

WHAT THE RUSSIANS KNOW ABOUT UFOs

George Knapp

ABSTRACT

The historic dissolution of the USSR has **afforded** Western journalists and historians unprecedented access to previously classified records and documents. Those files confirm long-held suspicions that the Soviet **government**, at its highest **levels**, was (and still is) intensely interested in the UFO phenomenon. UFO studies were conducted by the Russian military, the Russian Academy of Sciences, and by private organizations and individuals. Russian intelligence agencies are convinced that the UFO topic is the subject of similar official interest in the U.S.

RUSSIANS TAKE UFO SIGHTINGS SERIOUSLY

On the night of October 4, 1982, something unusual was seen by dozens of witnesses in the skies above the village of Usovo in the Soviet Ukraine. Official records obtained from the Russian Ministry of Defense include statements from more than a dozen military **personnel**, most of whom were officers.

Two Army captains, their wives and children, watched two silent, glowing objects--one triangular, one **elliptical--maneuver** in the sky for 20 minutes. The objects reportedly changed shapes in mid air. At one point, one of the objects split into two.

A few miles away, a Lt. Colonel Balanov and a busload of other military personnel, while on their way home, witnessed four, then five luminous objects which blinked on and off, changed luminous **intensity**, then changed color from pale yellow to dark cherry.

Another witness, Captain Pavlovich, said the objects repeatedly changed shapes as he and others watched from another vantage point. A Major Lipezki reported that the car he was driving shook violently after encountering the aerial objects.

These and other witness statements were recorded, stamped, and forwarded to the Ministry of Defense in Moscow because the sightings occurred over a long-range nuclear missile base, which is where most of

the witnesses were stationed. The most disturbing account was filed by a communications officer named Davidovich. At approximately the same time that numerous military personnel say they saw UFOs dancing in the sky above Usovo, communications officer Davidovich said the launch control panel at the missile base lit up like the 4th of July. In his **words**, it was "spontaneous illumination of all **displays**," followed by a series of precise control **codes**, four spaces, and a control code combination. In other words, the launch control panel was being manipulated by some unknown force.

Subsequent investigation **revealed** no detectable systems defects. No other systems at the base were affected, and no such cases had ever been reported before. So what happened, and what did it mean? What happened was that several UFOs were seen by dozens of witnesses for periods of up to 20 minutes, hovering and maneuvering over a Russian nuclear missile **base**. For some unknown reason, the launch control panel for the missiles was fully activated. Proper codes were inexplicably entered, and the missiles were ready for launch. When the UFOs **disappeared**, the control panel went back to normal. Investigators were quickly sent to the scene by the Ministry of Defense. They concluded that the UFOs had somehow seized control of their missiles, as if to send a message.

This incident is one of the most important cases culled from the files of Russia's Ministry of Defense, and is indicative of how seriously the Russian military viewed the UFO subject, then and now. Thousands of other reports were compiled, and are still being compiled, in an official, ongoing program to resolve the UFO mystery, and to incorporate useful information into Russian development efforts.

U.S. GOVERNMENT ATTITUDE

In the U.S., the government routinely issues "canned" responses to UFO inquiries. Our government is no longer interested in UFOs because it has concluded there is no threat to national security. This same government uses the excuse of national security to withhold UFO documents from public scrutiny. As we now know, some of those documents reveal that UFOs do, in fact, carry national security **implications**. The 1975 overflights of U.S. nuclear bases along the Canadian **border**, for example, are quite similar to the Russian experience at Usovo. According to Pentagon documents, UFOs appeared above five bases, one after another, avoided all attempts at **interception**, and succeeded in altering the launch codes of our **ICBMs**. The national security implications of such incidents, here and in Russia, are more than **obvious**.

It seems increasingly clear that the U.S. government, or more **specifically**, the Pentagon, has no intention of leveling with the public about UFOs. Military agencies drag their feet, lie, stall or feign ignorance in an apparent effort to thwart attempts by the taxpaying public to obtain sensitive files. Witness the difficulties being faced



at present by the General Accounting Office as it attempts to obtain records about the Roswell **Incident**. Even members of Congress are given the runaround when they dare to ask questions about this subject.

COLD WAR MENTALITY

The Cold War is over, but the Cold War mentality persists. In Nevada, where some allege that recovered alien technology has been stored and **tested**, the Air Force is engaged in yet another land grab in an attempt to keep American citizens from looking down on a base that still does not **officially exist** but which has been repeatedly exposed in national and international media accounts. This action is being taken even though the **U.S.** has signed the Open Skies Treaty, which will allow any other signatory nation to **fly** over Groom Lake or any other base and take all the photos they want. The enemy, it seems, is not foreign powers or agents, but rather, the Congress and the American public.

For the past three years, I have been in close contact with Congressional investigators who strongly suspect that a UFO coverup has been instituted by certain elements within the military-industrial **establishment**. These investigators are operating under instructions **from** some of the most powerful elected **officials** in **Washington**, officials who, understandably, will never publicly admit their interest in **UFOs....unless** "smoking gun" evidence can be uncovered. **Unfortunately**, that day many never come. In my opinion, and in the opinion of some congressional staffers, the chances of uncovering a smoking gun are **remote**. Nor are we likely to see a day when the President makes some startling announcement about UFOs on television, (assuming the president even knows what's going on). The secrecy mentality so ingrained in our military isn't going to go away simply because we no longer have a strategic enemy. Simply put, you and I **don't** have a need to know.

MOTIVATION FOR OUR RUSSIAN UFO STUDY

It was this realization which initially inspired my interest in trying an "end-around" play, an investigation of Russian UFO research. If **U.S.** agencies have secretly studied UFOs, spied on UFO researchers and **organizations**, withheld UFO information, lied about UFO files and cases, and disseminated disinformation or cover stories for the purpose of muddying the UFO waters, it seemed possible that the Russians had done the same. Since the U.S. has shown no inclination to come clean on UFOs, it was hoped that the Russians **might**.

This hope was fueled by the tremendous political changes which had swept the once-monolithic USSR. The abrupt collapse of the Soviet Union proved a boon for historians and journalists. Once-secret files on such diverse topics as Lee Harvey Oswald, the Cuban missile crisis, and Russian spy operations were opened for the first time. It was my guess that, if these other sensitive records could be obtained, so might the Russian UFO files, assuming such files **existed**. The ironic result of

this enterprise could be--we might learn more about **America's** knowledge of UFOs from the Russians than we might ever learn from the U.S. **government.**

Other western researchers had already succeeded in providing tantalizing hints about large-scale UFO studies in Russia. Dr. Jacques Vallee, Dr. Richard Haines, Dr. Bruce **Maccabee**, and journalists Antonio Huneeus, Timothy Good, and Paul Stonehill have written about Russian interest in UFOs over the past few years. My hope was that the changes brought about by glasnost would open up a new level of information which had previously been denied to these and other diligent researchers. This is precisely what occurred.

The information we uncovered through our two year investigation sheds considerable light on some of the most important and controversial issues in American ufology, including:

- 1) Crashed saucers and the Roswell case. Russian witnesses say they know what happened in New Mexico in 1947.
- 2) Secret military UFO studies and files. The Russians had their studies, and they say we had **ours**. Both are **ongoing**, according to the witnesses and files.
- 3) The incorporation of UFO information into military **programs**. They tried **it**. They say **we're** doing the same.
- 4) Violent encounters between UFOs and military forces on both sides, including encounters in space involving their cosmonauts and our **astronauts**.
- 5) **Scientifically** verifiable evidence of the UFO reality, including measurements taken at alleged UFO landing sites, soil samples, crop formations, and unidentified material of alleged extraterrestrial or alien origin. Such evidence would effectively refute the contention of some western scientists that "there is nothing to study."

