

DR. FELIX ZIGEL' AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF UFOLOGY IN RUSSIA: PART II.

The fantastic sighting of June 14, 1980, over Moscow: Panic on the streets.

Gordon Creighton

THE Italian weekly illustrated magazine *Gente*, published in Milano, carried two articles in its issues for July 31 and August 7, 1981, reporting events which — if true, and, given the circumstances which I shall recount, I cannot see how they could fail to be true — constitute the most staggering UFO story ever to have come out of Russia, and certainly one of the most fascinating yet produced anywhere in the world, for it is supported by four good photographs and it sounds likely that many, many more photos may have been taken that night.

The author of the two articles (translated from English into Italian for *Gente* magazine) is the American Henry Gris, of whom I wrote at some length in the first part of this report.¹

Mr Gris is in the USSR again as I write this (September 1981), but just before his departure from his home in Los Angeles for the current trip — his *twelfth* visit to the USSR — he sent me a letter saying that the material of the two *Gente* articles (of which I give only a very brief translated digest below) will form part of a forthcoming new book by William Dick and himself on UFOs behind the Iron Curtain. The book is scheduled to appear in print first in the USA and Japan, but not before 1982. The material of the two *Gente* articles derives from two sources: partly from the last interviews which Mr Gris had with the Soviet Ufologists on his latest trip to Russia, and partly from a very special and most sensational report, with the four UFO photos, recently sent out of the USSR with the help of a foreign journalist.

The Huge "Principal Object" (*Glavnyy Ob'ekt*) or Mother-Craft

At 11.50 p.m. on the night of June 14, 1980, an enormous reddish-orange circular UFO (seemingly horseshoe-shaped or crescent-shaped owing to the belts of swirling luminous gases flowing backwards and around it on both sides) appeared quite suddenly over the city of Kalinin,² which lies at 56° 55' N., 35° 55' E., and approximately 200 km to the north-west of the Soviet Capital, Moscow. Fortunately one of the many people in Kalinin who observed the awesome sight was a distinguished Soviet geophysicist named

Aleksei Zolotov,³ who is an experienced student of Ufology. Zolotov is moreover a member of Dr Zigel's closely knit team of 19 scientific UFO investigators, men drawn from a wide range of disciplines, so he at once put through a telephone call to Zigel' in Moscow. By great good fortune Dr Zigel' was at home, and was therefore able to call all the members of his team and alert them. From then on, all he had to do was to remain sitting at his desk, taking the phone calls as they came in from his nineteen colleagues and from many members of the public, and plotting on a map before him the course of the huge craft or GO (*Glavnyy Ob'ekt*), the term by which he describes it.

Report from Geophysicist Zolotov

In his report to Zigel', Zolotov said that the gigantic UFO seemed at first to be following a strange, irregular course, proceeding "by jumps,"⁴ but that after a while it seemed to "stabilize." Throughout its journey across the USSR it seems to have made frequent changes of altitude, but the scientists give its average altitude for the course as about 90,000 metres. Over Kalinin, says Zolotov, it performed an acute-angled turn and then headed away south-eastwards towards Klin and Moscow, where it arrived about eight minutes after Dr Zigel' had received Zolotov's phone call.

According to Zolotov's account as given by him to Henry Gris, and also according to the general opinion of the members of Zigel's scientific team, the width of the mighty disc was not less than 120 metres! This figure does not of course include the width of the enormous horseshoe of gases enveloping the craft. Its average cruising speed as it passed over Russia was estimated at around 1,500 km per hour.

Zolotov reported that the Soviet Air Force put up a considerable number of fighter planes, evidently in the hope of studying or contacting the gigantic interloper, for he heard the planes passing overhead. "Next day," he told Gris, "there was nothing whatsoever about it all in any of our newspapers, though the people were discussing it everywhere. The continued silence of the authorities added to the general sense of alarm among the public, and the wildest hypotheses

