

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.

Some of them also said that they had seen or encountered occupants. And these statements referred to days other than September 27. (The principal days mentioned, other than September 27, seem to have been September 21, September 23, September 29, and October 2).

The Children

Various reports seen by us give various names of children eyewitnesses — presumably because not all of the children were interviewed by any one journalist. The names we have collected are:—

BOYS

Roman Torchin (sixth form)
Vasya Surin (aged 11)
Denis Murzenko
Yuri Grinev
Yuri Sergachev
Roman Milkin
Volodya Startsev
Alyosha Nikonov
Oleg Chebotaryov (aged 9)
Zhenia Blinov (interviewed on TV)

GIRLS

Yuliya Shokholova
Lena Sarokina (aged 11)

The Approach and the Landing of the Craft

When questioned, the children stated that about 6.30 p.m. they had observed a pinkish glow approaching in the sky, on a level course, and that when it was right above them they perceived it to be a deep red, ball-shaped or egg-shaped object. (Several adult witnesses, as already noted, spoke however of having seen a “banana-shaped” craft with an illuminated sign, but it is not at all clear, so far as we can see, whether this description related to September 27 or to one or other of the other days).

The object flew around in concentric circles above the children for a while, and then vanished for a few minutes. Then it reappeared, and began to hover above them. Then it started to descend. When it was close to the ground, a hatch about 3 m. high opened, and a burly silhouette appeared, more or less blocking the whole aperture. The movements of this being, which peered around, were slow. He seemed “to have no neck”, and his head was very small, described as “like a small hemisphere set between the shoulders”. Another witness spoke of it as “more like a knob than a head”. The being allegedly had three luminous eyes, the central one being moveable, “swivelling around like a radar”. His nose was a mere hole, and on his breast was a shield. After looking around, he closed the hatch. Then four “feet” came down, and the craft landed gently.

Size of the Craft

The machine is described as about 30 ft. wide. But one or two reports say “about 15 metres long, 4 m. wide, and 7 m high”. (It is difficult to wed this with “30 ft. wide”. Do these second set of measurements relate to something seen in that same park on another day, as seems likely — maybe the “banana-shaped” machine?).

The Entities

When the deep red-coloured “ball” had finally

touched down and the hatch opened up again, the witnesses say that a total of three of the huge, “pin-headed” creatures stepped out, bringing with them what seemed to be a robot. Vasya Surin and other boys described the “pin-head” beings as between 3 m. and 4 m. high, in silvery coloured overalls and bronze-coloured boots. One of them gave a sort of push to the “robot”, and set him moving, and then the whole party set off and strolled around the craft several times. One of the beings emitted “sounds”, which seemed to be orders, and from his breast came a beam of light that delineated on the ground a number of luminous triangles, of about 30 cms. × 50 cms., which faded after a short while.

According to the *Sovetskaya Kultura*'s version — if we have understood it aright — at this stage both the craft and the entities flipped into invisibility for five minutes or so, and then reappeared.

Boy “Zapped”

One of the boys cried out in fear, whereupon one of the beings “froze” him or “paralyzed” him with a glance from his glowing eyes. This particular being had a sort of “tube”, about 50 cms. long, hanging at his side. (This sort of weapon has featured in several encounter reports from various parts of the world — particularly in the famous French case of Monsieur Maas at Valensole, and in some of the South American encounter cases.) The creature now pointed this “tube” at another of the boys (aged 16) and “zapped” him with a luminous beam, so that the boy vanished totally from the scene, to reappear again only after the alien craft and alien beings had departed!

(Some of the press reports from Russia indicated that the parents of this boy have not permitted any journalist to interview him.) The London *Sunday Times* (October 15) quoted a Mr Slava Martinov, a member of the local UFO study group, as stating that in fact *most* of the children eyewitnesses had not been permitted to testify before the Independent Enquiry Commission set up by the Voronezh authorities. (See more on this below.) Martinov said: “The parents all want their kids left alone.” *However, it seems that quite a lot of the children did talk to journalists, and of course all of the alleged statement by children eyewitnesses given in this article are claimed to have come through the journalists who went down to Voronezh to see them.*

Ground Marks left by the UFO

The reports indicate that, at the spot where the craft had stood, a circular depressed area some 60 ft. wide was found, with four holes set in a rhombus pattern. Some versions said the four holes were some 15 cms. in diameter, and 4 cms. deep. (Lev Aksionov and Boris Zverev, the two journalists sent from Moscow to spend two or three days in Voronezh and write a detailed report for the English and French versions of *Moscow News*, were quoted as saying the holes were 25-30 cms. wide and 20-25 cms. deep.)

Local Official Investigation Committee Formed

Many reports described the local populace as very frightened. Within days, at the instigation of the local Parliamentary Deputy, Gennadiy Kabassin, the Mayor of Voronezh, Viktor Atlasov, and his assistant, Aleksandr Tsapin, set up an Investigating Committee, comprising scientists, criminologists, doctors, meteorologists (and even local UFO investigators!).