FRIENDLY RECEPTION

A visit to Russia certainly does not qualify as "travel for the **timid**." Many of the stereotypical images **we've** absorbed over the past few years about conditions in that country turned out to be more or less accurate--the food, the roads, the currency, the weather, crime, corruption, poverty, deprivation, long lines, **inefficiency**, general paranoia, and deeply-ingrained psychological baggage from the police-state era.

Yet despite the tough times and uncertain future faced by the Russian people, we experienced nothing but hospitality, friendship, and cooperation from the many Russians we **met**. Without exception, they opened their homes to us, shared their bread, their research **findings**,



Civilian Demonstration in Red Square, Moscow
March 1993

and a bottle or two of their renowned national beverage with foreigners they had never seen before and may never see again. It was a wonderful and illuminating experience and comes highly recommended by this **traveler.**

The friendly reception by the Russians is all the more amazing in light of what was unfolding during our visit in March of 1993. We arrived at what some might call a bad time. Massive civil **unrest...mass** demonstrations on a daily **basis...random** bombings **which** were never reported in the **west...troops** on the move in Moscow, also not reported **here...a** constitutional crisis and a pending presidential impeachment. On the day we arrived, President Yeltsin issued a decree which seized control of all broadcast media. On the day we **left**, a special session of the Russian Parliament was convening to consider impeachment. In the ten days in between, the entire country was embroiled in a high-stakes political roller coaster ride. For a journalist, it was a heck of a time to be there, UFO files or not.

DR. NIKOLAI **KAPRANOV--OUR** ENTRY

Our success in penetrating the Russian military and scientific bureaucracy was made possible by Dr. Nikolai Kapranov, a Russian physicist, whose resume would be impressive on either side of the Atlantic. Kapranov spent eight years tracking American nuclear submarines for the Russian Navy. As part of that work, he trained Russian cosmonauts to search for our subs from space, and later served as a national security advisor to both the Russian parliament and their National Academy of Sciences. From this lofty position within the Russian government, he established extensive personal and professional contacts with the upper echelon of their military and scientific **establishments.**

I met Dr. Kapranov in the summer of **1992.** He was in the U.S. at the behest of some members of Congress, lecturing on disarmament issues at several universities and national labs. He and his family ended up in Las Vegas because one of his primary congressional sponsors was Nevada Congressman Jim Bilbray, a man **I've** known personally and **professionally** for several years and whose **office** has been helpful in my investigations of other **UFO-related** stories. **Kapranov's** yearlong stay in the **U.S.** was coming to an end and he was preparing to return to Russia. At the suggestion of Congressman **Bilbray's** staff, I arranged to meet with Kapranov.

He convinced me that he had high level contacts within the Russian government, but said he **wasn't** particularly interested in UFOs and had done no research in this area. But in the course of our conversation, he casually mentioned that several of his colleagues had mentioned UFO studies and files, secret studies and briefings, ongoing research efforts. I asked him if he thought he could get any of these people to talk to us, or whether he might help locate UFO files or reports. He agreed to try.

The company I work for, **Altamira Communications**, put Dr. Kapranov on a retainer, helped him set up an office in Moscow, and instructed him to start digging. The one guideline I gave him was that I wanted to avoid any of the Russian UFO figures who were already known in the west. We **didn't** want to rehash some of the same stories which had already been told on American tabloid TV or at UFO conferences. We wanted to uncover a new level of information, new sources, people who may be in positions to know about UFO research but had never attempted to attract attention or cash in on sensational claims. In general, the witnesses we pursued had never spoken about UFOs, in Russia or anywhere else. They **didn't** seek us **out**, we found them. In that way, we hoped to avoid those sources who might be out to **tell** tall tales in exchange for American **dollars**.

This strategy may have been the key to our success in penetrating some previously-unknown enclaves of UFO information. More than a few of the witnesses who agreed to talk with us said they did so precisely because we had avoided the "usual **suspects**." As in the **U.S.**, there is considerable animosity within the Russian ufology community. Many of their most respected researchers (whose names are largely unknown to western audiences) are deeply suspicious of those Russians who have assumed the mantle of official spokespersons for all UFO matters emanating from that country. We certainly had nothing against any of the better known Russian ufologists, and had no reason to question their motives or findings, but by pursuing a less-traveled road, we were allowed access to previously-undisclosed **information**.

BORIS SOKOLOV EXPOSES USSR UFO STUDY

The most important door which was opened to us is the one which led into the modest apartment of Boris Sokolov, a retired Red Army Colonel from a distinguished military family. **Sokolov's** grandfather was an officer in the **Czar's** personal guard. His father was one of the most decorated officers in the Great War. In the late **1970's**, Sokolov was one of an elite handful of officers assigned by the Ministry of Defense with adapting and exploiting industrial technologies and breakthroughs for military **programs**. His designated niche was radio waves and radio astronomy. Any intriguing research in those fields which might have military applications were directed to Col. **Sokolov's** attention.

Sokolov **didn't** know it at the time, but soon learned that the Soviet military had a long-standing interest in UFO activity. Then, a series of dramatic UFO sightings along the Russian/Finnish border thrust Sokolov and others into the UFO maelstrom. In 1978, an unprecedented order was issued by the Ministry of Defense. According to **Sokolov**, the order was issued to every unit within the vast military empire of the USSR. In **Sokolov's** words, this order transformed the entire Soviet Union into one, gigantic UFO listening post. Simply put, the order stated that every UFO sighting, every unexplained aerial object, ball of light, or odd craft was to be fully **investigated**. Witnesses were to be **interrogated**. Evidence was to be collected. Complete, official reports

were to be filed **immediately**, and all of those reports were sent to Sokolov's office.

Thousands of reports were collected. Most of the incidents in these files occurred in the vicinity of military **installations**, and most of the witnesses were military personnel, reporting what they had seen under specific **orders**. Sokolov is certainly correct in stating that a study of this magnitude can probably never be **duplicated...because** the USSR no longer exists and because it lasted a full ten years under his command. We obtained the first-ever interview with Sokolov about the scope of the study and the reasons it was undertaken.

SOKOLOV CONFIDES IN VISITORS

SOKOLOV: "The military was interested for three reasons. Number one, because of the unpredictable movement of the UFOs, the quick changes in course angles. Number two, because of the velocity of the UFO **movements**. And number three, because UFOs observed visually could not be seen on radar, and those seen on radar could not always be seen visually. The military thought that if the secrets of the UFOs could be discovered, we would be able to win the competition against our prospective enemies in terms of **velocity, materials, and visibility...Stealth**, to build our own **stealth**."

"Pilots recognized UFOs as a threat to them. There were 40 episodes in which they shot at UFOs. An order was given to pilots to chase UFOs and shoot at them, but when the pilots tried, the UFOs sped **away....In** three cases, the pilots lost control and crashed. Two of the pilots died. After that, pilots received a new order. When they see a **UFO**, change course and get out. All of the pilots agreed."

"October 5th, 1982. I was ordered to immediately go to the Ukraine to an **ICBM** base. The reason for the urgency was a report from the base commander to the Chief of the General Staff. On October 4th, the base observed a UFO for four **hours**. At the same time, on the control **panel**, they received an order to prepare the launch of the missiles. The lights lit up, and the launch codes enabled the **missiles...Dozens** of officers witnessed **this**."

Sokolov and his investigators concluded that the UFOs were somehow responsible for arming the missiles, an alarming conclusion by any standard. He also told us that, in addition to the 40 pilot encounters, there were dozens of incidents in which ground forces fired on UFOs, in which UFOs seemingly caused plane and car engines to stall, knocked out radar, radio, and communications **equipment**, clipped the wings of planes, and literally immobilized military personnel.

