!)

In 1975 Sakharov was awarded the Nobel Prize, but, as will be recalled, the Curmudgeons in the Kremlin refused to let him go to Stockholm to receive it, so his wife Yelena Bonnor, herself an equally brave fighter in the struggle for liberty, had to go there in his stead and read his acceptance speech, which ended with the moving passage which I reproduce below. (Incidentally, I have never seen any mention of any statements that Sakharov may have made at any time about "our subject" of the UFOs, but I think we can surely deduce that he had thought, and that he knew, a great deal about it!).

"Thousands of years ago, the tribes of mankind endured enormous privations in their struggle for existence. It was important in those days not only to know how to wield a club, but also to possess the capacity to think intelligently, to pay due heed to the knowledge and experience accumulated by the tribe, and to develop the contacts which would establish the bases for a co-operation with other tribes. Today, the human race has to face a similar test. Several civilizations could exist in infinite Space, among them being some societies that might be wiser and having a better "showing" than ours. I support the cosmological hypothesis according to which the development of the Universe would be repeated an infinite number of times, always with certain essential characteristics. Other civilizations, including certain ones with a better "show-

ing", are inscribed an infinite number of times upon the 'following' or 'preceding' pages of the Book of the Universe.

Nevertheless, we must not abate our own sacred efforts in this world, in which, like faint gleams in the darkness, we have appeared for a moment out of the void of obscure unconsciousness into the plane of material existence. We must respect the demands of reason and we must create a life that is worthy of us, and worthy of those objectives that we ourselves can scarcely apprehend."

A notable ally and supporter of Andrei Sakharov in connection with both MHD and the "Mirror Universe" Theory is of course FSR Consultant Dr. Jean-Pierre Petit of France to whom we have referred a good many times in recent issues. (See FSR 33/2, Summer 1988, p.21; FSR 35/3, Autumn 1990, inside front cover; FSR 35/4, Winter 1990, p.6; FSR 36/2, Summer 1991, p.21; FSR 37/1, Spring 1992, pp. 19 and 20).

Dr. Petit, who is a Senior Scientist in charge of a Section in the C.N.R.S. (French National Council For Scientific Research), is best known for his enthusiastic espousal of MHD. He has however recently also written two books on the UFOs. The first of these, in 1990, *Enquête Sur Les Ovni: Voyage Aux Frontières De La Science* (An Enquiry into UFOs: Journey to the Frontiers of Science) was discussed for us by French astronomer Dr. Pierre Guérin on pages 19/20 of FSR 37/1.

The second book which appeared in 1991, is *Enquête Sur Des Extraterrestres Qui Sont Déjà Parmi Nous: Le Mystère Des Ummites*. (There is no English version of this book — nor is there of his earlier one — but the English title would read "An Enquiry into Some Extraterrestrials Who Are Already Among Us: The Mystery of "Ummo".)

With this astonishing book, Dr. Petit has gambled enormously with his own scientific reputation in France, and I am not yet able to say exactly how much impact — if any — it has had, or what the effects have been on him.

But it is a mind-boggling fact that here is a leading French scientist who tells us flatly that the "UMMITES" (about which FSR was producing many lengthy articles and translations of mine twenty and more years ago) are no hoax; that they do exist; and that they come from Dr. Andrei Sakharov's "Twin" or "Mirror" Universe!

In due course I hope to report further on this quite extraordinary development. ■

Another UFO Sighting Reported in Scotland

Dear Gordon Creighton, — Thank you for publishing (in FSR 36/2, Summer 1991) my account and drawing of the UFO seen by me in August 1990.

You will be interested to know that there has been another much more dramatic sighting in this area.

An account of the matter was broadcast on Tuesday July 9, 1991, by Radio Borders. I understand the sighting to have been on the night of Monday, July 8, and I give below the summary of the story as I received it, by telephone, from Jill McPherson, the Radio Borders interviewer:-

Lorry-driver Steve Hallett is driving along the A7 road near Selkirk, within sight of the area TV transmission mast. He looks up, and is astonished to see a large, brightly lit disc-shaped craft hovering overhead. The instruments in his truck "go haywire". He stops the truck, and, fascinated, watches the UFO for about 15 seconds before it disappears into the night sky at terrific speed. He reckoned the UFO to have been about 40 ft. wide and said it had the standard "domed saucer" appearance, plus coloured lights.