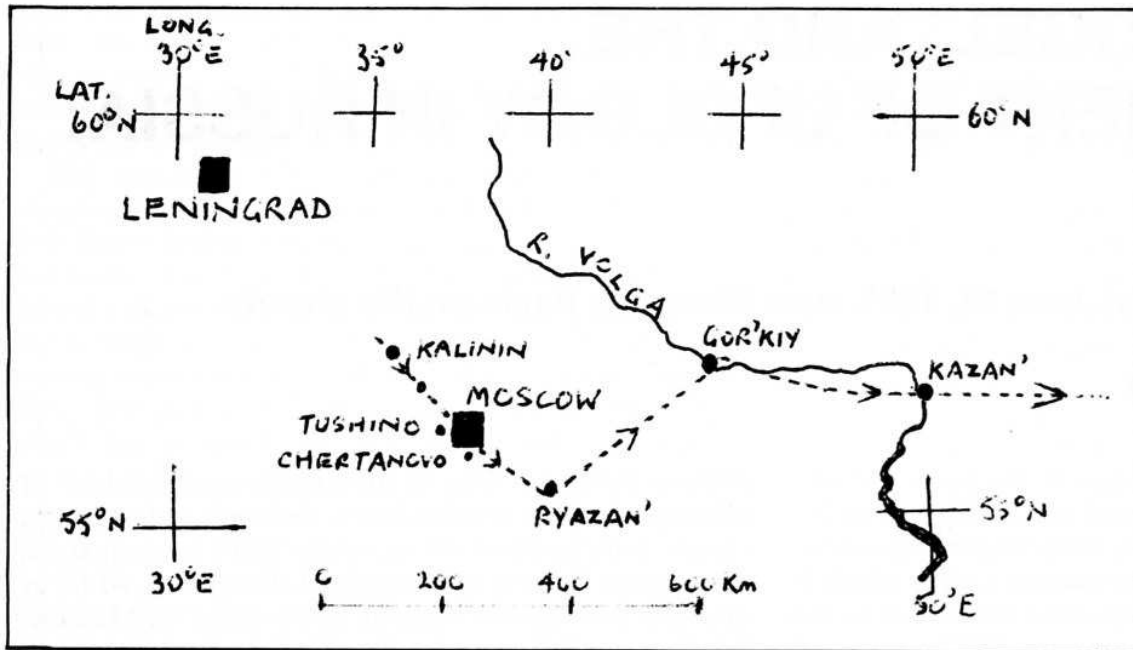


Figure 1: The Russian towns overflowed by the great object, the G.O. referred to in the text. The apparent track of the G.O. is shown by the dotted line.

were rampant." But as the official silence continued, the public gradually forgot the affair and the shock they had received, having, as Zolotov puts it, "plenty of other matters to worry about."

Arriving over the Soviet Capital, the monster object remained stationary there for five minutes, observed by thousands, and produced incredible scenes of panic on the Moscow streets. In his diary Zigel' noted that old Russian women were weeping and wailing and rushing about crying that the *Day of Judgement* had come; or that the *Antichrist* had arrived; while men were dashing to and fro telling everyone to take cover in the air-raid shelters as the Americans had arrived and World War III had started.

Interestingly enough, Zigel' also records that animals and birds were tremendously disturbed by the GO:⁵ cattle were lowing and bellowing, and observers at Gor'kiy reported to him that the wild ducks were fluttering and flapping frantically on the banks of the River Volga.

From Moscow the great craft went on to Ryazan' (180 km to the south-east of Moscow). There it performed a sharp turn north-eastwards and then flew over Gor'kiy,⁶ which is some 340 km to the east-north-east of Moscow. Over Gor'kiy it halted for another period of five minutes. Then it continued on its way eastwards, passing over the outskirts of Kazan' and finally vanishing across the vast expanse known as the Tartar Steppes. In all, the GO had been tracked over a total distance of at least 800 kilometres in the Soviet Union, and it had been clearly visible for a total of forty minutes, being last seen at 12.30 a.m. on June 15.

Report from Astrophysicist Bozhich

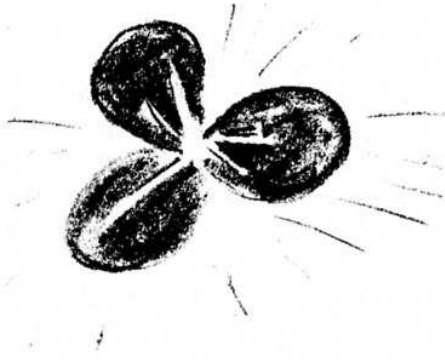
Another important Soviet scientist who reported that night to Zigel' and who has subsequently been interviewed by Henry Gris, is the astro-physicist Sergei

Bozhich, who lives in Tushino, a small town on the north-western outskirts of Moscow. Bozhich observed the GO for a few minutes as it slowly passed over the outer suburbs. As he told Henry Gris: "It was a truly terrifying sight. I instantly realized that the reddish crescent simply *had* to be an extraterrestrial spacecraft, for I have been studying the UFOs for many years now, and I have already seen UFOs similar to this one. Indeed, this one was extraordinarily similar to the one that flew over Petrozavodsk on the night of September 20, 1977, though this one seemed a good deal bigger than the one at Petrozavodsk."

