

STRANGE AND INTERESTING TIMES



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Surely all this must bring, at the very least to some, the strange feeling that the demonic features enumerated above are now starting to be counterbalanced — ever so subtly — by SOMETHING ELSE, something that must derive from a High Source. *Something that our own old-fashioned, cultured, fuddyduddy forebears of the past century might surely have held to be from a Divine or at least an "Angelic" Source?*

And then there is Fátima. All those who are familiar with the Fátima Story might do well to let their thoughts stray awhile to that, for the link between Russia and Fátima looks strange, and may perhaps be awesome.

And maybe not only are great political and social eruptions upon us, but, at an entirely different and far higher level, it also looks as though 1990 may well see the start of some of those juddering geophysical jolts that have been foretold by more than one wise soul as likely to occur in precisely these days. So — *those that have ears — let them hear!* Poor old Planet Gaia and her offspring are all in a bad way. For, as students of the Arcane have always known, there is evidence for a strange and terrifying bond between mankind's own "inner state" and the corresponding "inner state" of the Earth.

And — in conclusion — apologies are tendered for the lateness of this issue — due entirely to the enormous extra burden of all the material received out of Russia.

I — INTRODUCTION: NEWS FROM MUSCOVY

Gordon Creighton

THERE has been a "UFO Problem" in Russia and the USSR just as long as there has been a "UFO Problem" in the rest of the world. We know that there are quite a number of good Russian reports that date from as far back as at least the 1880s. And in fact the *third* issue of FSR (July/August 1955) contained my translation of a UFO report from the prestigious Soviet scientific journal PRIRODA ("NATURE"), which is published by the USSR Academy of Sciences and is the Russian counterpart of our scientific journal NATURE.

Ever since that date (summer of 1955), FSR has constantly been receiving Russian material about UFOs, by one route or another. Sometimes this material came in lengthy letters to me from my personal correspondent in Moscow, Arkadiy Tikhonov (probably long since gone from this world) or from other correspondents here and there. No doubt some of those early correspondents were writing at the instigation of, or under the control of, the USSR Academy of Sciences or one or other of the two Soviet counter-intelligence and espionage organs, the KGB and GRU. (The Academy of Sciences of the USSR had itself been taking FSR regularly ever since 1963. See FSR 33/3, page 13.)

In addition, there was a period, of almost a decade, when, in London, I was myself in the privileged position of seeing daily almost the whole of the principal Russian press — including many newspapers and

journals not normally available to the world outside the USSR because there was (for Intelligence reasons) a Soviet ban on their "export".

So our link with the Soviet scene is not a new one. It has endured over many years, and it will suffice to consult our back issues to see that FSR has carried a long series of important articles about Ufology and UFO reports in Russia, containing more information on Russia than any other UFO investigation journal anywhere else in the world has ever done.

This year, however, we have even begun to see reports of Russian UFO stories and sightings published in the Soviet Government's own propaganda organ SOVIET WEEKLY, put out by the Novosti News Agency in London, and we recently carried one such report, about sightings at Konantsevo and other places in the Vologda Oblast' (Province) of Central Russia, in our last issue (FSR 34/3).

Then, on October 9, 1989, the semi-official Soviet News Agency TASS shook the appletree badly — and convulsed the whole outside world too — by reporting that a UFO had landed on the evening of September 27, 1989, in a park at Voronezh, a city of 900,000 inhabitants lying some 300 miles to the south-east of Moscow, and that its occupants had walked about and been seen by many people.

Our main file (still inevitably far from complete), containing merely the *foreign* reports and accounts of

these events at Voronezh, already runs to 90 large pages (A4 size). And, as stated, these are simply some of the British and American translated accounts, with a few from French, German, Spanish, and Japanese sources.

But a study of this file shows that the world — and the world press — have suffered an extremely nasty shock from the Voronezh story. Almost all of the reaction seems to have been quite hysterical — and this aspect of the matter is so interesting that I hope to devote another entire article soon to the *hysteria*. (Evidently there had been a general sense of confidence everywhere that the Russians, of all people, would never “let the cat out of the bag” so seriously as this!)

The reaction world-wide has consequently been, as stated, (1) *hysteria*. And, (2) *a general attempt to make out that there was only one alleged sighting and one alleged (and phoney) landing story at Voronezh, whereas it seems clear that there were actually several, on several different days, in and around Voronezh, and that an awful lot of people did “see something there”.*

As for the reason *why* “the cat got let out of the bag” at Voronezh — we can at present merely speculate. So far, the two favourite theories in the West about it seem to be that either (1) some poor wight in Russia thought that *glasnost* ‘really meant *glasnost*’, and took the bit between his teeth (*in which case he is surely in the GULAG by now!*), or, (2), that things have now got so bad in poor old Mother Russia that someone at the top decided to try to take Ivan’s mind for a while off the growing queues and the dwindling food supplies by releasing a story about UFOs and UFO occupants!

