

# UFOLOGY IN THE USSR

## An assessment of the present situation

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“‘CLOUDY, CHANGEABLE.’” These two words suffice to sum up the situation of Ufology in the USSR at the beginning of the year 1980. The task which I set myself when I decided to write this article has been an extremely difficult one, and it is entirely possible that before the article reaches the reader the situation may again have undergone a sharp alteration. Nevertheless it is well worth while having a stab at it.

This past year, 1979, has seen, repeatedly, sharp changes in the work of the Soviet Ufologists. To start with, it seems that Ufology, following on Parapsychology, is now beginning to “lose” its status as a “pseudoscience” in the eyes of the more “orthodoxly-minded” members of the USSR Academy of Sciences. Within the last-named body — to be more precise, within the Academy’s Institute for the Study of Terrestrial Magnetism and Radioactivity — a group has been created, and is now functioning, which concerns itself with the study of UFOs — although its name for these latter is *anomalous atmospheric phenomena*. But, anyway, the pith of the matter doesn’t lie in a *name*; it lies in the attitudes of the investigators themselves towards the problem which they are studying. And, to the most profound disappointment of all honest investigators of the UFO problem, this particular group has adopted the derisory attitude, towards the problem, which has already become habitual among the public at large and is, in essence, nothing but a rather worse version of those former American investigations known under the label of *Blue Book*.

In issue no. 3/1979 of the weekly publication *Nedelya* (“The Week”), Migulin and Platov, the leaders of this Academy of Sciences group, published an article on the UFO phenomenon, and, to tell the truth, I couldn’t control my laughter when I read it. Three-quarters of their test was given over to showing that UFOs are unquestionably natural phenomena. A mere total of two little lines mentioned as it were quite casually that “. . . there are a number of phenomena that are resistant to a trivial explanation, including the phenomenon observed by the inhabitants of Petrozavodsk”<sup>1</sup>, but all the rest of the article is just a heap of harsh accusations aimed at the “buffs” who interest themselves in the UFO problem and who, by their “inept” investigations and their popularization of the UFO problem are in fact only serving to hinder this group from arriving at an entire explanation of the UFO

problem within the next few months. Especially hotly do these “scientists” declaim about the need to put a stop to the widespread dissemination among the public of knowledge about the UFOs, which dissemination, so the group alleges, gives rise to unnecessary sensationalism and to “unhealthy hankypanky.”

In my opinion there is no point whatever in criticizing this position which the Academy of Sciences group has assumed. Although under a total ban for almost twelve years past, the UFO problem in the USSR has never at any moment ceased to exist — offensive as this fact may be for certain “orthodox” minds. Indeed, on the contrary, the remarkable sightings of recent times have invested the problem with a fresh sharpness and a fresh quality of reality. Nevertheless, despite all this, the Soviet press (with the exception of a few excellent items in popular journals aimed at the young) has been completely silent on the subject. (I shall have more to say on this later.)

But not everyone — by a long chalk — read the article in *Nedelya* referred to above, at the close of which the two authors urged eyewitnesses of the UFO phenomenon (which according to their own statements *do not exist*) to send the reports of their sightings to the USSR Academy of Sciences.

In the meantime, while all this has been going on, the lectures given by the real specialists on the UFO phenomenon, such as V. G. Azhazha<sup>2</sup>, the leader of unofficial Soviet Ufology, are carrying the knowledge of this astonishing phenomenon out into the wide masses of the Soviet public. On such occasions, when lectures are given, the reaction from the public — in the form of questions — surpasses all expectations. First, at each lecture a few new UFO eyewitnesses always come forward who have hitherto kept silent about their sightings simply because they have not known to whom to report them. Secondly, that disinterested fighter for Science and Truth and great specialist on the UFO problem, Vladimir Georgievich Azhazha, in his profoundly scientific lectures, faces up squarely to the wild, unconcealed ostracism emanating from all conceivable quarters among the official organs and also from a certain other quarter — from a former specialist and keen student of the UFO phenomenon, who is today nothing but an agent provocateur. This is F. Y. Zigel<sup>3</sup>, lecturer at the Moscow Institute of Aviation. I shall have more to say about the doings of this “pillar” of Soviet Ufology, but I want to

discuss first certain other and more agreeable matters.