Astrophysicist Bozhich told Henry Gris that he and his family live on the top floor of a big block of flats on the Turistskaya Ulitsa in Tushino, so that from their windows they have an unencumbered view of the sky. The vast GO, "so huge that it took your breath away," appeared there right before their windows. They watched it as it moved away very slowly, and they finally went into a neighbour's flat to continue their observation from another side of the building. As the UFO vanished from their view, Bozhich looked at his watch and saw that the time was 11.58 p.m.

Bozhich also said that he saw at least two fragments or objects, which looked like smaller UFOs, detach themselves from the under-part of the monster, one of them flying away southwards. He said that the area over which the GO remained stationary for five minutes was about 16 km from the centre of Moscow. He confirmed that while the UFO was overhead people were rushing about in their back-gardens as though demented, many of them shouting: "Take shelter! The Americans are coming!"

When the UFO had vanished, Bozhich says he went down on to the street and tried to calm down a dozen of the most hysterical of the people who were there. He explained to them that this was no American craft, but "a friendly UFO."



As photographic prints were not available we include sketches of the reproductions that appeared in *Gente*.



Figure 2: Sketch of the first photograph, stated to have been taken at Kalinin at 11.50 p.m. on June 14, 1980 (*Gente*, July 31, 1981). The "trefoil" effect was said by Dr Zigel' to be due to the vast amount of gas surrounding the object. (In the photo, behind the intensely black object, we see a light, or luminous gas, streaming out like a halo. The background sky is lighter than the UFO, which is to be expected at the latitude of Kalinin and Moscow in June — GC).

Figure 3: Sketch of second photographic image, said to have been taken in Moscow at about midnight on June 14, 1980 (*Gente* July 31, 1981). The central part of the phenomenon, a huge reddish-orange disc, estimated by Dr Zigel' and his team of 19 Soviet scientists to have been at least 120 metres in diameter, is here seen swathed in its vast crescent-shaped, or horseshoe-shaped body of luminous gases.

Figure 4: Sketch made of the third photograph of the same huge object (see *Gente* of August 7, 1981). The article does not state where the photograph was taken. There was also a fourth photo which showed an object with a smaller gaseous tail. Again there was no indication where the picture was taken.

"Strange as it may seem," he told Henry Gris, "they instantly accepted my suggestion as a very good one. It seemed almost as though, while I was talking to them, they were all simultaneously receiving a message from elsewhere. I wondered at the time whether by any chance those poor folk weren't getting some phrases of comfort transmitted to them telepathically from the space-ship, for I have had just such an experience more than once, so I am quite familiar with it. As I have said, the appearance of the huge UFO certainly was terrifying, but I felt absolutely no fear at all myself and so I was able to remain completely calm throughout those moments of tremendous panic."

Landings on the Streets of Moscow

Dr Zigel's files show that he received at least two reports that night indicating in convincing fashion

that a number of small craft released from the huge UFO did actually land on the streets of the Russian Capital.

Report from Lt. Colonel Oleg Karyakin

One of these reports came from Lt. Colonel Oleg Karyakin, who wrote to Dr Zigel' that, as he was returning to his home and was just about to enter the front door, he saw "a round, flattened object, a classic 'flying saucer', just like a big bowl reversed on top of a 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.

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After he had stood there for about two minutes, the small UFO, still quite silent, emitted several bluish-greenish 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 Karyakin spoke to these neighbours about it 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 the same block as Karyakin told him that he had been at his window, on the third floor, about five minutes before 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 human figure, since his own position, down on the street, was far too low.)