The press reports made mention of two different local "UFO investigation bodies", one being called the "Voronezh Branch of the Aleksandr Popov Scientific and Electronic Association", and the other one being called the "Voronezh Branch for the Study of Anomalous Phenomena". (We heard about the "Popov Society" years ago, and published a report on its activities. We knew in those days that its credentials sounded a bit phoney. Obviously the *real* UFO study group in Voronezh is the "Anomalous Phenomena Group". For our correspondents in Russia informed us recently that for years past they have been persecuted and badgered and chivvied and driven from pillar to post by the KGB, by the university academics, and by the astronomers and intellectuals, all because they insisted on calling themselves investigators of "NLOs" (Russian for "UFOs"). And in the end they were obliged to call themselves investigators of "ANOMALOUS PHENOMENA"! Evidently a rose by any other name does *not* smell as sweet.

Genrikh Silanov

Prominent among the Voronezh Group of "Investigators of Anomalous Phenomena" there is a Mr Genrikh (= Henry) Silanov, and many of the press reports mention him. He runs an establishment with the official-sounding title of "Voronezh Geophysical Laboratory", but all the reports assure us that this is simply a private body run by Silanov. Silanov himself interrogated many of the eyewitnesses, both children and adults.

"Bio-Location" of the Site

Many of the foreign press-reports on the case described how the Russians talked about "bio-location" having been utilized in order to confirm the precise landing-site. All the American and British press agencies and journalists confessed to being baffled by this term, and complained that the Russians had given no explanation as to what it meant!

"Bio-location" is simply the Russian term for what we call in English "dowsing". Being second to nobody in the entire world in their knowledge of all aspects of Parapsychology and Occultism (studied intensively by the KGB in view of the tremendous possible uses in espionage, intelligence warfare, and skullduggery in general), the Russians naturally know all about dowsing. And they take it very seriously. Like a lot of things at which we profess to snigger.

According to Genrikh Silanov's statements, he and his fellow-investigators used their dowsing equipment, and found that the UFO had landed precisely where the boys and other witnesses said it landed.

"Intense Magnetic Field" Found?

According to one of the foreign reports (seen only in the *Pensacola News Journal*, Florida, USA, October 12) a Russian aviation engineer from a nearby factory at Voronezh said that he and his colleagues examined and measured the landing site, and found there "an intense magnetic field".

Gamma Radiation at the Site

According to the reporters Aksionov and Zverev (of *Moscow Weekly News*), two of the holes made by the feet of the craft showed far higher gamma radiation than adjacent ground. The soil around about in the park showed an average of 10-15 microroentgens per

hour, whereas one of the holes registered 30 microroentgens and another gave 37 microroentgens. (According to another press report seen, it was technicians from the Soviet Ministry of the Interior who discovered and measured this radioactivity.)

Probable Weight of the Craft

This was stated to have been estimated as 11 tons.

The Red Sandstones

There was a tremendous hooha in some papers about certain pieces of red sandstone allegedly found at the landing site. At first it seemed as though Genrikh Silanov himself was quoted as having said that this red stone was something never before found anywhere else on Earth! Later he was however quoted as stating firmly that it was simply a bit of ordinary haematite such as is normal in those parts of Russia.

Britain's "best and most famous newspaper", SUNDAY SPORT (October 22) had a wonderful time with the red sandstones, announcing that these were "alien eggs" from the Cosmos, and claiming that "their man at Voronezh" had even brought one home to the Head Office in London; that examination of the "egg" by British doctors and scientists had already established the presence within it of some sort of human-like embryo; and that they would soon be announcing a "happy event" to their readers. (Since then, for some curious reason, the "Sunday Sport" seems to have "gone off" its "cosmic eggs", and has no doubt found something else with which to tittivate us and drum up business).

Soil Samples Taken?

In addition to the holes made in the soil by the "feet" of the alleged alien craft, investigators were reported to have found another hole (no dimensions mentioned) from which it was thought that the visitors might have taken soil samples — just as has been reported in many other UFO cases.

Statement by Lt. Sergei Matveyev of the Voronezh Militia (Police)

This young policeman told investigators that he had been one of the eyewitnesses to the landing. He said that, at about 7.00 p.m. on September 27, 1989, he had been passing near the Park, when he suddenly saw an "incandescent ball" pass across the sky in horizontal flight, very fast, and at an altitude of about 200 m. He reckoned its diameter as being about 15 m. He watched this "ball" in flight for about five seconds. It was making no sound of any kind. When questioned further as to its apparent solidity, he insisted that it was definitely *three-dimensional*, and was no hallucination or trick of light or solar beam in the atmosphere.

Statement by a Colonel of the Voronezh Militia

Police-Colonel Ludmilla Makarova, Head of the Voronezh Department of Criminal Detection (she is consequently, an official of the Soviet Ministry of the Interior) commented on the case as follows:—

"I don't know what it was that happened here, but I do know one thing — the radioactivity at the site is very high. WHY? No doubt because of some isotope particle. But then another question arises: Why the radioactivity inside the holes and not on the surface of the ground?"