### The Initiative Group

In the autumn of 1978 another group started work in Moscow. This was the *Initiative Group*, under the direction of V. G. Azhazha and of the author of the present article. In the forefront of the many tasks facing us was that of organizing an official civilian investigation of the UFO phenomenon in the USSR. (At that time there was no group yet inside the USSR Academy of Sciences, and then, after our own group had been set up, the need still remained.) Our task, then, as I have said, has been to get a civilian investigation group going, and organize the selection and investigation of reports of unwanted phenomena throughout our country, the visiting of UFO landing sites, the work of doing all the requisite analyses, and also all aspects of the job of making the UFO problem known to the public.

### The A. S. Popov Society's section (BPVTS)

I must mention, straight away, that this plan of operations for our *Initiative Group* has been fully achieved, and that the Group ceased to exist on July 17, 1979. And on that very same day — a day that will unquestionably long remain registered in the memory of all investigators and students of Ufology in the USSR — in the Moscow Headquarters of the A. S. Popov Scientific and Technical Society for Radio, Electronics and Communications (known in its Russian abbreviated form by the initials NTORES) a new section was set up. This new Section had the initials BPVTS, standing for "*Blizhniy Poisk Vnezemnykh Tsvilizatsiy s Pomoshch'yu Sredstva Radioelektronika*" (meaning in English "Search for Extraterrestrial Civilizations in the Neighbourhood of the Earth by means of Electronics" — G.C.). V. G. Azhazha was elected to be the President of the Section. The Vice-President was to be L. M. Gindilis, the prominent specialist on UFO matters and on communication with extraterrestrial civilizations. And the Scientific Secretary was myself, Nikita Aleksandrovich Schnee. Further evidence as to our serious intentions to develop a widespread investigation of the UFO phenomenon in the USSR is shown by the Section's membership, which includes, among others, such names as those of Vice-Admiral M. M. Krylov, Chief of Communications in the USSR Navy; E. V. Khrunov, airman and Cosmonaut of the USSR; Y. G. Nazarov, Deputy Head of the Soviet Control Centre for Cosmic Flights, plus a number of other notable scientists and specialists.

### BPVIS Section suppressed

One of the first tasks facing our BPVTS Section was the launching and establishing of similar groups in other cities and towns of the USSR. But right at the very outset, with the very first steps that we took, we started to suffer interference from higher authorities. Thus, when we wanted to send out letters to the regional branches of the A. S. Popov Scientific and Technical Society (NTORES), advising them of the creation of our new Section and of the scope of its proposed activities, we were at once forbidden to do so. Nevertheless, V. G. Azhazha and I,

at our own risk, did send off such a letter to Tallin, in Estonia, where the local Ufologists at once set to work energetically on creating a Section for the Estonian Republic.

At the beginning of August, 1979, I. P. Goley, Vice-President of the Moscow Headquarters of the A. S. Popov Scientific and Technical Society, requested that an announcement about our new BPVTS Section be inserted in the journal *Radiotekhnika* ("Radio Technology"). The announcement was duly prepared, but it has never yet seen the light of day. For some reason or other it was suppressed.

In mid-November 1979 the Moscow Headquarters of the A. S. Popov Scientific and Technical Society finally assumed a hostile attitude vis-a-vis our Section. As a start, they changed the title of the Section. It was now for "*the Investigation of Anomalous Atmospheric Phenomena*." And then finally, on December 12, 1979, came a shameful farce. The Moscow City Committee (MGK) of the Communist Party of the USSR (KPSS) forbade all operations of the whole Section.

I was present myself at the meeting in the Moscow Headquarters of the A. S. Popov Scientific and Technical Society. The speakers talked such rubbish that they themselves ought surely to have been thoroughly ashamed of it. Though it is possible that those folk don't have any shame. The most active buffoon of them all was a certain Safonov, who had criticized the Scientific and Technical Seminar which the Section held on November 28. The truth of the matter was that this Safonov had not the slightest right whatsoever to speak at the meeting, as he was not even a member. It was characteristic of him that he had also turned up at the Seminar without having been invited. After each speaker had delivered his report, Safonov lumbered up to the platform and "proved" the non-existence of UFOs. At the close of the Seminar, at the request of the audience, he was refused an opportunity to speak, though he tried hard enough to do so.