Report from Aleksandr Koreshkov

The second report of an entity seen on a Moscow street during that night came to Dr Zigel' from Aleksandr Koreshkov, a TV director living at Chertanovo on the southern outskirts of Moscow. Koreshkov reported that, on the evening of June 14, 1980, he had come home early and had gone to sleep quite some time before midnight, but was aroused by a "very annoying buzzing din" coming from the street. The noise went on so long and was so insistent, that Koreshkov got out of bed and went to the kitchen, which overlooked the street. Peering out on the street, which was in complete darkness, he was able to discern a huge object that "looked like one of those big international refrigerated trucks," but it was as wide as two traffic lanes on the street, and the din was coming from it.

Koreshkov remained for some minutes at the window, watching and listening, and then he saw "a very small man" who was walking round the "truck" and seemed, as Koreshkov thought, to be engaged in repairs. Satisfied with his own explanation, Koreshkov then went back to bed and, just as he was about to drop off to sleep again, his room was lit up by a vivid flash, as it were of lightning, although he thought it odd that there was no thunder. Terrified, Koreshkov lay there in bed, not daring to get out again, and finally he decided that there must have been an *atomic explosion*. Finally, he fell asleep again, and did not awaken until 10.00 a.m. next day, feeling terribly exhausted and with a nasty headache.

Similar experiences of Koreshkov's wife

At first Koreshkov planned not to tell his wife any-

thing about the bad night he had just had, so as not to alarm her. But she, who had been sleeping in the other bedroom with their children, began straight away to describe similar happenings. She had been awakened suddenly by a blinding flash of light and felt a sharp burning sensation on her arms — which were under the bedclothes. Switching on her bedside lamp and examining herself, she found large red marks on her arms. And from the open window was coming a humming noise. Utterly terrified, she plunged her head under the blankets and must have soon fallen asleep again, for she remembered nothing further.

When she awoke next morning, the marks were gone from her arms. With her husband she went out and inspected the streets and buildings round about, but they found nothing unusual, and no traces. They dared not talk to any of the neighbours about the events of the night, for fear of being thought mad, and no neighbour said a word to them either, so that they were unable to conclude whether the others too were all holding their tongues after having passed the same strange sort of night.

The Conclusions of Dr Zigel'

Commenting on the letters from Lt. Colonel Karyakin and Aleksandr Koreshkov, Zigel' noted in his files that in his opinion both these men had unquestionably had encounters with investigative machines sent down from the GO. He added that several other people had sent him similar reports, and that it looked as though in some cases the small UFOs had landed because of some sort of engine trouble — a thought which he felt to be a comforting one in view of the manifestly superior technology of the aliens.⁷

Dr Zigel' feels that this was the biggest visitation carried out yet by the aliens in the course of their exploration of Planet Earth. Naively, it would seem to many of us, he feels that for some reason or other they are far more interested in the USSR than in any other part of our globe! He thinks that they "already know something about the USSR, and want to know more."⁸

Having already conceded that there have been UFO landings (something never admitted by him before, as we have seen from the accounts given of him in the Ostrander/Schroeder and Gris/Dick books,⁹ Dr Zigel' then went on — paradoxically it would seem — to speculate that: "They will not land in the USSR before requesting and receiving our permission to do so." And, he concludes: "I think that they are at present fascinated by our activities in the field of radio and television, and by the radio waves that fill Space around our Earth. They will have seen nothing like it during their centuries of journeying" (*sic*).¹⁰

This last remark is also curious, because Dr Zigel' already is on record as saying that the UFOs probably come from other dimensional multidimensional realms (which would be something utterly and for

ever beyond our comprehension). If he admits that such may be the case, why does he revive the old-fashioned S.F. assumption that "... they have been journeying for centuries?"¹¹

50,000 UFO reports on the computer

Today, Dr Zigel' has a total of 50,000 UFO reports on his files and in the computer of the Moscow Institute of Aviation. He has written some 28 books on Astronomy, Space, and the Cosmos. From the UFO material in his own archives he has already compiled eight more volumes, but only one of these has yet been published (in 1966). He prefers at present to keep the other seven volumes of UFO materials and UFO cases unpublished, out of fear that, if released to the general Soviet public now, they would trigger off an enormous wave of fear and unrest throughout the whole country, which¹² is still so unprepared to receive his startling and alarming revelations.

However, much of the contents of the other seven volumes is already circulating clandestinely in *samizdat* form and the UFO investigation groups throughout the USSR are making use of it.