We also know from previously published reports that the order to refrain from firing on UFOs may still be in effect. In 1991, the commander of **Russia's** Air Defense Forces put it this way in a press interview. "Why fire on something which may possess formidable

capacities for **retaliation?**" In other **words**, UFOs could probably kick our butts. Why provoke them?

Colonel Sokolov dropped a few other bombshells on us. He said the Ministry of Defense study of UFOs is still **underway, but**, "unlike the study in the U.S.," the Russian effort is passive. He says the Russians would report UFO incidents when they occurred, "unlike the effort in the **U.S.**" He told us that the U.S. military had constructed 30 tracking stations around the world for the express purpose of monitoring UFO activity.

A footnote to **Sokolov's statements--he** admits that the UFO reports which were collected during the ten-year study were first funneled through the KGB attachments which were part of all Russian military units. In other words, the KGB got the first look at the reports. Sokolov admits that some of the more sensitive cases may never have reached his desk. He didn't elaborate, but it is also possible that KGB could have altered or deleted some of the reports he did see. In his words, though, no other person in the USSR saw more UFO information than he during that ten year **period**. He is reluctant **to** say that UFOs are of extraterrestrial or alien origin, but **doesn't** hesitate to suggest that they are real, appear to be intelligently controlled craft, and demonstrate capabilities that are beyond any known terrestrial technology.

CHECKBOOK JOURNALISM

Of the thousands of reports compiled during those ten years, Sokolov compiled a capsulized dossier of a few hundred interesting **cases**, including original witness reports which bear the official stamps and seals of individual military units. When he retired, he took the dossier with him, contained in a thick, black binder. We were fortunate to purchase this entire file. The ethics of so-called "checkbook journalism" are worthy of discussion. To **some**, the purchase of information by journalists raises questions about the legitimacy of the information **itself**. In reality, money is sometimes the only way to get information. Journalistic purists may quibble or pout, but payment for information is a fact of life, and is routine procedure even for those news organization which publicly bemoan the practice, including major American television networks and newspapers. Our main concern was with the legitimacy of the information itself, and on that score, we feel relatively comfortable. **The** Sokolov files contain specific names, dates, unit numbers, and other verifiable **details**. After returning with the **files**, I sought the opinion of Dr. Richard Haines, a respected UFO researcher who has extensive Russian contacts, was a founder of the Joint USA-CIS Aerial Anomaly Federation, has traveled extensively in Russia and who is fluent in the language and nuances of that nation. In the opinion of Dr. Haines, the Sokolov documents appear to be genuine. Journalist Antonio Huneus, who also has considerable experience in reporting on the Russian UFO scene, was also shown some of the documents for his opinion about their **authenticity**. But the most important check

is Sokolov himself. He **wasn't** trying to peddle his dossier to anyone. He had never even spoken publicly about his experiences until he was sought out by Dr. Nikolai Kapranov. **Again**, we found him. He **didn't** find us. And after spending several hours with him in an apartment that can generously be described as humble, after hearing about how he and his wife try to get by on a meager military pension, after being graciously treated to a spread of food and drink that must have represented a fourth of his monthly income, I have no **qualms** or reservations about compensating him for his time, his files, his sincere **hospitality**.

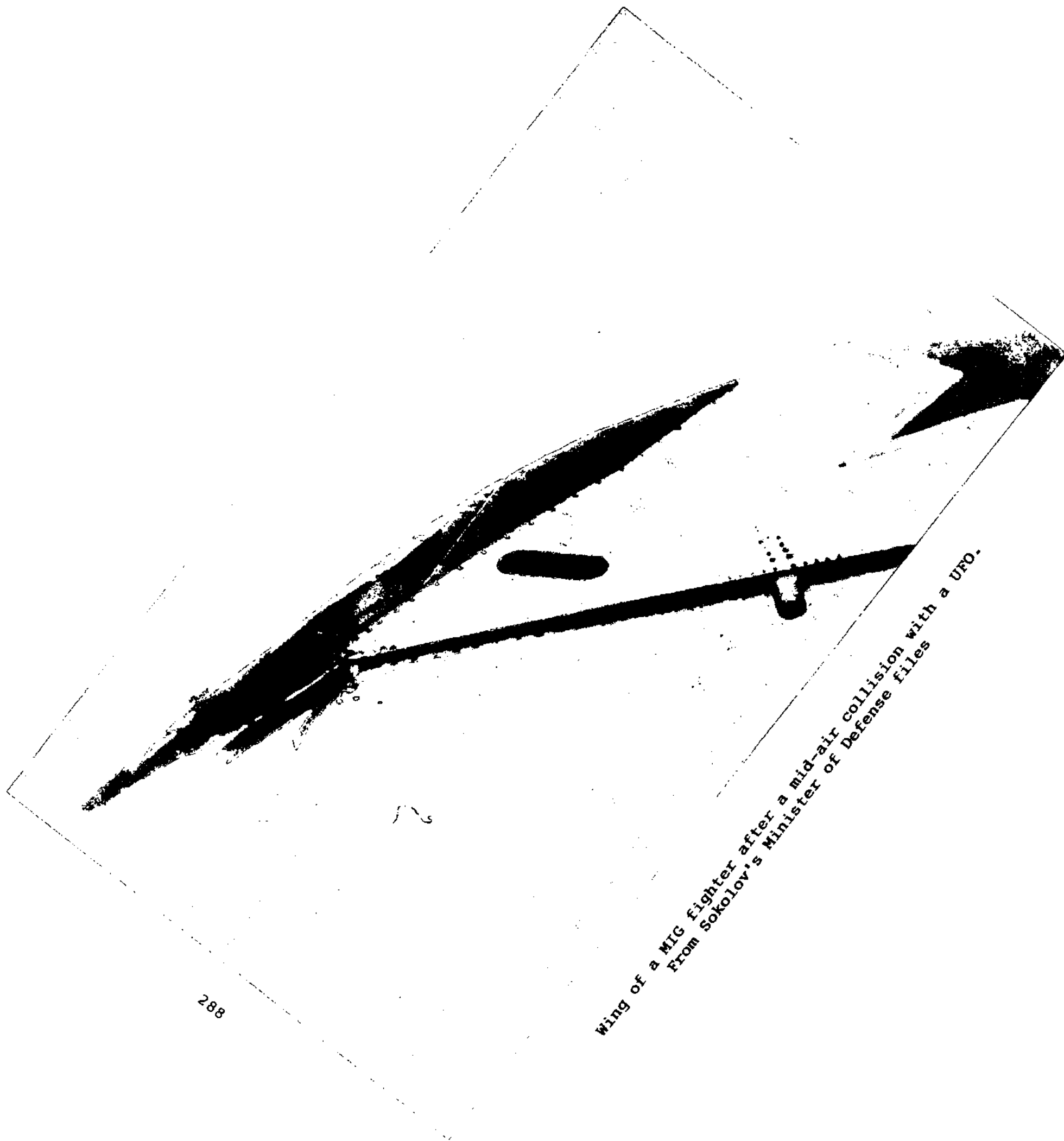
TRANSLATING SOKOLOV'S FILES

It took several months to get all of **Sokolov's** files translated into English. I would **like** to tell you that they contain incredible insights into the UFO mystery, but they **don't**. Most of the cases could be classified as run-of-the-mill UFO **encounters**—discs appear, balls of light exhibit unusual maneuvers, car engines die, radios conk out, witnesses are confused and frightened. A few incidents may warrant further **investigation**; a Russian Colonel had an encounter with a UFO while walking along a Moscow bridge. When he approached the UFO, he says, he was frozen by a beam of light, blacked out, and woke up two hours later with no memory of where he had been or what had happened. This is consistent with American abduction reports. . . . In 1990, military witnesses reported seeing a mysterious helicopter over their base. It flew very low, made no sound, left an odor like fusing iron, and was piloted by two beings who appeared to be wearing unusual **masks**. The details are similar to what has been reported all across the U.S., especially in association with animal mutilation **cases**....**One** fairly vague document referred to some strange material acquired at a "crash **site**." According to the report, the material was analyzed by four scientific institutes. They concluded that this particular alloy could not be duplicated by any known technology. The report seemed to have been purposely written in overly-general terms, and contained no details about the alleged crash site or the composition of the material.