To return again to the happenings at the Moscow Headquarters of the A. S. Popov Scientific and Technical Society in mid-November 1979. A torrent of untruths was spewed out there by a woman, Lyutsiy Nikolaevna Savinova, who had been invited to be present as the Adviser from the Moscow City Committee of the Communist Party of the USSR, (MGP KPSS). This lady emitted hysterical wails about "mysticism" — and indeed she pretty well went so far as to talk of "anti-Soviet reports delivered at the Seminar" (though as a matter of fact she had not even listened throughout the whole of the first paper). In the USSR the organs of the Communist Party are constantly manipulating all Science and all new lines of knowledge. For them the main objective is not to look at something and evaluate it for its seriousness and its scientific importance, but solely for its "Partyism". The result was of course that, by a majority vote, our Section was disbanded.\*

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\*Mention must be made of the great contribution made by our Section members towards the development of methods for the investigation of UFO landing sites. The programme which we have drafted has been tested successfully in a number of cases and the excellent results obtained have provided useful opportunities for testing entirely new types of apparatus. The instruments that Soviet Ufologists are now using in the study of

(Footnote continued on page 10)



In the meantime, however, the existence of the Section had not passed unnoticed. For, even in so short a time, it had succeeded in organising its work and it had attracted specialists and students of the UFO problem. With the result that today, even though the Section no longer exists, the work of contacting people is continuing, and it is continuing successfully.

### The Seminars

One of the most important achievements of the Section was unquestionably the holding of the Third Scientific and Technical Seminar on the Problems of the Search for Extraterrestrial Civilizations in Surrounding space. Despite all the difficulties and obstacles with which the organizers were confronted (for example, no premises were made available for the Seminar, and they were refused permission to get premises by hiring them), nevertheless this Third Seminar did take place in the Dom Aktera (the Actors' Centre) on November 28, 1979. The small hall was absolutely packed, which shows how much interest there was in the UFO question. Four speakers delivered reports. One report was of a philosophical nature, one was about organization, and the other two were technical. All four speakers were listened to with very great interest by the audience, questions were asked, and interesting suggestions were put forward. These proceedings did not of course take place without the "orthodox" elements making their presence felt. The gentleman named Safonov, already mentioned, climbed on to the platform and gave voice. Another speaker, Professor Petrovich, described the Seminar as a "sectarian rabble and a witches' sabbath." After he had spoken he was pronounced a source of disturbance to the work of the Seminar, and was obliged to quit the hall. But on the whole the Seminar went off in a businesslike fashion and unquestionably the majority of those present were well satisfied with it.

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(Footnote from page 9)

landing sites, are we believe, in all probability without their like in other countries. To judge by the data found in the literature on the subject, it would seem that such investigations in other countries are limited purely to physical measurements and chemical analyses. With us, however, greater attention is paid to the study of the bio-fields left behind in the soil and in the atmosphere by UFOs. We are able to establish the presence of these bio-fields (the nature of which has not yet been elucidated) in virtually all cases where UFOs have landed or have hovered at small distances above the ground. We are also able to detect the bio-fields at places where contacts with humanoids have occurred, one very valuable discovery made by us being that these mysterious fields remain for from seven to nine years. This circumstance possesses a quite particular significance for, as a general rule, the reports of such cases come to us from the eye-witnesses only some years after the event, when the detection of any physical or chemical anomalies is virtually impossible. Among our instruments, a special place is occupied, on account of their clarity and their effectiveness, by Simakov biotransmitters, electronic bioanalyzers, and devices based on the Kirlian Effect. We have never found a word in any foreign ufological publications about the use of such instruments in this way. If our foreign colleagues would like to familiarise themselves with the experience we have gained in this field, we shall be very happy to share with them the results that we have obtained.

The reader of this account will probably have wondered why the Seminar of November 28, 1979, is described by me as "Seminar No. 3." There is in fact no error. The three Seminars (we number them as "Zero", "One", and "Two") were all held by the *Initiative Group*, prior to the establishment of our *Section*. The history of these first three Seminars is quite interesting.

Let us begin, naturally, with the "Zero" Seminar. It got its somewhat unusual designation from the fact that it was impossible to carry the Seminar through to its conclusion. But let us review the events in the sequence in which they occurred:—

The work of preparing and organizing that first Seminar had been done by V. G. Azhazha and myself, in September and October, 1978. We had found premises for it: one of the auditoria of the Humanities Faculty Building of the MGU (Moscow State University). The meeting had been fixed for November 1, 1978, and at 6.00 p.m. we began. But, after a few minutes the interference started up. Some unknown individuals came bursting into the auditorium and set about hampering our work in every possible way. Then, about half an hour later, the Vice-Principal of Moscow State University appeared and told us all to quit the hall as, so he said, it was already booked for someone else and a class was about to be held in it. As proof of this he had brought along with him a number of students whom he had snatched up from another class in another nearby auditorium, and who now stood there, gaping, without a clue as to what it was all about. So, to put it briefly, the work of that, our first Seminar, was successfully disrupted. Whose hands were behind that? One may well ask!