After the initial hysteria, steps were rapidly taken to kill the whole thing stone-dead, and this process was completed by the end of October. The TASS story about Voronezh seems to have been released on or about October 9, and by October 13, the top Soviet official paper PRAVDA (“TRUTH”) had launched its counter-attack, slamming the local authorities at Voronezh for not having cracked down on the UFO story and stopped its dissemination. So far as we ourselves have yet seen, the main support for TASS’s story came from the Soviet “intellectual” paper, *Sovetskaya Kultura* and — very curious this — from the October 22 issue of a journal put out in Moscow by the Soviet authorities *for foreign readers*, and issued under the titles of MOSCOW NEWS and NOUVELLES DE MOSCOU and also in several other languages. The Soviet

youth journal KOMSOMOL’S KAYA PRAVDA was another one that gave plenty of support to the story — at any rate to begin with. But we will probably never know how many smaller or provincial papers also reported the Voronezh story.

PRAVDA’s master-blast against UFOs came in a long article, “INOPLANETYANE V OBRADOVSKE” (“EXTRATERRESTRIALS AT GLEEVILLE”) in their issue of October 15. We will give an abridgement of this fine piece of humorous writing in due course. PRAVDA also had more about “Goings-On in Gleeville” on October 19, and by October 30 we were finally able to read (MAINICHI DAILY NEWS in English), (Tokyo), that a Soviet scientific commission “*had concluded that there exists no verifiable proof of a landing by aliens last month in the town of Voronezh*”. (See full text of this report below.)

Meanwhile, what we at FSR have been able to establish, from our own massive material received from our own sources inside Russia (*namely one of the largest Russian UFO investigation groups*) and from our press coverage, both Soviet and foreign, is that the USSR has been inundated with a veritable “flap” or “wave” of *UFO and poltergeistic phenomena* throughout at least the whole of 1989, and besides “things seen in the skies” this also includes at least a dozen good, well-vouched cases of queer entities encountered walking around on the ground. *All of which we shall also have to deal with in a separate report.*

Since June 1989 we have received a further total of 71 pages of Russian typescript, mostly single-spaced, on A4 size sheets, and it will be quite a big job to boil all this down and extract the essentials. (This is the reason for the delay in getting out this issue of FSR.)

As regards the identity of our informants in Russia, we have to make the sad confession that we do not belong to the starry-eyed confraternity who believe that *glasnost*’ is necessarily here to stay. *We therefore do not propose to give their names or addresses.*

One of the papers that they have sent us is an account of their own harassment, over past years, by the KGB and by the astronomers and scientists, and by the university and academic world in general. This too we shall translate and publish in due course.

So now, as starters, here is as detailed account as we can gather at present of the main story — the landing in the park at Voronezh on the evening of September 27, 1989.

II — THE UFO LANDINGS AT VORONEZH

Gordon Creighton ©

AN announcement carried on October 9, 1989, by the semi-official Soviet News Agency TASS (always regarded throughout the world as the veritable “mouthpiece of the Kremlin”), and repeated on the following days by the “intelligentsia’s” journal *Sovetskaya Kultura*, the youth journal *Komsomolskaya Pravda*, and several other papers, indicated that, at 6.30 p.m. on September 27, 1989 — a warm evening — an alien craft, a disc, or ball, or egg-shaped, had landed in a clearing in a park at Voronezh, a city of some 900,000 inhabitants lying 300 miles south-east of Moscow.

The place, Yuzhny Park (“South Park”), is on the outskirts of the Levoberezhny Suburb, near Mendeleev Street.

The event is claimed to have been witnessed by a number of boys and girls from the nearby School

No. 33, who were playing football, and also by a considerable number of adults — possibly as many as 30 or 40 — who were waiting at a near-by bus stop. (According to the versions gathered by the newspaper *Sovetskaya Kultura* and by two journalists sent specially to the spot to investigate on behalf of the *Moscow News*, it seems certain that — despite the subsequent persistent efforts of the world-press outside Russia to make out that *only one* landing had been alleged at Voronezh, and that its only witnesses were *children*, — the truth of the matter is that UFOs were seen at or around that area many times, and by many people, between at least September 21 and October 2. Many adult witnesses were subsequently interrogated about this by the Voronezh *Militia* (Police), and they said that they had seen craft — sometimes “banana-shaped” and bearing an illuminated emblem or sign.