Statement by a Soviet Nuclear Physicist

Another important Voronezh personage whose statement was published along with the others in the *Moscow Weekly News* No. 43 (October 22) was Professor Stanislav Kadmskiy, holder of the Chair of Nuclear Physics in the University of Voronezh, and also a member of the Commission of Enquiry into the Voronezh Incident.

He described how he and his colleagues had collected 17 soil samples at the site and sent them away for analysis. Discussing the possibility that alien beings might visit our Planet (*which he did not appear to deem ridiculous or impossible!*) his answer showed none of the hysteria displayed over this affair by our American and British press. Like Stanton Friedman he is, of course, a nuclear physicist, and therefore presumably not a total buffoon. At any rate, he merely made the remarkably interesting statement that, *if a landing by a UFO at Voronezh were to be proved, then it would mean that we have something to learn about the Special Theory of Relativity, and it would indicate that there exists another sort of Physics that is at present unknown to us.*

"Religious Rumours"

A rumour circulated to the effect that a priest of the Russian Orthodox Church had visited the landing site, and *blessed it!* The story went on to say that true believers were flocking to the Voronezh Park to offer prayers there.

So the two journalists from the *Moscow Weekly News* contacted the Episcopal Office in Voronezh, and asked whether this report was true. They received a categorical denial:—

"It is an act of Satan — not of God!

A true Christian would never go to that place in the park to pray."

Consistency of Eyewitnesses' Statements

Apart from the fact that, as stated above, a number of people seem to have mentioned seeing a "banana-shaped object", and that more than one sighting, and possibly more than one landing, may have taken place, and on a number of days between September 21 and October 3, the Authorities and the investigators at Voronezh admit that the accounts give by eyewitnesses show a remarkable degree of uniformity and agreement. This is particularly so of what the children said. And an odd fact which emerges, according to the two men from the *Moscow Weekly News*, is that some of the Voronezh children's descriptions and sketches of craft and aliens and "robots" coincide to an astonishing degree with the accounts and sketches of the children who claimed to have seen landed craft and entities at the village of Konantsevo, near Kharovsk, in Vologda Oblast' (Province) in June 1989.

(For a preliminary report on that case, see page 1 of FSR 34/3. And we shall provide a fuller account on the Konantsevo/Kharovsk story in the near future.)

Indeed, when the work of translating all this year's crop of reports received directly from our Russian correspondents is done (*these are investigators' reports — not press reports*), we may be in a

position to show that at both Voronezh and at a place near Chernushenskiy, far away in Perm Province, in Siberia, the accounts speak, at least in part, of black, square, robot-like beings, and tall beings with excessively tiny "knobs" in place of heads. All of this will have to be covered in one of the two or three further articles which will be required if we are to deal properly with all the weird "poltergeistic" UFO stories received from Russia in 1989.

Statement by the Mayor of Voronezh about the Children

Discussing the eyewitnesses' accounts at Voronezh, Mayor Atlasov of that City told the two reporters from *Moscow Weekly News* that he was quite positive that the local children were telling the truth. He said he had listened very carefully both to their statement and to the taped recordings of their statements. He commented:

"I am not very young myself. And I am positive that an adult can always perceive when a child is telling the truth and when he is giving rein to his imagination. I believe what they are saying."

Reports also treated seriously by other Voronezh Authorities

Vladimir A. Moisevey, Director of the Voronezh Regional Health Office, together with other City Authorities and, as stated, the TASS News Agency's staff, all treated the entire story throughout as a serious scientific phenomenon. Interviewed by telephone by the *New York Times* on October 11, Moisevey said that, despite all the reports of "widespread fear" in Voronezh about the UFOs, none of the eyewitnesses had, so far, applied to his Department for any sort of medical aid or counselling. But, he went on, "We are certainly planning to examine the children". (He gave no explanation why no such examination had yet been undertaken, seeing that two whole weeks had already elapsed since September 27, the day of the claimed landing in the Park.) But the children certainly were questioned at some later stage.

As regards talk of surveillance of the alleged landing site, Mr Larin, Duty Officer at the Voronezh Offices of the Soviet Ministry of the Interior, said that his own department was much too short-handed to have extra men available for patrolling the Park, but he said that *"If they (the Aliens) appeared there again, troops would be despatched to the site"*.

Statements by TASS News Agency Spokesmen

Asked whether the Voronezh story could be a hoax, a genial spokesman in the TASS Moscow Office replied: *"So far as we are concerned, this is no joke. We never joke. If we start joking, we'll stop existing."*

Questioned by British journalists in London and on British television, the TASS Correspondent in London, Yuri Sidorov, said (October 9, 1989):—

"No. This is not April Fool's Day. We are a serious agency, and do not report things that are not true. Personally, I do not believe in flying objects, but if TASS says something, it must be so."

Personal Statement by TASS Correspondent Lebedev from Voronezh.