Feliks Yurevich Zigel', in a telephonic conversation with me said, maliciously: "Well, they dispersed you, eh! I fixed that for you!"

Here we see the true face of this "world-famous UFO investigator"! Learning that the Seminar was about to be held, he had done some quick thinking and then 'phoned to the Moscow City Committee of the Soviet Communist Party and to the KGB, and asked them to break up the meeting. Unquestionably these two bodies were delighted to do so.

Despite all this active opposition from well-known quarters, our *Initiative Group* was successful in organizing two more Seminars in the course of 1979. The first (the true No. 1 in our series) was on April 25, 1979. Six reports were read at this meeting, dealing respectively with the following themes:—

- a. The UNO resolution on the UFO Problem
- b. The philosophical aspect of the UFO Problem
- c. UFO Sightings over Moscow
- d. Investigations regarding cosmonauts in Antiquity, etc.

Our Seminar No. 2 was on June 1, 1979. About 150 people were present, and four papers were read. These included a report on the incredible events that had occurred at one of the lakes near Leningrad. The Director of the Seminar, V. G. Azhazha, reported on the investigations at the site of a UFO landing and on the contact that took place there between a man and a humanoid. These investigations had been conducted by the field group on the day preceding the Seminar.

Zigel' did not manage to interfere with this our Second Seminar, although, after the first one, he had sent a letter to the Moscow City Committee (MGK) of the Communist Party of the USSR (KPSS) on which he ran down everyone connected with the organization and the holding of the Seminars. Our *Initiative Group*, which has started activities again, is at present preparing the material from all these three Seminars for publication. Naturally we don't expect to publish this material on any very wide scale, but at any rate we hope to print a sufficiency of copies of it. I might also mention incidentally that we are preparing a report on the work of the ill-fated BPVTS Section of the Popov Society. We are also preparing to publish a small popular-scientific book, *Koe-Chto ob NLO* ("Something about UFOs"), the authors of which will be V. G. Azhazha, B. A. Shurinov, and myself.

### Articles in Press and Journals

Several journals have recently carried articles on our subject. To start with, for example, there was *Sovetskaya Etnografia* ("Soviet Ethnography"), issue No. 2/1979, and there was *Tekhnika Molodezhi* ("Youth Technology") issue No. 10/1979, both of which carried an interesting article by Sanarov entitled "UFOs and UFO-nauts in the Light of Folklore"<sup>3</sup> and full of marvellous facts. Then there was also the journal *Khimiya i Zhizn'* ("Chemistry and Life") No. 12/1979, which had an informative article entitled "First Academic Publication about UFOs," in which the work by Gindilis, Men'ko and Petrovka, *Statistical Treatment of UFO Sightings over the USSR*, was discussed. (This had been published by the USSR Academy of Sciences in a limited edition.) From time to time there have also been notices and small items in other journals and newspapers. The nature of such notices and items has of course been by no means uniform, ranging in quality from pieces in which the authors expressed their reflections concerning the serious problem of UFO research, to those in which hack writers of no great mental talent were at pains to slander both Ufology and the Ufologists. A certain M. Shpagin, in a voluminous article in No. 10/1979 of the monthly *Zhurnal'ist* ("The Journalist") went so far as to call for "... a general struggle against the UFO-nauts, this being also a struggle for a world-wide human viewpoint." (!).

### Soviet support for "Blue Book" and Menzel

All the articles published here in the USSR which reject the reality of the UFOs have had one very interesting common feature: without exception, all such articles and interviews are copiously furnished with quotations from either the American *Blue Book* investigations, or from the "works" of Dr. Donald Menzel. Not a single one among the authors of all these concoctions has a word to say about the present-day American scientists and their attitude towards the UFO problem, nor indeed have they a single word to say about any other foreign scientist, whatever. It is as though to suggest that, anyway, the official American investigations were the ultimate and final stage of truth!