While he has at times certainly been an embarrassment to the Soviet authorities, as was seen from Part 1, Dr Zigel' is still evidently too well entrenched and too important a figure in Soviet society for the Academy of Sciences or the KGB to treat him too roughly. But when he gave a private interview in the mid-1970s to Henry Gris and William Dick he nullified the official ban that had been placed on his meeting foreign journalists, and one may imagine that the appearance of these two articles about him in *Gente* and the proposed new book by Gris and Dick may really "put the fat in the fire." However, lacking precise knowledge, we can only speculate on such matters. And our speculation may include the thought, legitimate I think, that, if Dr Felix Zigel' has taken such a bold step as to facilitate the "leakage" of such material to the West at the present time, then this can only be because he thinks that vast and dramatic events are at hand, and that the facts about the UFOs cannot be concealed from mankind much longer.

Zigel's secret report to the Soviet Government on the events of the night of June 14, 1980, contained 40 selected eyewitness accounts, plus the views of his nineteen, scientific collaborators. The huge GO was over the territory of the USSR for at least 40 minutes before it vanished over the vast eastern regions of the country, so the 40 selected eyewitness accounts have been chosen in order to cover, as nearly as possible, those 40 minutes of viewing.

It must be emphasised that, contrary to what he had previously told Messrs Gris and Dick during their Russian trips of the early and mid-1970s, Dr Zigel' now says that: "At least seven landings of extraterrestrial space-craft have occurred in the vicinity of Moscow between June 1977 and September 1979."

Zigel's General Classification of UFO Entities

In the articles in *Gente*, Dr Zigel' is quoted as saying that there are three main categories of UFO entities, and here again it looks as though he is in agreement with the conclusions reached elsewhere in the world, though many people would no doubt hold that each of these comprehensive categories may contain three, or four, or more, "sub-species." The least frequently seen, says Zigel' — and in this we must again concur — are the very tall beings, 3 metres or more in height, whom he calls the *Spacemen*. Then, he says, come those whom he calls the *Humanoids*, who are in general so similar to us in height and many other respects that most probably they could mingle in a crowd here without being detected, and many of whom he feels may already be living here among us. (A sobering thought.)

The third category Zigel' simply calls the *Aliens*. These, he says, are around one metre in height and vaguely resemble us, but are anything but handsome by any terrestrial standard of taste, possessing huge heads, without a trace of hair, protruding eyes set rather far apart, wrinkled faces that make them look extremely "old" to us, and a pair of enormous nostrils by way of a nose.

In addition to these three categories of "flesh-and-blood extraterrestrials," as he calls them, Zigel' says the alien craft also carry crews of robots or androids which, *inter alia*, possess the strange ability to disappear and re-appear and — not being subject to the physical laws of our world — seem to be "... **deliberately constructed in order to confound all our notions of space, matter, time, and dimensions.**"¹³ Zigel' thinks it possible that some of these androids may also be here already among us without our having detected them. So maybe it is no wonder that mankind, and our world, are in such a mess!

In a brief discussion of some of the devices employed by the UFO creatures, Zigel' mentions that, as soon as they arrive on Earth, they put into operation certain protective barriers, always totally invisible, produced by infra-sound at so low a frequency that it can even disintegrate a human body. Humans who have come up against these barriers, he says, have subsequently complained of having experienced sensations of shock and terror, or of having lost consciousness for some period of time. (All of which we can match with cases known in the West.)

Victims Hypnotized and Abducted

Discussing the motivation for the landings, Zigel' says the purpose is either in order to carry out repairs to craft or to gather samples of soil, rocks, vegetation, and living creatures, just as we would do in similar situations. He says that sometimes *hypnotized samples* have been released by the entities after having spent a certain amount of time aboard their craft. He says in

passing that "there have been four cases of true and genuine abduction by them," but he does not elaborate on this. We must take it that, as always, he is referring only to known abduction cases in the USSR. (In the West the known or suspected total would be vastly in excess of four.)

Characteristics of UFOs and UFO behaviour

From the technological aspect, Dr Zigel' says the machines of these alien beings are vastly superior to anything that *Homo Sapiens* might hope to achieve in the next hundred years. He says: "We have seen these UFOs over the USSR, craft of every possible shape: small, big, flattened, spherical. They are able to remain stationary in the atmosphere or to shoot along at 100,000 km per hour. They move without producing the slightest sound, by creating around themselves a pneumatic vacuum that protects them from the hazard of burning up in our stratosphere. Their craft also have the mysterious capacity to vanish and reappear at will. They are also able to affect our power resources, halting our electricity-generating plants, our radio stations, and our running engines, without however leaving any permanent damage. So refined a technology can only be the fruit of an intelligence that is indeed far superior to ours. They have even reached the stage of using small space-craft as tiny as the terrestrial *frisbees* that our children throw around for fun."