THE-YEAR UFO STUDY IS SIGNIFICANT

The real significance of the MOD files is not found in the details of individual cases, in my opinion, but rather in the scope of the overall study effort. This was a ten-year, nationwide, officially-mandated program, initiated by the highest authorities in the Russian military for the express purpose of exploiting **what** was regarded as "alien" technology. These **weren't** wide-eyed ufologists trying to determine our true place in the cosmos or the meaning of life. This was the hard-line, hard-boiled Russian military **establishment**, secretly studying a perplexing, and potentially dangerous phenomenon, because they wanted to get a leg up on the U.S. in weapons development.

Colonel Sokolov made it clear that his massive study was authorized because of its potential applications to Stealth research. This



Wing of a MIG fighter after a mid-air collision with a UFO.
From Sokolov's Minister of Defense files

statement coincides with allegations raised in the U.S. that UFO information has been incorporated into our own Stealth program, a contention which has been publicly denied by the developers of Stealth technology. Stories have also arisen suggesting a connection between UFOs and America's SDI program. A similar connection was alleged by persons involved in Russia's Start Wars effort.

We were fortunate to establish a working relationship with Russia's Academy of Natural Sciences, which is headed by retired Admiral Valeri Pirumov. Admiral Pirumov arranged an interview with a scientist named Rimili Avramenko. Dr. Avramenko is one of the chief engineers in the Russian anti-satellite weapons program--their version of SDI.

DR. AVRAMENKO SHARES HIS KNOWLEDGE

Dr. Avramenko is not a ufologist. He has never spoken publicly about UFOs to anyone. To my knowledge, he has never granted an interview on this or any other subject. His security clearances are so high that he was forbidden to use his real name for much of his adult life. When he wanted to publish articles in technical or scientific journals, he had to use an alias.

According to Dr. Avramenko, the reality of UFOs is beyond question. In his opinion, and the opinion of unnamed colleagues, UFO are emissaries of an advanced intelligence, probably extraterrestrial. He says that both the Russians and the Americans have known this for decades, and that information from UFO studies has been incorporated into Russian SDI research. He even demonstrated a table-top version of a plasma beam device. He and his contemporaries refer to the plasma beam device as, quote, "the weapon of the aliens."

DR. AVREMENKO: "The first time I saw UFOs was in 1959. I saw it with radar as it was orbiting Earth. In 1959, the first good radars were made. We could see for several thousand kilometers. We could see what was happening around the Earth...At that time, satellites were easily countable (we knew how many there were), but we also saw vehicles whose technical characteristics we can't match, even now...We saw tens of these in 1959, entering and leaving the Earth's atmosphere..Surely, the existence of these UFOs caused problems for U.S. defense systems. You were faced with the problem of separating aggressive vehicles from the unknowns."

"Are aliens and UFOs real? For me and my colleagues, this isn't even a question. I know this government has many programs on this....The information on UFOs helps us manufacture plasma beams for use in our Star Wars. The weapons of the aliens, we call them."

Dr. Avramenko told us that the satellite warning systems of the US and Russia no longer detect UFOs because computers on both sides have been programmed to weed out anomalous objects and to focus only on those space objects of known origin. He also made a slip and said the only

terrestrial craft which can approach the speed of UFOs is the American *Aurora*, based in Nevada. When I questioned him further about **this**, he hemmed and hawed and backtracked, saying his information was solely from speculative articles in the popular press.

THREAD 3--THE SECRET UFO STUDY

Both Avramenko and Colonel Sokolov told us that military studies of UFOs are still underway in Russia. With their **help**, we located the civilian official who coordinates the current MOD UFO effort. He spoke to us on the condition that we not reveal his name, and I am keeping that promise even though this **man's** name has been mentioned in articles about Russian ufology published in other countries. We met with him several times while in Moscow and he confirmed that the Russian military is still studying UFOs in hopes of incorporating the information into weapons **programs**. The existence of this study was further confirmed when we obtained several dozen pages of **still-classified** documents and managed to get those out of the country.

Of all the material we brought back from Russia, nothing was more impressive or potentially significant than these explosive pages. According to the documents and our witness, official Russian interest in UFOs is focused in the MOD study, code named Thread **3**.

These documents make it clear that the Russian military is very serious about UFOs, that it monitors UFO developments and issues on a worldwide basis, that it is intent on figuring out how UFOs work and how such technology can be exploited. The Russians are fully aware that a large percentage of UFO sightings are actually **misidentifications** of explainable phenomena but they recognize that many sightings are not easily explainable, and may very well be, quote, "flying objects of strangers from other planets or newcomers from parallel **worlds**."

The bottom line purpose of Thread 3, as described on one page of the documents is "to conduct widerange investigations in order to find out new principles of non-traditional propelling agents and accompanying fields" consistent with descriptions from UFO **eyewitnesses**.

The documents outline a fairly specific timetable for this **study**, to be concluded in 1995. Also **included is** a detailed history of UFO studies in the USSR. This history notes that the study of UFOs was severely hindered **beginning** in 1953 when Radio Moscow launched an officially sanctioned condemnation of such research by dismissing the UFO topic as "an invention of American **imperialists**, a stupid tale for stirring up war, for intimidating the taxpayers and the Congress in order to confirm an excessively high (defense) **budget**." In the early **50's**, and many times during the next decades, the Russian government would express the opinion that the U.S. military was perpetuating the UFO story in order to jack up the American defense budget, a strategy which does not seem all that farfetched considering what we now know about Pentagon subterfuge.

COVER PAGE
FROM THREAD 3
DOCUMENTS

КОМАНДА ЧАСТЬ 70790

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СЕКРЕТНО
Кл. "3"

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corner indicates it
is still classified.

"УТВЕРЖДАЮ"

КОМАНДИР ВОЗМОЖНОЙ ЧАСТИ 70790

доктор технических наук
старший научный сотрудник

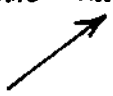
Аршинов А. АЛЕКСАНДРОВ

" 18 " июля 1991 г.

О Т Ч Е Т

о научно-исследовательской работе

"ОСНОВНЫЕ КОМПОНЕНТЫ И ПРОЦЕССЫ ОБЪЕДИНЕНИЯ
РЕЗУЛЬТАТОВ ЭКСПЕРИМЕНТАЛЬНЫХ И ТЕОРЕТИЧЕСКИХ
ИССЛЕДОВАНИЙ ПРОЦЕССОВ КРИТИЦИЗОВАНИЯ
НЕСТРАДИЦИОННЫХ ДЕЙТЕЛСТВИЙ И ИХ ВЗАИМОДЕЙСТВИЯ
С ОБЪЕДИНЕНИЕМ СРЕДСТВ"
по теме "Нить-3"



"Thread 3"

ЗАМЕСТИТЕЛЬ КОМАНДИРА В/Ч 70790
ПО НАУЧНОЙ РАБОТЕ

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СВЕТЛОТЕННИК И КОМПЬЮТЕР

Бенюв В. БЕНЮВ

COVER PAGE
FROM THREAD 3
DOCUMENTS

- 1991 г. -

Among the other highlights from the Thread 3 documents:

- 1) A detailed account of the Roswell crash and the creation of **MJ-12**. Some of the Russian information appears to have come from books or articles published in the American press. At one point in this section, the documents even quote UFO author Leonard Stringfield. But some information seems to have come from their own sources. According to the Thread 3 **documents**, a secret project code name Malice was created in December 1947 to act as a link between **MJ 12** and Project Sign, the official military study of **UFOs**. It is not clear in the documents whether the Russians believe there really was, or is, and **MJ 12**, or whether they are merely parroting information gleaned from public sources here in the **U.S.**
- 2) The documents cite a second UFO crash near the Texas-Mexico border in November **1950**. Materials collected from the crash site were transported to Sandia in New **Mexico**. In order to avoid public panic and to allow time for a technological study of the **situation**, U.S. officials clamped a lid of secrecy on the UFO matter.
- 3) One section of Thread 3 refers to contactees, (and it won't make Western contactees very **happy**). In the opinion of the writer, the people who are chosen for contact by the "**UFO**nauts" are selected for their "low intellect and illiteracy" because such persons are unable "to present in a clear, convincing form the meaning of this **contact**." In other **words**, the aliens choose to contact people who are too dumb to convince anyone else that such contact really happened.
- 4) Thread 3 contains a fairly detailed history of the U.S. government efforts to maintain a UFO coverup. It lists several specific examples in which UFO incidents were hushed up. It lists the titles and dates of official orders concerning UFO secrecy. It notes that U.S. intelligence agencies went to great lengths to find out what Russian agencies might know about **UFOs**.
- 5) Thread 3 contains detailed references to encounters with UFOs in the air and in space, involving Russians and Americans. "The descriptions of all cases of collisions between aircraft and UFOs could make a collection of many **volumes**," the report states.

COSMONAUTS AND ASTRONAUTS

As for cosmonaut encounters, they may have begun with the first Russian in space, Yuri Gagarin. Gagarin is quoted in Thread 3 as saying that "UFOs are real, fly at incredible speeds, and that he would be willing to say more if given permission to do **so**." Some Russian ufologists are convinced that Gagarin died while chasing a UFO in a **MIG 15**. Eyewitnesses say they watched the aerial encounter but no official conclusions were mentioned.

The second Russian in **space**, Titov, took along a film camera and reportedly photographed a small fleet of UFOs as they danced in front **of, behind, under, and around** his capsule, according to the **documents**. I was fortunate to see one frame of that film from another Russian source. It appears to show seven luminous objects hovering in front of **Titov's spacecraft**.

The Russian documents also make several references to encounters between UFOs and American astronauts. Information about these encounters was systematically removed from the public record by NASA. In the words of Thread 3, "during the fulfillment of the Apollo **program**, in the Goddard Space Center, the instruction was to '**clean** the pictures and **telemetrical** data coming from the moon, referring to **UFO**.'" The Russians believe the orders to maintain a UFO coverup were handed to NASA by the Pentagon.

After analyzing American transmissions and data from space, the Russians are convinced that our astronauts encountered UFOs on the moon. They think we **haven't** returned to the moon because we were warned to stay away.

STALIN AND **ROSWELL**

According to the Thread 3 documents, the Russian study of UFOs is slated to continue at least through 1995, but when did it all begin? The documents note that **unofficial** studies by private individuals can be traced back to the early **50's**. **Secret**, official studies apparently began even earlier.

For confirmation of the early studies, we succeeded in locating Dr. **Valeri Burdakov**. **Burdakov's** name has surfaced before in the West in articles about Soviet ufology, but those references were based on a single interview he once granted to a Russian newspaper. Until we found him, **Dr. Burdakov** had never spoken before to a Western **journalist**.

Dr. **Burdakov's** statements not only confirm much of what is contained in the Thread 3 documents, but also shed light on some of the most intriguing questions in American UFO **studies--specifically**, the question of crashed **saucers**, and more **specifically**, Roswell.

As several researchers have speculated, if Roswell really happened, the Russians should have known about it. New Mexico in 1947 was a hotbed of Russian espionage activity. History has proven that Russian spies were active in Los Alamos and around White Sands because those sites were hotbeds of nuclear weapon and missile technology research. It only makes sense that the Russians would have maintained a considerable intelligence presence in New Mexico during those years, therefore, they certainly would have heard about the Roswell incident and would have been very interested in knowing what really crashed.

In the 1950's, Dr. Valeri Burdakov was a student at the prestigious Moscow Aviation Institute. The Institute is regarded as the birthplace of the Russian space program. It's where Sputnik was designed. And the man who ran the show was Sergei Korolev, the father of Soviet rocketry and the man credited with being the founder of the Russian space program. Dr. Burdakov says he developed an interest in the UFO subject, and this interest came to the attention of Korolev. According to Dr. Burdakov, he was told by Korolev and his colleagues that official Russian interest in UFOs went right to the top.

DR. BURDAKOV: "Korolev told me **that**, in 1948, he was invited to the Kremlin to see Stalin, this was after the events in New Mexico and after the death of Captain Mantell. Stalin brought Korolev into a room where all the materials were spread on a **table**—western periodicals, books, articles, UFO reports from the Soviet Union, information from "special channels" in the **U.S....Stalin** wanted to know what did Korolev think about the material concerning Roswell and UFOs. Korolev asked to take the materials home to study them and was told '**no**', he had to work **there....When** Korolev finished the work, Stalin again asked him his opinion. Korolev said the phenomenon is real, '**they**' do not appear to be dangerous to our country, they are not manufactured in the States or any other country, and the time will come when it must be studied further. Stalin thanked him and said this same opinion was shared by other **specialists...."**

"We know the U.S. Air Force possesses plenty of material about UFOs. We know the U.S. Navy also has plenty of materials. We know about special orders given to keep all of the materials secret. When curious people ask for the materials, they are told they're not there. For the near future, the most interesting materials will be kept secret. The owners of the material **don't** let it **out.**"

According to Dr. Burdakov, the Russians **didn't** buy the weather balloon explanation for Roswell, even back in the late **40's**. They concluded that UFOs **weren't** made in the U.S. or in any other country, and they recognized that UFOs deserved serious study. Dr. Burdakov says he was given part of this assignment by **Korolev**, and that he traveled around the USSR, to observatories and archives, and gathered up a considerable file on UFO sightings.

Although Dr. Burdakov is the only person to claim first hand information about **Korolev's** study for Stalin, his story is supported to some extent by the Thread 3 documents. The documents note that Stalin did ask Korolev to study the UFO question, sometime in the late **40's** or early **50's**.

Also supported in the Thread 3 papers is Dr. **Burdakov's** contention that he and other top scientists were called upon to give secret briefings about UFOs to Russian military officials and atomic scientists. Burdakov, along with Dr. Felix Y. **Zigel**, Dr. Yuri Fomin, and Dr. Rem Verlamov provided these briefings behind closed doors, even



Left to right: George Knapp, Interpreter, and Dr. Valeri Burdakov

though it was virtually illegal at the time to speak about UFOs in public forums, by order of Communist Party officials **who**, at least publicly, condemned the UFO matter as a capitalist plot.

Dr. Burdakov is convinced the U.S. Air Force and Navy possess vast amounts of secret, previously unreleased UFO evidence and information, although he declined to tell me exactly how he knows this to be true. Nor would he tell me what the nature of that evidence might be. Today, Dr. Burdakov works for a scientific think tank and is writing another **book**.

SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE

American scientists and debunkers have often expressed the opinion that there is nothing to study when it comes to UFOs, no physical evidence, nothing that can be looked at in a lab or under a microscope. This attitude seems to provide air cover for those scientists who simply **aren't** interested in the topic or who prefer to pursue subjects which allow for more lucrative grants and contracts.