**Not a word do these "Ufologists" of ours have to say, for example, about the French investigations into UFOs. Why? Because there, indeed, in the French**

**investigations, the reality of the UFOs is proven.**

In fact we get the impression that, apart from the introduction to the *Condon Report*, these scribblers of ours have never read anything at all about UFOs. Why, it is even worse than that. Lecturing at the Moscow Planetarium on "Why do People WANT there to be Flying Saucers?" Dr. Smilga (Dr. of Physics and Mathematics) admitted quite honestly, before starting his lecture, *that he had never read anything at all about the subject*, apart from one article in *Nauka i Zhizn'* ("Science and Life") No. 8/1978 (a translation of an article by James Oberg), plus Menzel's book. And yet there he was, the worthy Dr. Smilga, saying that he can prove to all and sundry that there are no UFOs, never have been any UFOs, and never can be any UFOs. Needless to say, the 1½-hour-long thrashings of this "Ufologist" made no impression even on the schoolchildren. He refused to answer questions himself; he had a certain Panovkin to reply for him. Panovkin declared that the Americans had proved absolutely that there had never been a single case of a sighting of a genuine UFO, and that the whole business consisted of hoaxes, hallucinations, and optical effects. Such, then, are the conclusions arrived at by this worthy fellow Smilga: downright falsification of the scientific data. One of the questions that came to him on the platform — and it was not by chance — was worded as follows:

*"Doesn't your own lecture remind you of the session of simultaneous play by Ostap Bender in the yown of Vasyuki?"<sup>4</sup>*

Red in the face, Smilga came out with a lame "No", but the entire audience greeted the question with deafening applause.

### Activities of F. Y. Zigel'

In addition to the official pronouncements and publications of recent times, there has also been a considerable increase in the number of manuscript articles put out and circulated by various specialists and investigators of UFO matters. As a general rule these papers are disseminated from hand to hand in the circles interested in UFO research, and copies are made of them to the extent that such copying is possible. The "works" of F. Y. Zigel' are passed around in the same fashion. I would now like to discuss these in a little more detail.

In the first place, the "works" of Zigel' are unquestionably the most voluminous of concoctions. But, alas, the number of pages in a book can in no way serve as a guarantee for the quality of the contents. Virtually the whole of Zigel's first volume, written in 1967, consists of reports of UFOs over the various regions of our country and therefore is in very good concordance with its title, *Nablyudeniya NLO v SSSR* ("UFO Sightings in the USSR"). But, if I may say so, for him to put his own name as the author of such a selection of cases was hardly quite the correct thing to do. Let us hope however that Zigel' did not simply *invent* these cases himself, and merely collected them. It would probably have been more correct for him to have put on the title-page "Collected by F. Y. Zigel'," but we will forgive him for this little sin. It isn't all that important.

Whereas the whole of the first book was indeed devoted to the UFO problem, the following productions of his pen give less and less space to the subject. Thus, half of the



second volume of "UFO Sightings in the USSR" is devoted to an account of Zigel's struggle to get his other book *Naseleniy Kosmos* ("The Inhabited Universe") into print. His efforts on that scene ended in total failure. The second volume does contain one or two UFO reports, for which we must give him credit. But then when we come to his third volume, we find just a few pages about UFOs. The greater part of the book is devoted to describing the persecution suffered by Zigel' at the hands of certain individuals, and to bits of gossip and mischief-making accusations about other UFO investigators. Thus, scattering his venom, he fabricates cock-and-bull stories about V. G. Azhazha, who is generally recognized as the leader in Soviet Ufology. Now, what is the cause of this attitude of Zigel' towards other investigative groups? Here it is: Zigel' simply considers the UFO problem to be his own private bailiwick, and he won't allow anyone else to display greater activity than himself. He seems to receive a vast quantity of material, both from abroad and from within the USSR, but he lets nobody see any of it. "This is all MINE!" says he.

This is why it was that Zigel' severed his (originally very good) relations with V. G. Azhazha. And, as has subsequently become clear, he has only injured himself by making this break. Zigel' has now lost virtually all his followers, while V. G. Azhazha's group has increased its ranks considerably with specialists of integrity.

Next, a few words should also be said about Zigel's fourth volume, which came out at the beginning of 1979. In it, he refers disparagingly to V. G. Azhazha, and does not fail to mention other investigators who do not meet with his favour. He refers also to our ill-starred Seminar of November 1, 1978, though he does not mention the fact that it was on his own initiative that the gathering was broken up. But, what is more remarkable, this fourth volume has totally debunked the myth of Zigel' as an investigator who is to be trusted. The Leningrad group of Ufologists checked up on a few — taken at random — of his reports of UFO landings and humanoid sightings. And what do you think? Not a single one of them was true! What credibility can he possibly dream of winning now, after the report which the Leningrad UFO Research group delivered at our Second Seminar regarding their investigations?