The TASS correspondent Vladimir V. Lebedev, aged 59 and a veteran of twenty years in the TASS service, who was the man sent from Moscow to Voronezh to investigate and report on this case from the spot, told *United Press International* (report in *Los Angeles Times* of October 11) that in Voronezh he questioned "about ten youngsters aged 12 to 13", and added that he felt this large number sufficed to show that something had indeed happened there. He did not claim to have seen any UFOs or entities at Voronezh himself. He said that, in all, *the Voronezh eyewitnesses had spoken to him of three landings by alien craft seen by them at Voronezh, the main one being on September 27, and the other two on September 23 and September 29.*

In a report carried by the *New York Times* (October 11) Lebedev was quoted as saying that the three children from School No. 33 who first saw the UFO when it arrived while they were playing football were Vasya Surin (boy), Yuliya Shokholova (girl) and Zhenya Blinov (boy).

When Esther B. Fein, the *New York Times* representative in Moscow, telephoned to Lebedev in Voronezh about the case, she reported that he "sounded quite insulted"; by the idea that anyone should treat his story of the Voronezh landing with anything but the full seriousness that he and the TASS Agency had given to it!

He went on to say that Genrikh Silanov of the Voronezh Geophysical Laboratory, had asked the children, on October 10, to sketch for him what they had seen.

Though isolated from one another, he said that several of the children had also drawn a "banana-shaped object" and a sign which resembles the letter "X". Such a sign, he said, had already been reported as typical of UFOs in an article in the now defunct American magazine SAGA.

In an article about Voronezh, in the new Spanish magazine *Mas Allá* (Special No. 9, November 1989) one of the children's drawings is published, but unfortunately too unclear for us to reproduce it here. What it clearly does show, however, is the famous and mysterious "UMMO" sign () known to us all from years ago in Spain!

What are we to make of this! These Russian children are hardly likely to have ever seen the "UMMO" symbol anywhere, even if it had once been reproduced in SAGA — and that is by no means certain anyway. If the Russian children, or any other witnesses, really did see the "UMMO" sign at Voronezh, then it indicates pretty clearly that one and the same agency is behind "UFO phenomena" in regions as far apart as Russia and Spain.

Describing the Voronezh landing site, Lebedev said: "The traces were still to be seen. I saw holes of a clear shape, that resembled the footprints of elephants".

Pressed by other foreign correspondents who telephoned to him, Lebedev was quoted as sticking firmly to his story, while admitting that "some exaggerations might have crept in at some stage". He said: "I think there is a certain portion of truth, but it is not excluded that there is also some fantasizing". Asked to explain further what he meant by this, he replied: "*Mature people may have added certain things.*" (Quoted in an article in the *Los Angeles Times*, October 11, 1989.)

Reaction and Coverage by the Internal Soviet Press and TV and Radio

In view of the enormous size of the country and the tremendous number of newspapers and other publications, we shall never know how much publicity the Voronezh landing story received *inside* the USSR.

According to one foreign report, the Soviet TV (presumably from Moscow) claimed that they had sent a team to Voronezh to investigate and that, after being four days there, *had still failed to locate a single adult witness.* (Should this be true, it would in no way be surprising. Any adult witness coming forward might well expect to be "in for trouble" and, as Russians prefer to do on most matters, would keep quite!)

However, it does seem that (*Associated Press* report of October 12 from Moscow), on the evening of Wednesday October 11, Soviet TV viewers saw a fifteen-minute VREMYA programme from Voronezh about the case. The two "star" child witnesses appeared on it, and their sketches were shown. The boy Vasya Surin, aged 11, said, in the programme: "We were scared. It hovered over this tree. Then the door opened, and a tall person about 3 metres high looked out. He didn't have a head, or shoulders either. He just had a kind of hump. *There* he had three eyes — one on each side and one in the middle."

The children stuck to their story, while admitting that they do enjoy reading Science-Fiction.

Statement by the Soviet Embassy in London

At the London Embassy, a spokesman told the *Daily Express* (October 10, 1989):—

"TASS is very reliable, and you can believe what they say. I don't think there is any official position on this matter."

Statement by the British Ministry of Defence. (*Daily Express*, October 10, 1989).

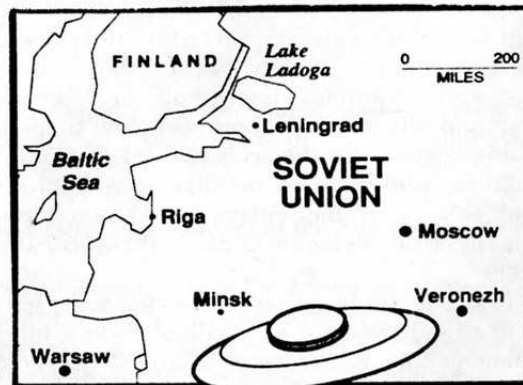
"We do not entertain opinions about men from Mars."

Statement by British Meteorological Office, London. (*Daily Express*, October 10, 1989).

"It's not April Fool's Day, is it?"

Reaction by the Soviet Ministry of Defence

Right at the outset, on or about October 9, a spokesman for the Ministry of Defence of the USSR was reported to have "refused to comment upon the story".