The driver was overwhelmed by his experience and claimed to have had little or no interest in the subject of UFOs previously. I was told that he is a down-to-earth person with no motive for concocting such a story.

It was suggested that what he might have seen were the aircraft warning lights atop the TV transmission mast, but this was denied by him. He lives and works in the area and says he is very familiar with the mast and its lights.

I have the name and telephone number of Steve's employer in Peebles, which I would be happy to pass on to you if you wanted to obtain further information on this sighting.

Before finishing, can I once more thank you for all your efforts and success in producing FSR. However, having read a good deal of recent, sensational material such as the *Dulce Papers* etc., I, like some of your other readers and correspondents, would value your assessment and evaluation of these revelations."

As your South Africa Consultant David Powell asserts, time may not be on our side.

Yours sincerely,

John Hay
Summerhope Cottage,
St. Mary's Loch,
Selkirk TD7 5LH,
Scotland.
July 12, 1991.

"I am sorry to say that I can claim to have no "inside knowledge". But I agree that we are living through very, very strange times, and I feel it "in my bones" that we don't have long.

We must ask Mr. Hay and our other readers to forgive us for the great delay in publishing this and many of the other letters. As everybody knows, we have an enormous pile of material waiting to go into FSR, and we have only a few pages to take it. We admit however that our main objective has always been to keep as good an over-all record as possible of the UFO story, and that we are not striving always to be "up to date", whatever that means. EDITOR.

Sighting Report from an FSR Reader

Dear Mr. Creighton, — I was interested to see the report on the Cornish sighting of January 6, 1991 (FSR 36/3), by Mr. Hall of Liskeard.

I myself saw an identical object on Wednesday May 22, 1991, when on the way from Bodmin to Camelford in order to investigate a paranormal happening for ASSAP.

It was a sunny day with blue sky, which makes the abrupt disappearance of the object even more speculative. *The object resembled an elongated airship, silvery and bright, with pointed ends.* It appeared motionless, and was as sharply defined as an aircraft at that distance. Its apparent size was about the same as a former British five-pence coin held at arm's length.

I pulled into a convenient lay-by, and watched it through 8 x 30 binoculars and a 20 x 30 telescope. While I was watching it, it vanished.

Within seconds a small biplane came into view in the same area, flying away from where the object had been.

The plane was perfectly visible as such right from the outset; there was no way that it could have been mistaken through binoculars for the very elongated shape of the object that I had seen.

The biplane zigzagged about all over the landscape before finally flying away out of sight.

I did not report the sighting to any UFO organization as I knew I would be accused of misidentification. And I would not be reporting it now, had I not read of Mr. Hall's identical experience.

I have now made contact with Mr. Hall and the Plymouth UFO Investigation Group about the matter.

Had the object that I saw been of what is normally considered a "proper

airship-shape", I might perhaps have been satisfied that it was in fact an airship. However it was much longer and slimmer than the usual airship form."

Yours sincerely,

Terry Cox,
The Ashram,
Roseland Lane,
Redmoor, Bodmin,
Cornwall, PL30 5AT.
October 14, 1991.

* This agrees totally with Mr. Hall's sketch of the object he had seen. EDITOR.



Mr. Hall's sketch.

A Sighting in Wales

Dear Sir, — On Thursday 15th August I saw a black disc over Kidwelly Quay, Dyfed. The craft approached from Ferryside and flew directly over Carmarthen Bay holiday camp, then it banked sharply to the right before levelling out and carrying on as before, at the same height and speed. The sun caught the underside and there was a bright flash as the craft banked over. It carried on a course above the shore over Cefn Sidan Beach, then went behind a small fluffy cloud and disappeared.

This area is used by the RAF for bombing practice, and we view them every day over our house. All their details can be seen from ground level, bombs and lights etc. The disc had no details visible and it was silent.

I would say it was half the length of a *Tornado* bomber.

Yours sincerely,

Terry Baxter,
57 Heol Morlais,
Trimsaran,
Nr. Kidwelly,
Dyfed, Wales, SA17 4DP
November 9, 1991

AIMÉ MICHEL

As we go to press, we learn from Dr. Pierre Guérin that Aimé Michel, the renowned pioneer in "our subject", has just died. More in our Spring Issue, 1993. EDITOR.