Whereas it was possible to say, two years ago, that there were two investigation groups at work in Moscow, that period of "condominium" is now over. Soviet Ufology is today represented solely by the group under V. G. Azhazha. Working in close collaboration with us are other keen investigators, in Leningrad, Estonia, Moldavia, Georgia, in many towns of the Russian Soviet Federative Republic itself (RSFSR), in the Ukraine, and in the Central Asian Republics.\*\*

All this, unquestionably, is a very positive and satisfactory state of affairs. Coordination of effort is

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\*\*Ufologists throughout the country see the translations made in Leningrad from foreign publications on the UFO problem. Furthermore the Leningrad Group have conducted a number of interesting field investigations, and, more than any of our other groups, they lay great emphasis on the thorough verification of sightings. An enormous contribution to Soviet Ufology has also been made by the keen investigators of Estonia, who have distinguished themselves by their businesslike and sober approach to the problem. The prominent Moldavian researcher

essential if we are to achieve concrete results — in the first instance as regards the compilation of an adequately complete catalogue of UFO sightings over the territory of the USSR.

#### Statement by Cosmonaut Khrunov

In an interview published in *Tekhnika Molodezhi* No. 3/1979, the Soviet pilot and cosmonaut E. V. Khrunov said: "The UFO Problem exists, and it is extremely serious. Thousands of people have seen UFOs, and up till now it is still not clear what they are. We are going to have to make a thorough investigation of this question. It is entirely possible that, concealed behind this question, there lies the problem of communication with extraterrestrial civilisations."

#### Future Developments

The Soviet Ufologists are of the opinion that the very near future will see some powerful, positive, forward developments in the relations between the scientists and the people of our country on the problem of unidentified flying objects. Regardless of the sabotage that we have suffered (disbandment of the *BPVTS* Section) a great step forward has been taken: the Ufologists of the USSR now have a unified leadership. The number of people interested in the UFO problem is growing daily. Those joining our ranks include not merely folk who are interested in the problem, but also specialists in the various fields of knowledge. And for probing this enigmatic phenomenon we need scientists from the most varied specialised fields: from biologists and medical men to astronomers and mathematicians. We need philosophers, and chemists. We need psychologists and theoretical physicists. We need professional photographers, and many other sorts of people as well. For every honest investigator a place can be found in our ranks. The situation which is now taking shape in Soviet Science is favourable to the development of new areas of knowledge. Parapsychology is now recognised, and there is a trend towards the recognition of Ufology too. All of the more seriously-minded folk with scientific degrees — and even the humanist academics as well — are starting to take an interest in the UFO problem and are beginning to cooperate with the pioneers of Ufology throughout our land.

To put it all in a nutshell, it is our hope that in the next few years Soviet Ufology will manage to catch up with the level of investigation now going on in the USA, France, and other countries. In certain aspects of the work, although we possess no official status yet, *we are even ahead of these countries*, but in many other aspects we are still far behind. The primary task facing Soviet investigators is the establishment of a permanent UFO-watch system throughout our whole country or throughout individual parts of it, where UFOs are more active. We must also set

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N.E. Fedorenko has done a great deal of work on investigation of the Petrozavodsk Phenomenon,<sup>1</sup> and he has also written a number of interesting articles about sightings in Moldavia. Finally, alongside all their other scientific activities, the Moscovites of the Azhazha Group are coping successfully with the job of coordinating the work of all the groups in the USSR.

up machinery for the gathering of reports from the civilian population, from observatories, and from radar stations. We still have a vast deal of work ahead of us. It is our hope that all our beginnings will be crowned with success, and we shall naturally be very happy to join our efforts with those of the investigators in foreign lands. The UFO Phenomenon is international in its nature, and its study should be international too!<sup>5</sup>

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### Translator's notes and references