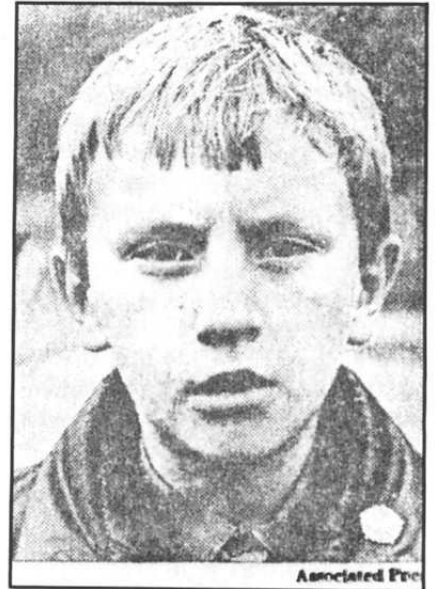
Reaction by the Soviet Ministry for Foreign Affairs

On October 9 a spokesman for the Soviet Foreign Office was also reported to have "expressed scepticism about the story".

Below: Slava Martinov, member of the Voronezh UFO Investigation Group

Bottom left: VORONEZH, Soviet Union (Reuter) — Eleven-year-old Lena Sarokina shows a drawing of a spaceship on Saturday as she meets with members of a local commission to investigate reports of a landing by three-eyed aliens in Voronezh on Sept. 27. (MAINICHI DAILY NEWS, Tokyo, Oct. 17, 1989)

Right: Witnesses: Volodya Startsev, Vasya Surin, Alyosha Nikonov



III — THE “MOSCOW NEWS” REPORT (FULL TEXT)

MOSCOW NEWS, No. 43. TOPIC OF THE DAY (OCTOBER 22, 1989)

ALIENS VISIT VORONEZH EYEWITNESS ACCOUNTS

By Lev Aksyonov and Boris Zverev

The latest sensation (according to the “NEW YORK TIMES of October 14, 1989, “*the news of the century*”) comes from the Russian city of Voronezh. In late September — early October numerous witnesses said they saw unidentified flying objects (UFOs) within the city limits, and watched them land and their inhabitants come out. We went to the scene of events to follow up these reports.

A usual urban landscape: a busy street, a residential neighbourhood, kindergartens, a meadow on the edge of a park. Here, in Voronezh's Levoberezhny District, near Mendeleyev Street, as eyewitnesses say, mysterious occurrences were observed approximately between September 21 and October 2. At first journalists drew primarily on eyewitness accounts by adolescents — pupils of Secondary School No. 33 nearby. But enthusiasts in Voronezh who have come together to study abnormal atmospheric phenomena at the Aleksandr Popov Radioelectronics and Communications Scientific-Technical Association are also taking an active interest in this. They have talked to eyewitnesses, quite a number of adults among them, and carried out the first studies on the site where the “extraterrestrials” are supposed to have landed. By questioning each of the witnesses separately, they produced — on the basis of stories from people excited at what they had seen (or imagined?) — not only a detailed picture of the events, but also sketches of the appearance of the UFO and the “pilots”. It is significant that descriptions of the aliens and their flying craft amazingly coincided with what was observed in early June of this year by the inhabitants of the Konantsevo village in the Kharovsk District (Vologda Region). (See report in FSR 34/3, ED.)

However, an eyewitness account is one thing, the objective readings of instruments is something different. On the site of the UFO's supposed landing, numerous dents were found in the soil which could have been made by the saucer's “feet”. Their diameter is 25-30 cms., their depth from 20 to 25 cms. The “unofficial” enthusiasts say that, according to their calculations, the approximate mass of the body which exerted pressure on the ground in this spot was 11 tons. But, more interesting, in some of the dents the “incorruptible” dosimeters recorded a definite increase in the background gamma-radiation in comparison with neighbouring sites some two or three metres away. Whereas the usual level here amounts to 10-15 micro-roentgens an hour, in one of the dents they recorded 30, and, in another — 37 micro-roentgens an hour. (It was this particular dent that Vladimir Cherkizov, senior expert of the Voronezh Administration of Internal Affairs, photographed.)

Specialists are not concerned about such radiation, as it poses no threat to people's health. Prudence, however, is always welcome. “Such things mustn't be taken too lightly”, we were told by a spokesman for the local Administration of the USSR State Security Committee [i.e. KGB! G.C.] at the site of the event. “We must accumulate information on any abnormal phenomena, wherever they take place, and carefully study them. This is primarily a task for scientists. For the time being, at the first stage, the investigation was

mainly carried out by enthusiasts. We are here to take steps — if necessary — to ensure the citizens' safety.”

During our two days in Voronezh we met with many representatives from the City and regional authorities. The City's Mayor, Viktor Atlasov, played an active part in organizing research along with his first deputy, Aleksandr Tsapin; the leaders of the Voronezh Administration of Internal Affairs; ranking officials of the Regional Party Committee, including Valeriy Deryabin, head of its Socio-Economic Department. On October 12, at the initiative of Gennady Kabasin, first secretary of the Regional Committee of the CPSU (Communist Party of the Soviet Union) and People's Deputy of the USSR, a competent commission was set up, with scientists, criminologists, medics, meteorologists, and enthusiast-Ufologists as its members.