Our Russian expedition proved, beyond any reasonable doubt, that such a position is morally and **scientifically** bankrupt. The very highest levels of the Russian science establishment have been involved with UFO studies for decades. While there is still disagreement about what UFOs represent, there is little disagreement about whether the topic deserves scientific scrutiny.

RUSSIA'S FRIENDLY SKEPTIC

Dr. **Yuli** Platov is regarded as **Russia's** premier UFO skeptic. He works at The Institute for Terrestrial Magnetism but is also the point man for **Russia's** Academy of Sciences on the study of **UFOs**. Dr. Platov says the Academy has been formally studying UFOs since the **mid-1970's**, that ten different scientific institutes have been involved with the effort, that thousands of case files, photos, and drawings have been compiled and analyzed.

He describes himself as a skeptic, but a friendly skeptic. By that, he agrees that well over 90 percent of UFO sightings studied by the Academy of Sciences can be explained in prosaic terms, a figure that is consistent with the conclusions of reputable American researchers. Platov says that, in order to identify a new phenomenon, a scientist must proceed carefully by identifying that which is not new.

However, he **isn't** shy about admitting that many UFO cases are not explainable and he specifically does not rule out the possibility of extraterrestrial or alien visitations.

Some of the photos he has compiled are most intriguing, including one case that has previously been reported in the *MUFON UFO Journal*. Russian witnesses say they saw a UFO land on a frozen lake and then

watched it take **off**. But left behind was a large circular formation on the ice. It was as if the concentric ice circles had been dug into the frozen lake by a sharp instrument or a sharp edge on the bottom of the UFO. We might say that this represents **cold**, hard evidence of **something...a** Russian version of crop **circles**, perhaps? (Dr. Platov said there have been dozens of reports of standard crop formations in Russian fields over the past few years but he did not have files on those **cases**.)

Dr. Platov was also generous enough to turn over to us several dozen of his case **files**, complete with UFO photos, for further analysis here in the West. He summed up his attitude by saying that science **should** be interested in pursuing the unexplained, that the prospect of extraterrestrial life is of utmost importance, and that we must follow the evidence where it leads, not allowing pre-conceived ideas to cloud our judgement, whether those preconceptions are pro-UFO or con-UFO. In my judgement, **that's** the way skepticism is meant to work. It **shouldn't** mean a refusal to accept any data which doesn't conform to our limited version of reality or which conflict with our ego-driven public **positions**.

LANDING SITE STUDIES

Another scientist who thinks there is plenty of UFO evidence for legitimate study is Dr. Rem **Verlamov**, one of the founders of Russian ufology and a professor at the Moscow Institute of Technology. Dr. **Verlamov's** early research on UFOs is chronicled in the Thread 3 documents. He currently serves as president of the Russian Ufologists Union, one of several such organizations in the **C.I.S.** Like Dr. **Burdakov**, Professor Verlamov agreed to talk to us specifically because we chose to avoid contact with some of the better known spokespersons and **organizations**. Verlamov and some of his colleagues regard these other organizations as publicity seekers and fast buck artists, not **scientists**. Of course, anyone familiar with American Ufology can relate to this sort of animosity between rival groups and **organizations**.

For nearly 30 years, Dr. Verlamov has specialized in studying alleged UFO landing sites. When UFO landings are reported by witnesses, he and other researchers assemble their equipment and head out into the field to try and measure physical characteristics of the sites. Ten such sites are in the direct vicinity of Moscow, and Dr. Verlamov has documented some fairly amazing results at some of these sites.

DR. VERLAMOV: "The main thrust of our work is not to contact '**the** space **intellect**' but to understand how the universe works. We wanted to answer three **questions....1)** Do other worlds and dimensions exist? We have measured 22 physical constants to suggest the answer is yes. 2) Do the laws of physics exist in those other **worlds**. No, they **don't**, and the differences can be documented. 3) Can we contact this other intelligence. The answer is yes, but we must be **careful**."