1. For our accounts of the Petrozavodsk Phenomenon, see *A Russian Jellyfish* (FSR, Vol. 23, No. 4), and *UFO Wave over Russia* (FSR, Vol. 24, No. 3). Also *Interesting News from Russia* and *Life in the Cosmos* (both in FSR, Vol. 25, No. 1.) There seems to be no doubt that what happened at Petrozavodsk was something most impressive. Very likely we have not yet heard of its more remarkable features.
2. The Russian scientist Vladimir Grigorievich Azhazha occupies the important post of Deputy Director of the Section of Underwater Research in the USSR Academy of Sciences (!). For such information as we have on him, see *Interesting News from Russia*, and *Life in the Cosmos*, (both in FSR Vol. 25, No. 1).
3. V.I. Sanarov is a researcher in the Institute of Clinical and Experimental Medicine under the Academy of Medical Sciences of the USSR, and he is attached to their Siberian Branch, which is based on Novosibirsk. He has sent me the full Russian text of his paper, "UFOs and Ufonauts in the Light of Folklore," which appeared in the journal *Soviet Ethnography* (2/1979). If time permits, I hope to translate it. Dr. Sanarov has been particularly interested, and for a good many years past, in all that FSR has published on contacts with humanoid entities, abductions, and teleportation cases.
4. This humorous literary allusion is one of those "in"-jokes, or domestic jokes, that virtually everyone in a particular country is likely to understand, but which are not so clear to the outsider or the foreigner. I gather that the quotation refers to a book (I have not seen or read it myself) published in Russia in the 1920s during Lenin's NEP (New Economic Policy). The author was either the biting Soviet satirical writer Ily Ehrenburg or his colleague Ilf, or maybe possibly it was by both of them, as they collaborated brilliantly on the devastating anti-American book *Little Golden America*. The book to which this quotation refers was an equally devastating piece of satire directed against Soviet society and very likely some incident of blatant fraud. The questioner was consequently instantly understood by everyone in the hall. He was asking: "Is it not perfectly obvious to everyone that you are telling lies?"
5. V.G. Azhazha and Nikita Schnee, and their fellow-workers, are brave pioneers, and surely all who read this Report will applaud the manner in which they have battled against the petty obstacles placed in their path by an obstructive government.

Notable among the points which Nikita Schnee makes are two. These refer, firstly, to the faithfulness with which the Soviet regime and its underlings cling to the negative lines laid down by Messrs Menzel and Condon in America, and, secondly, their corresponding "shyness" about mentioning the extremely important positive developments in France in recent years.

As regards the views of the Russian investigators themselves on the possible origins of the UFOs, it is likely that none of us here in the west is sufficiently privy to the thoughts of Messrs Azhazha and Schnee and colleagues to know what they really feel about it. Nominally they all seem to think that the *E. T. Hypothesis* is the answer. Is it possible that the alternative theories have not yet dawned upon them? The answer must surely be no, if for no other reason than that the USSR now leads the world in Parapsychology and

associated areas of study. That the Russians should have forged ahead like this ought to come as no surprise (even though one realises that what the USSR Government and the KGB have in view is the conquest of these new fields only as an aid to the military and political conquest of our globe). For, before 1917 that country was already well to the fore in Parapsychology. Let us take merely three names as examples: *H. P. Blavatsky*; *Georgiy Ivanovich Gurdjieff*; *Pyotr Demianovich Ouspenskiy*. Nobody understood better than these three remarkable Russians that the external world which we think we perceive around us may not be remotely as we imagine it to be, and that it may not be the sole "reality." Paraphrasing Shakespeare, we ought perhaps to warn the Communist Delegate Madame Lucy Nikolaevna Savinova: "There are more things in Heaven and Earth than are dreamt of in your dreary Marxist philosophy."

Despite the courage and enthusiasm of Azhazha and Schnee as shown in this Report, there is no room for *hubris*, because, as Schnee warns us in his opening paragraph, things can change again in the twinkling of an eye. Soviet civilian research into the UFO enigma might vanish overnight. Things have not altered all that much since Stalin died.

It does not seem to be unreasonable to think that the great new advances in Parapsychology could be one of the factors that will give future generations of men a completely different picture of the Universe. Those who wish to have a glimpse of the ferment now occurring in Russia in particular should read *Psychic Discoveries Behind the Iron Curtain*, by Sheila Ostrander and Lynn Schroeder (1970), and *The New Soviet Psychic Discoveries: A First-Hand Report*, by Henry Gris and William Dick (1978). And anyone who wishes to see a remarkable new Russian film in which the underlying ferment of all these new ideas comes constantly to the surface should go and see *The Stalker* (currently showing in London).

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# THE FALCON LAKE INCIDENT

## — Part 1

Prologue: 1967

*Chris Rutkowski*

**S**TEPHEN MICHALAK arrived in the resort town of Falcon Lake on the night of May 19, 1967, intent on doing some amateur prospecting in the area the next day. He left his motel at 5.30 the next morning, and headed north into the bush. By 9.00 a.m., travelling under a bright, cloudless sky, he had found a quartz vein near a marshy area, close to a small stream. At 11.00 a.m. he had lunch, then went back to his examination of the quartz formation.

At 12.15 p.m., with the sun high and clouds gathering in the west, Michalak was startled by the cackling of a gaggle of geese nearby, obviously disturbed by something. He looked up, and was surprised to see two cigar-shaped objects with "bumps" on them, at about forty-five degrees in elevation, descending and glowing red. As they approached closer, they appeared to be more oval and then disc-shaped. Suddenly, the furthest one of the pair stopped in midflight, while the other drew nearer and landed on a large, flat rock, which was later determined to be about 160 feet away. The one in the air hovered for a short while, then began rising and departed, changing from red to orange to grey as it flew into the west, where it disappeared behind the clouds, changing colour back to orange. Its movement at all times during its departure, like the arrival of it and its landed companion, was quick and noiseless.