But let us return to the South Park. There was everything here — serious work by experts, and crowds of curious people, both those who believed in the “aliens”, and the sceptics. There was even an excursion — we saw a bus drive in, bringing a group of vocational-school pupils, who longed to see everything with their own eyes. And Voronezh, with a population of nearly a million, was filled with rumours. Some even said that the Father Superior of one of the Orthodox churches had sanctified that place and that believers now come to the park to pray! We contacted the Voronezh Diocese. “This doesn't come from God — this is the work of Satan. A real Christian will never go to pray there”, was the peremptory reply.

... When still on our way from Moscow, we wondered how to find eyewitnesses of the events as quickly as possible. We were preparing for a most difficult “operation”, but everything turned out to be much simpler. As soon as we came to the Park we were surrounded by a flock of children. “Are you journalists? Will you question witnesses?” “We would like to — But where can we find them?” we replied.

— “We're the witnesses, and we'll tell you everything!” cried the boys, their eyes burning, excited. Despite the fact that classes were going on in the nearby school, the “friends of the aliens” seemed to have temporarily re-settled on the “UFOdrome”. Classes could wait a little.

Denis Murzenko, Yuri Grinev, Yuri Sergachev, Roman Milkin, Zhenya Blinov — now called a “TV star” for giving an interview to Central TV — and many others vied with one another in giving interviews to the press.

Colleagues appeared — from *Komsomol'skaya Pravda* and the *Novosti Press Agency*.

All the stories coincide in the main: the flyover and the landing of a mysterious ellipsis-shaped body

about 15 by 6 m. with a hatch in the middle were seen from various distances. The object remained at a height of roughly 1.5 m. above the earth; then supports came out, and it landed. From the open hatch there emerged a three-metre tall figure which filled the whole of the "doorway". Distinctive features: a heavy gait, no neck (the "head", with something like three luminous eyes, was a kind of hemisphere lying directly on the shoulders). The alien — sometimes there were a few of them — walked near the craft for some time; examined the ground, and seemed to take soil samples. This is what the boys told us (and not us alone).

And the adults! We have no doubts that the children did not invent all this. Incidentally, the same view is held by Mayor Viktor Atlasov, who carefully studied the video recording with the boys' very first "testimonies". "I am not a young person, and, you know, an adult can always tell when a child is telling the truth and when he is not. I believe the boys", he admitted in a conversation with us.

We also found grown-up witnesses of repeated cases of flyovers — even of landings — by UFOs.

Thus, Lieutenant of the Militia, Sergei Matveyev, said that on September 27, at about 7.00 p.m., he was walking in the area of the Park. Suddenly he noticed a luminous ball sweeping past northwards at a colossal speed, strictly horizontally and at an altitude of roughly 200 m. He estimated its diameter to be about 15 m. He watched the ball's flight for about 5 seconds. The object moved noiselessly.

— "Couldn't it have been a mirage, some light spot, the play of light in the atmosphere?" we asked.

— "No!", he confidently replied. "The body was clearly multi-dimensional".

The lieutenant's first reaction had been interesting. He decided not to tell his acquaintances and colleagues at once. "They might have thought: 'a militia-man does not have such fancies' ..."

Sergei Matveyev made up his mind to talk only when the local press urged the city's inhabitants to report any strange things they might have seen. It must be said that his superiors took the young officer's story in real earnest.

We also spoke to two women witnesses. On September 29, at 7.00 p.m., Olga Poludneva, an assembler at a local industrial plant, saw a luminous ball, flying at a great altitude, through the gaps between houses. According to her, the flight lasted about ten minutes. Her friend Lyudmila Kupriyanova said that she was at home at that moment, and she heard cries out-

doors: "A saucer is flying!" She ran out into the street and only managed to see a luminous tail from the mysterious body. There were many people near the house, everyone greatly excited by what they had seen.

It is characteristic that, for some time afterwards, many witnesses of the mysterious phenomenon experienced an inexplicable feeling of fear and unusual sensations: heaviness in their feet, and restraint in movements. But these are only emotions.

Now comes the turn of the professionals. We spoke several times with a person of immense charm, whose objectivity cannot be doubted. Her profession precludes any bias. Colonel of the Militia Lyudmila Makarova, Chief of the Criminal Expertise Department of the Voronezh Administration of Internal Affairs, headed a group of experts who took measurements on the site of the event and examined it closely. "I don't know what actually happened here, but an increase in the radioactive background is in evidence. The reason? Maybe a grain of some isotope got in here. Then, one more question: why precisely in the dents, why not on the surface? We shall be able to answer everything only after thorough investigation."