In conclusion, I repeat that I have quoted all these details from Dr Felix Zigel's views on the entities and their craft, *not* because they contain anything that is new to readers of FSR — because they do not — but in order to show that, in almost every aspect of their ufological research, Dr Zigel' and his fellow-scientists in Russia seem to have arrived at precisely the same general conclusions as we in the West have done.

The second of the *Gente* articles by Henry Gris contains detailed accounts of a number of the remarkable UFO landings said by Dr Zigel' to have occurred recently in the USSR, and in the third part of this series I shall give a brief summary of them.

The Photographs

I must emphasise that what I am giving here is only a very summary précis of Mr Henry Gris's two long articles in *Gente*. FSR subscribers who wish to read the whole story will therefore have to await the publication of the new book by Messrs Gris and Dick. I hope that my summary account of these extraordinary new claims from Russia will help to stimulate interest and to make that book a very great success.

The question of *photographs* is something very different. One cannot make a précis or an abridgement or a summary of a photograph. We do not know who owns the copyright on the four remarkable photos of the GO which illustrate the two articles in *Gente*, and

clearly FSR does not have the right to use them, so the best we can do is to supply rough sketches, with translation of the accompanying captions.

Notes and References

1. "Dr Felix Zigel' and the Development of Ufology in Russia: Part I." In FSR Volume 27, No. 3.
2. Kalinin was called Tver in Tsarist times.
3. Zolotov was the leader of the Kalinin Geological Expedition to Study the Tunguskiy Phenomenon (of June 30, 1908, in Siberia, when a vast area of forest was devastated by the explosion, in the air, of an unknown flying object of great size, variously thought to have been a meteor, a chunk of anti-matter, a small comet, or a UFO manned by beings of other worlds). Professor Aleksei Vasilyevich Zolotov, who lives in Kalinin, has degrees in geology, mathematics and physics. By 1958 he was the leading physicist in the All-Union Geophysical Institute, and was chosen in that year to head the expedition. (The second: the first having been that of Prof. Leonid Alekseyevich Kulik, in 1927.)
Zolotov is the bearer of a vast and luxurious black-beard which he says will not come off "until I have solved the Tunguskiy Mystery. But he already claims to be quite sure that it was no meteorite or comet or anti-matter, but a gigantic UFO. He wrote an excellent and very scientific book about it: *Problema Tungusskoy Katastrofy*, published in 1969 in Minsk, Capital of the Byelorussian Republic. The faithful old Moscow Ufologist and friend, Arkadiy A. Tikhonov, who very kindly sent me a copy of this book (it is a long time, unhappily, since I heard from him) told me in a note on the fly-leaf that the work "is an extreme rarity, the number of copies printed being exceedingly small."
4. We have often seen reports describing these strange, erratic "jumps" by UFOs, which then "settle down" to a more regular trajectory. The huge GO is reported as having appeared *suddenly* over Kalinin, nobody having observed it anywhere else in Russia before that. If, as Dr Zigel' himself now admits, these craft may quite conceivably come from unknown *multidimensional* worlds, is it not possible that the sky over Kalinin was, if one may so describe it, the "window area" where the conversion from one dimensional framework to another took place? In which case the oft-reported erratic "jumps" might perhaps simply be part of the final phase of the conversion process?
5. See "A New Catalogue: The Effects of UFOs on Animals, Birds and Smaller Creatures," (219 cases from all over the world.) (In FSR Vol. 16, No. 1, to Vol. 18, No. 3.)
6. Called Nizhny Novgorod in Tsarist times.
7. Right from the very beginnings of UFO research we have seen these reports of "beings walking around landed craft, seemingly making inspections." Personally, I think that they may indeed often be making inspections but I find the idea of *repairs* in all these many cases surely rather naive — with the single exception perhaps of the very famous case of the Italian, Bruno Facchini, who on April 24, 1950, may have genuinely come upon a small group of entities who were repairing their craft during a violent storm.
8. Has it not occurred to Dr Zigel' that in fact they may

know just a little too much about what is going on in the USSR, and are keeping an eye on things, especially such things as nuclear warheads?