The author, who lives in Winnipeg, is director of Ufology Research of Manitoba, co-director of the Manitoba Centre for UFO Studies at the Manitoba Planetarium, and an investigator and associate of the Center for UFO Studies (Dr. Hynek's organisation) of Evanston, Illinois. He is also Secretary and Librarian of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, Winnipeg Centre, and is engaged in lunar research at the University of Manitoba.

EDITOR

Turning his attention back to the craft on the ground, Michalak saw that it, too, was turning from red down to grey in colour, until it finally was the colour of "hot stainless steel," surrounded by a golden-hued glow. Michalak was kneeling on a rock as he observed the object, and wearing welding goggles which he usually wore to protect his eyes from rock chips. A brilliant purple light was flooding out of openings in the upper part of the craft, dazzling the eyes and making everything around seem purple (Michalak said that it left red after-images in the eye). For the next half-hour, he sat on the rock, making a sketch of the object and noting various peculiarities. He became aware of waves of warm air radiating from the craft, accompanied by the smell of

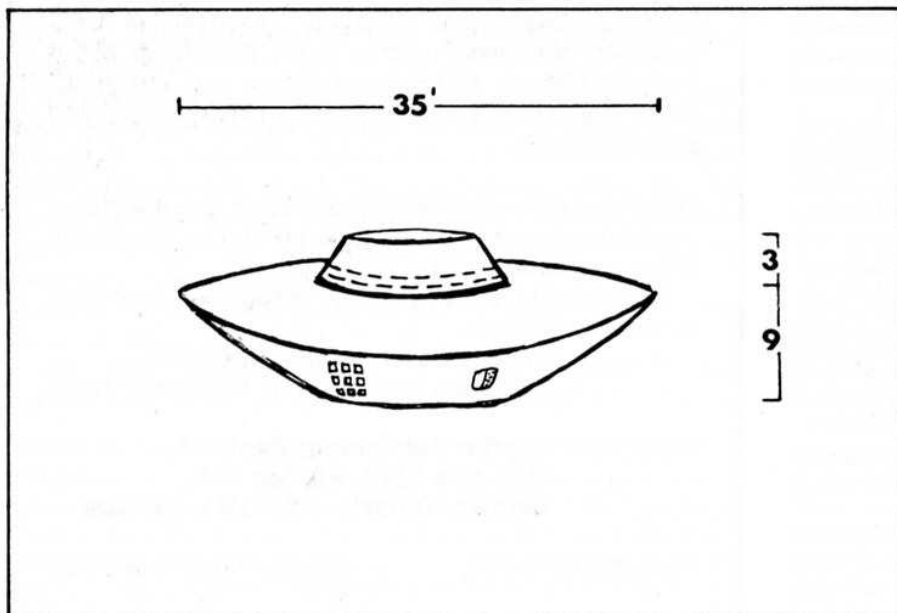


Figure 1: (Illustrations provided by the author). The craft. Figures denote dimensions in feet.

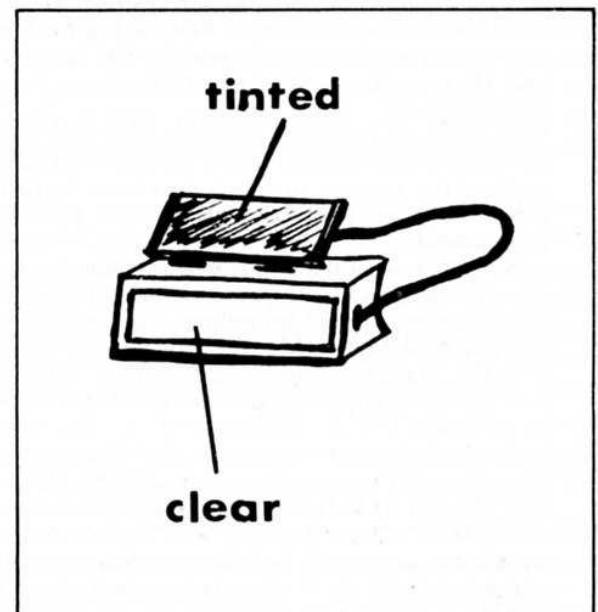


Figure 2: Style of welding goggles worn by the witness.