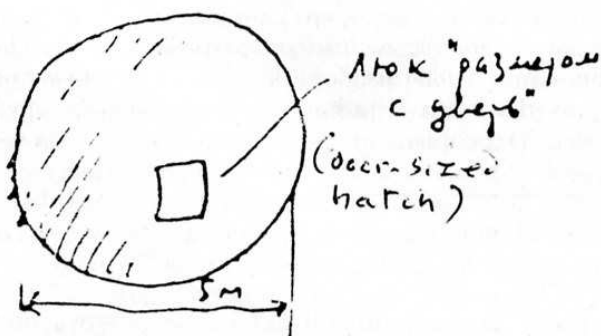
Thus, a highly competent Commission is at work in the City. Taking part in it is the cream of local science, specialists in the most diverse fields, and officials. We met with Professor Stanislav Kadmenskiy, DSc, Head of the Nuclear Physics Chair at Voronezh University, who is a member of the Investigation Commission.

The professor told us that 17 soil samples had been taken in the area of the supposed landing. Since the question is extremely urgent, ten workers of the Faculty led by him neglected the Labour Code and worked on the available samples both on Saturday and Sunday.

Doubt does not amount to negation. Speaking about the possibility of aliens appearing on our planet, Stanislav Kadmenskiy remarked:

"If extraterrestrials are a reality, and if they are really inhabitants of distant worlds lying outside the confines of our Solar System, the very fact of their arrival imparts colossal optimism to physicists. If it has been proved that such flights are possible, the recognition of their reality will entail the need to reconsider conclusions from the Special Theory of Relativity. It means that there is another Physics, which is still unknown to us."

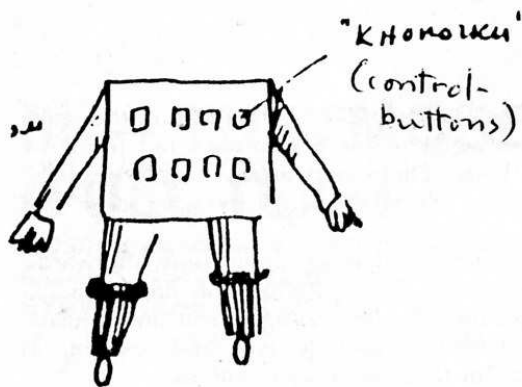
We were promised the Commission's final document. We continue keeping track of the development of events.



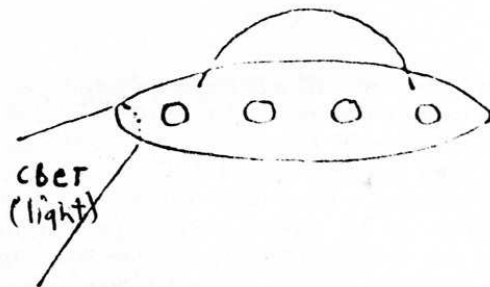
At 9 p.m. on Sept. 23, as I was returning home, I saw in the sky a round, red object with a black hatch of the size of a door. It was about 5 metres in diameter. As it landed, four legs came out, and the hatch opened and a 'robot' came down the ladder.

Eyewitness Roma Torshin, Sixth-Former, School No. 33.

(Sketch by Roma Torshin)



Sketch by Roma Torshin, a sixth-former of School No. 33, of the 'robot' which he says he saw emerge from the hatch of the round, red-coloured craft, 5 m. wide, which he says he saw land in the park at 9.00 p.m. on September 23.



Zhenya Blinov's sketch of the UFO seen by him on Sept. 26 or 27. (The shape is that of our conventional "flying saucer", so it looks as though several types of craft were seen at Voronezh).



Zhenya Blinov, a classmate of Roma Torshin, said that on Sept. 26 or 27 (he does not recall precisely which day), at 7.00 p.m., and at the same spot, he saw an object with portholes. Someone about 3 m. high emerged from it. "On his head I saw two eyes and, slightly above them, a red lamp. On his breast there was a disk with three spots of different colours, and slightly below it there was a rectangle which started sticking out from the body." (Sketch by Zhenya Blinov)



Sketch of the head of an alleged "extraterrestrial" by Oleg Chebotaryov, a third-former of School No. 33, who was also a witness. He said that during the last days of September he was in the park with other boys when he observed the landing of a 'saucer' some 8-10 m. in diameter. He recalled that the hairs on the head of this 'crew-member' of the 'saucer' were of different colours: light blue, red, and navy blue.

IV — CRISIS OVER! PROBLEM FINALLY SOLVED ...

From MAINICHI DAILY NEWS (TOKYO) (ENGLISH EDITION)
Monday, October 30, 1989.

(Credit and thanks to FSR Consultant Yusuke J. Matsumura, Japan.)

Soviet Study finds no proof of UFO visit

MOSCOW (AFP-Jiji) — A Soviet scientific commission has concluded that there exists no verifiable proof of a landing by aliens last month in the town of Voronezh, in southern Russia, the commission chief said on Saturday.

Sixteen radiometric analyses, 19 checks on the ground, 9 tests of micro-organisms, and 20 spectrochemical measurements, failed to uncover "any anomaly either in the earth or surrounding vegetation" that might indicate the landing of an unidentified flying object, the commission reported.