9. Ostrander & Schroeder: *Psychic Discoveries Behind the Iron Curtain*. 1970.
- Gris & Dick: *The New Soviet Psychic Discoveries*. 1978.
10. In all the masses of material about UFO sightings, I have never seen a single hint that any human understands how they communicate. Is it not far more likely that, if their technology is as good as Zigel' says it is, then they would regard our radio — and possibly even our much-vaunted television — as very primitive and old-hat?
11. This seems to be just one more example of contradictory strands of thinking in the *Gente* articles.
12. If the USSR's peoples are unprepared to learn the facts about UFOs, are there any other countries that *are* so prepared?
13. Many will have heard — and will have disbelieved as at first I did — that strange story, widely circulated during the Presidency of General Dwight D. Eisenhower, that he had once “vanished off the map” for twenty-four hours — a situation that is inconceivable under prevailing conditions in the USA. The story went on to say

that the “disappearance” was due to the fact that, with a number of other VIPs, who included the Archbishop of San Francisco, Mr Gerald Light, and other prominent Americans whose names I no longer recall, the President had been flown in the greatest secrecy by the U.S. Air Force to an air base (Edwards Field?) at or near Palm Springs, in California, where the amazed dignitaries were shown landed craft, and their alien occupants, which (both machines and entities) proceeded to give a demonstration of “mat” and “demat” (materialization and dematerialization) before their eyes. The red-faced Ike, according to the story, looked around at his party and admonished them emphatically: “Remember! Mum’s the word!”

When the story first appeared I wrote to several of the VIPs named, and enquired whether it was true. The only one who replied to me — through his secretary — was the Archbishop of San Francisco. It was of course a flat denial, but I thought the wording of it rather odd at the time, and started to wonder whether the story might possibly have some substance. Now, in view of the allegedly expressed ideas by so distinguished a Soviet authority as Dr Felix Zigel', I find myself wondering still more.

FSR BOOKSHELF — 12

New UFO books reviewed by . . .

BY comparison with the thrilling events reported by UFO abductees, mere lights-in-the-sky UFOs might seem boring and “old hat.” But that that is not necessarily so is shown by **Dr Harley D. Rutledge** in his book **Project Identification** (Prentice-Hall, Inc., \$10.95, 265 pages, illustrated with maps, diagrams, photographs, and with references and index). Beginning in 1973 when people in parts of Missouri started seeing lights in the sky, Dr Rutledge mounted a scientific research project to study the phenomenon in the field. Despite problems and disappointments, the participants were very successful, and during 1973 they logged 105 sightings.

Those readers interested in a scientific approach to ufology will appreciate the thorough technical coverage of events, but the reader with no scientific background will also find Dr Rutledge's book readable — and intriguing. The data is intriguing because of Dr Rutledge's conviction that the UFOs were aware of being watched, and reacted accordingly. Dr Rutledge recalls 28 instances of this, and believes that not all could be attributable to coincidence. But if we accept that the UFOs were reacting to the witnesses, we must then accept that the project members were seeing either piloted craft, or balls of light controlled with split-second timing by something with a consciousness.

Janet & Colin Bord

Most of the sightings in the book were seen as light phenomena rather than solid craft, and despite Dr Rutledge's conviction that they were seeing controlled displays, we cannot on the evidence presented rule out a natural explanation for at least some of the sightings. Another possibility is that in some cases the witnesses were actually creating the lights they saw, especially in those cases where the lights seemed to react to the witnesses — almost as if there were some form of link between them. One of us has had the experience of seeing such a LITS “on demand,” and with another witness present, and we cannot therefore rule out this explanation in the case of Dr Rutledge and his team, however unacceptable it may at first seem. The human mind is a much underrated powerhouse, capable of baffling us all, including the “experts.” So while on the practical scientific side this book shows what can be done with sky-watching if it is well-planned and taking place in an area where UFOs are being reported, it is also a book for the ufologist following the clues towards a psychic interpretation (using ‘psychic’ in its purest sense, i.e. of the psyche).

John Taylor's book **Science and the Supernatural: An Investigation of Paranormal Phenomena** (Paladin paperback, £1.95, 192 pages, with bibliography and index) is a classic case of throwing the baby out with