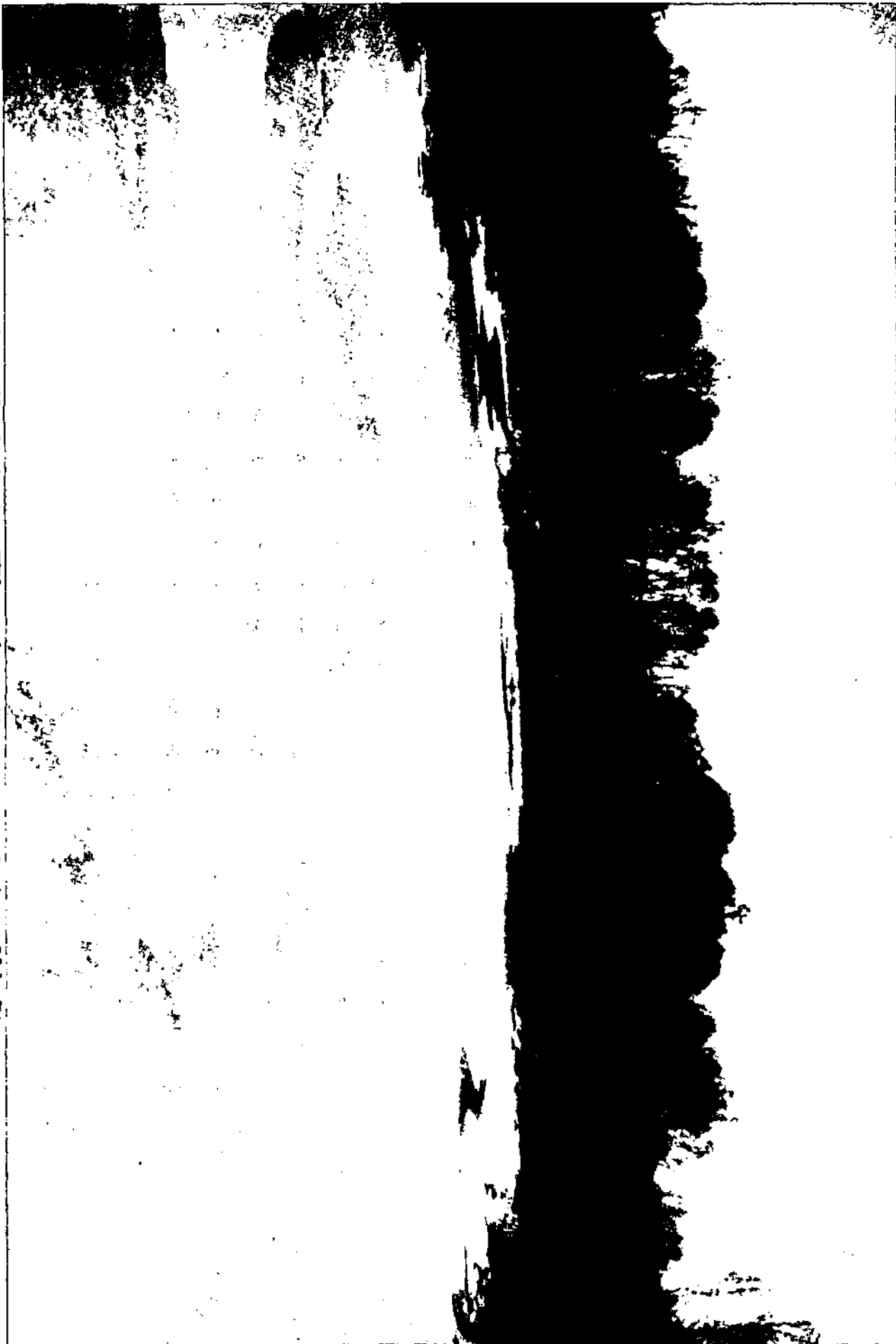
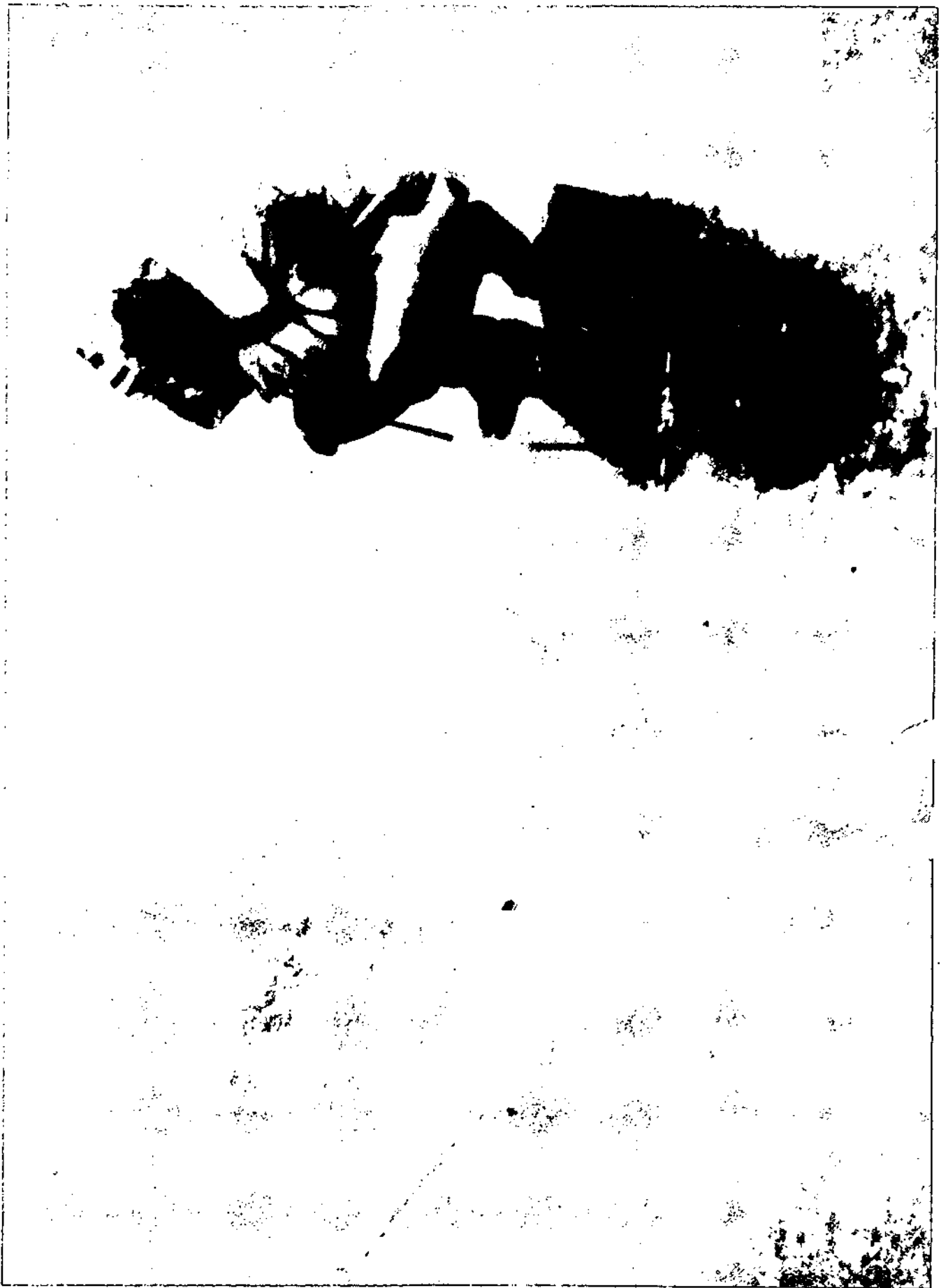


Photo of Ice Circle where UFO was observed hovering over the frozen Mzha River
near Kharkov, Ukraine on January 7, 1990.
Photo by Dr. Pyotr I. Kutnyuk



Dr. Vladimir V. Rubtsov, Investigator, photographing the ice ring

"We discovered many measurable characteristics within the landing sites. The plants inside these circles or impressions were greatly changed. Plants which were inside the circles contained 20-30 percent more phosphorous and **carbon**, and they grow at a slower **rate....**We studied 40 elements in the soil through **spectrography**. Twenty of those elements were found in concentrations 20-60 times higher inside the circles than outside. Lead was found to be 14 **times** as **concentrated**, titanium, 8.5 **times....Cobalt**, barium, and zinc, 3-4 times. We also documented physical and psychological effects. **Inside** the circle, heart rates **and** blood flow were 60% higher. Our testing **equipment** was also affected at **times.**"

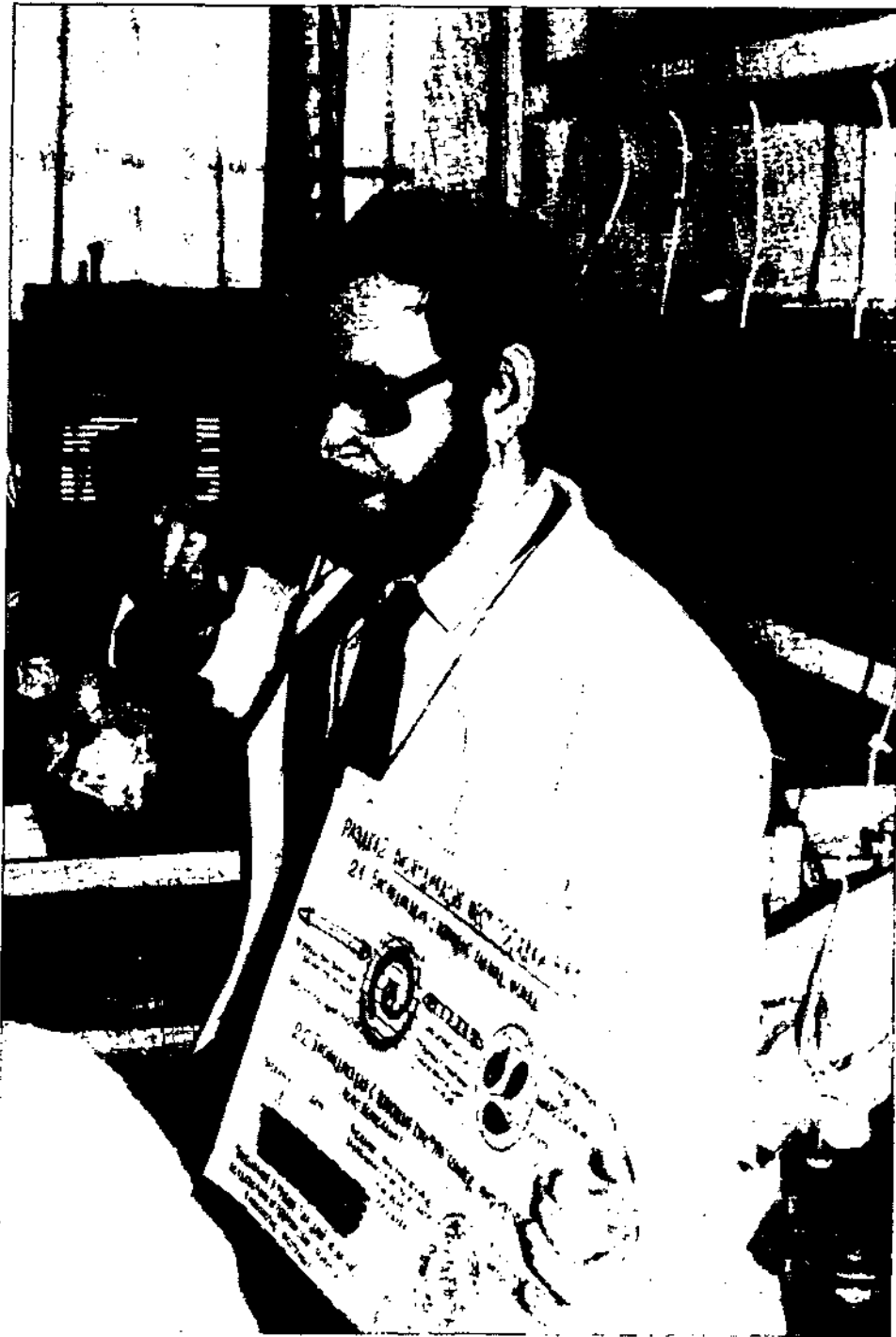
We conducted an experiment to see if the measurement **of** time might be affected by the energy inside the landing sites. We used both **mechanical** and crystal time pieces, which were synchronized, then placed both inside and outside of the sites. What we found was that, after two hours inside the landing sites, time speeded up. The time pieces inside and outside were no longer **synchronized.**"