Igor Sarotsev, vice-rector of the University of Voronezh and chairman of the commission, said that the presence of a larger-than-normal quantity of the radioactive isotope *caesium* in the area of the alleged sighting did not constitute proof of a landing.

"After Chernobyl, this kind of phenomenon has been found in many areas", said Sarotsev to the newspaper *Sovetskaya Kultura* on Saturday — referring to the April 1986 accident at the Chernobyl nuclear plant that sent a radiation cloud over Europe and killed 31 people.

V — LAST WORD

WELL now — isn't that just cute! All solved, on October 30, 1989, by a "Soviet Scientific Commission" who inform us that there was nothing whatsoever in the Voronezh story!

What is interesting is that, precisely two days later, we receive from our correspondents in Russia, who

are one of the leading UFO investigation groups in that country, a report which, in translation, reads as follows:-

"In its session held on July 5, 1989, the Presidium of the Committee on Problems of Energy Information Exchange under the Directorate of the

N.I.O.* Union of the U.S.S.R. established a *Ufological Commission*. Dotsent (Assistant Professor) V.G. AZHAZHA was confirmed as President of the Commission, with Pilot-Cosmonaut P.R. POPOVICH, Twice-Hero of the U.S.S.R., as Vice-President."

But if one looks back through the pages of FSR as far as the autumn of 1964, when, on the sudden death of Editor Waveney Girvan, Charles Bowen saved the day by taking over as Editor, one will see that *the Russians have constantly been announcing the formation of committees and commissions to study UFOs!* Without looking at them all (we have not the time for that) we recall the names of Zigel', General Stolyarov, Azhazha, and Popov. We have heard of them all already, long ago. Popov seems to have been the last. Before

him it was Azhazha, and we had plenty about him, and by him, in FSR.

For a long time we thought that Azhazha had been liquidated, but now here he is, popping up again. From all of which, we feel the reader can safely conclude that there is today no more "*glasnost*" in the Soviet Union on the subject of UFOs than there is in Britain or Europe or USA or anywhere else in the world. G.C.

* We do not know what the initials "N.I.O." stand for, and, being in a hurry to get this off to press, we have not the time to find out. — G.C.

VI — TAIL-PIECE ON VORONEZH

NOR is this the first time that FSR readers have heard of the city of Voronezh.

In issue No. 105 (June 1-15, 1962) of the Italian journal *Oltre Il Cielo: Missili & Razzi* (a serious publication on rockets, not on UFOs) the Italian investigator Alberto Fenoglio published an extraordinary series of UFO stories which he had personally learned from Soviet engineers and diplomats visiting Italy. I translated and published them in full, and they appeared in FSR Vol. 8, No. 6 (Nov./Dec. 1962) under the title of "AMAZING NEWS FROM RUSSIA: CAN THIS BE TRUE?"

Report No. 4 of the Russian series of accounts read as follows:—

"Last summer, over the city of Voronezh, a giant cigar, at least 800 metres long, came down to a height of only 2,000 metres, in daylight, and hung there immobile. Thousands saw it and there was tremendous panic. Suddenly the cigar "began to grow transparent". It disappeared completely. Shortly after this, some fighter aircraft arrived and flew around, evidently searching for it. Seconds after the baffled pilots had departed, the monster was back again "in the same place" above the city.

Then a vast jet of flame suddenly shot out from its stern. The "cigar" began to move, rose steeply into the sky, and vanished at immense speed." — G.C.

BOOK REVIEW

By Paul Whitehead, FSR Consultant

THE TUJUNGA CANYON CONTACTS

By FSR Consultant Ann Druffel. Co-Author D. Scott Rogo.

The original hardback of this book by two Californian researchers was published in the USA in 1980. The new paperback edition, by Signet Books (May 1989) has been updated with much fascinating new material.

LONG before Whitley Strieber told the world about his own alleged visitations in "*Communion*", similar things were going on on the other side of America. In 1953, more than 20 years before Strieber's contacts with something (ranging from himself to demons or aliens) began, two women in California had experienced an apparent abduction, medical examination and operation *et al*. Other women they came into contact with had experienced a similar trauma — beings with large heads in their bedrooms at night; flying saucers landing nearby; white globes of light; and Close Encounters late at night by motorways.

Unfortunately, much of the information was retrieved under hypnosis, and only many years later, and author Ann Druffel recognises the problems associated with this approach. However, she is thorough in her research and cross referencing and, although it appears at times that some "witnesses" were given

some leading questions — especially by one of the hypnotists — the overall weight of evidence that something unusual had indeed happened to these women is strong.

What did happen — and why were *females* involved? Generally, the women led a lesbian-orientated lifestyle, and Druffel points out that this may have attracted the attention of aliens engaged in studying us earthlings.

However, the story should not be viewed as a "nuts and bolts" tale of close encounters, Druffel and co-author D. Scott Rogo caution. There are fascinating parallels with other close encounters separated by many years, and unknown to those concerned.

In 1975, for example, U.S. airman Sgt Charles Moody saw what one of the Tujunga Canyon women had seen in the early 50s — aliens with masklike faces, grey-coloured skin, wearing skintight, black