There are some fairly amazing **results**—measurable differences in the chemical composition of soil and plants inside the alleged landing sites. (These results are reminiscent of some results obtained from analyzing soil samples taken from English crop formation **sites.**) According to **Dr. Verlamov's** extensive experiments, even the measurement of time can be affected by the energy fields at these sites.

Verlamov says some of the measurable **effects** at the alleged landing sites can be detected for years after the landing **itself**, so studies can go on and on. He has had plenty of help over the years in his research, not only from the **famous** Dr. Felix **Zigel**, but from other lesser known scientists. **Dr. Yuri Simakov**, for example, is a biologist working for a government Food Institute. Although known within Russian scientific circles, he had never shared some of his **UFO-related** findings with western sources until we found him.

Dr. Simakov has identified some truly amazing phenomena inside alleged UFO landing sites. He specializes in measuring single-cell organisms in the soil at these sites. What he has found **is**—there are none. For some reason, single cell organisms disappear from the soil at **spots** where UFOs allegedly set down. Two inches outside the landing site, the soil teems with microscopic life, but inside, nothing. The soil is **barren.**

By carefully sampling the soil at these sites, Dr. Simakov says he has been able to determine the shape of the objects which landed. If there are no bugs in the soil, he assumes **that's** a spot where the UFO touched down. His measurements have shown that some of the craft which allegedly landed have circular bottoms, some are elaborate spirals. He has catalogued several different shaped landing apparatus.



Dr. Yuri **Simakov** displays chart relating to one alleged landing site.

An even more intriguing discovery was made by Dr. Simakov at two alleged landing sites, one outside of Moscow, another hundreds of miles away in Kazakhstan. The alleged landings occurred in 1981 and 1992 **respectively**. At both locations, something unusual was found in the **soil**—tiny colorful balls of unknown origin. Neither Simakov nor any of his colleagues have been able to determine what this material is or why it was in the soil. Simakov said he analyzed the material and that it apparently contains all the building blocks of life. In one **experiment**, he put the balls into water and they opened up like seed pods. He jokingly referred to them as cosmic sperm.

DR. SIMAKOV: "The single-cell organisms simply leave the sites. They disappear. They **don't** die. **It's** as if they were forced to leave the sites. . . . We also experimented with insects. Insects have different receptors than we do. I suspect that insects can feel fields not known to **us**, or fields that are slightly varied. When we placed flies in a dish and put the dish into the landing site, the flies went **wild**, buzzing and jumping **around**...."

"The **balls**...I can't find any evidence of their existence in any printed **material**. They may be formed as a result of transmutation, as if oxygen was transformed into sodium under the influence of the UFO. Or maybe they are containers to carry life from one planet to another. Still the objects are not **known**."

"One more thing. At the spots where I found the balls, the flies we used in our experiments not only went wild but were killed, and mosquitoes could be found outside the landing site, but not **inside**."

"COSMIC SPERM?"

Although **Dr.** Simakov had only a small sample of this material, he gave us a portion of it in hopes that American scientists might be able to figure out what it is. Smuggling cosmic sperm through Russian customs is an understandably nerve-wracking undertaking, but we managed to get half of the **world's** known supply back to the U.S. for analysis.

Because Dr. Simakov described the **material's** properties as similar to seeds, we began our investigation of the stuff with a plant pathology lab. Dr. Jack Kasher suggested the University of **Nebraska's** lab, one of the best in the world, and we sent them a small sample. According to Dr. Ann Vidaver, an interdisciplinary team poked, prodded, and observed the material for a period of 30 days. While the team found the material to be intriguing, their bottom line is--they **didn't** know what it was either. They do not believe it is **microbial--meaning**, it doesn't act like any seed they've ever seen and did not open up when placed into water. They had guessed at first that it might be an excretion from a plant or insect but ruled those out. They further concluded that the balls have glass-like qualities and suggested we might contact a chemist to figure out the exact composition.

Our next step was to take some of the material to physicist Dr. Harry **Fechter** in Las Vegas. Dr. Fechter has worked on numerous **classified** programs for the Defense **Department**, at **Univ.** of California, Berkeley and Los Alamos National **Lab**, and was chairman of the Physics Department at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. He examined the material, visually and under a microscope but did not perform any more sophisticated **analysis**. According to Dr. Fechter, the material looks as if it were created as the result of a high-heat industrial process. However, he would not venture a guess about how this material ended up in soil in the middle of nowhere at two sites in Russia and separated by 11 years.

At his suggestion, we contacted the only commercial lab in the **U.S.** which practices a process known as activation analysis. This process irradiates material and determines its composition on the basis of how quickly the material **decays**. But the company told us that it only searches for lesser known elements, cannot identify compounds, and would have to keep any material we sent because the material would be radioactive afterward. We took a pass.

Now, another small sample of the material has been forwarded to a well known scientist who has extensive scientific contacts in foreign countries. The sample is already in the hands of a national lab in another country, and we are hoping that we will get some answers this time. **I'll** let you know.

The experiences of Dr. Simakov and Dr. **Verlamov** make it clear that there is evidence and data which can be studied, using rigorous scientific **standards**, contrary to what most American scientists say. It is possible to practice good science while investigating the unknown, but it requires something that too few of our mainstream scientists **have**—an open, inquisitive mind, and a little bit of backbone.

CONCLUSIONS

Tremendous change has swept the once-powerful Soviet Union. Those changes are still unfolding. Some people even suspect there may be a UFO connection to those changes. After all, we know that former President Reagan remarked in public on five occasions how cooperative the world would be if we were suddenly faced with a threat from outer space. We know that Mikhail Gorbachev responded, saying he agreed. We know that Gorbachev is quoted in Russian news articles as telling an audience that UFOs are quite real. We know that Mr. Reagan allegedly had two UFO sightings of his own.

We know that UFOs have demonstrated their mastery over terrestrial technology, including our most advanced weapons systems, both in the U.S. and Russia. And while our military **won't** admit it, the Russians have been opening up.

In recent news **articles**, three Russian generals have publicly acknowledged the reality of UFOs. The statements were prompted, in part, by a rash of UFO sightings over Moscow in March, 1990. Pilots clocked the UFOs at speeds of 3000 miles per hour, yet they **didn't** fire on them under direct orders. The Chief of the Soviet Air Defenses acknowledged in news **interviews**. A year later, the Deputy Minister of Defense confirmed this earlier estimation. And shortly after that, a General Tarosev announced that "the UFO reality is beyond **doubt**." These are not Ufologist making these statements.

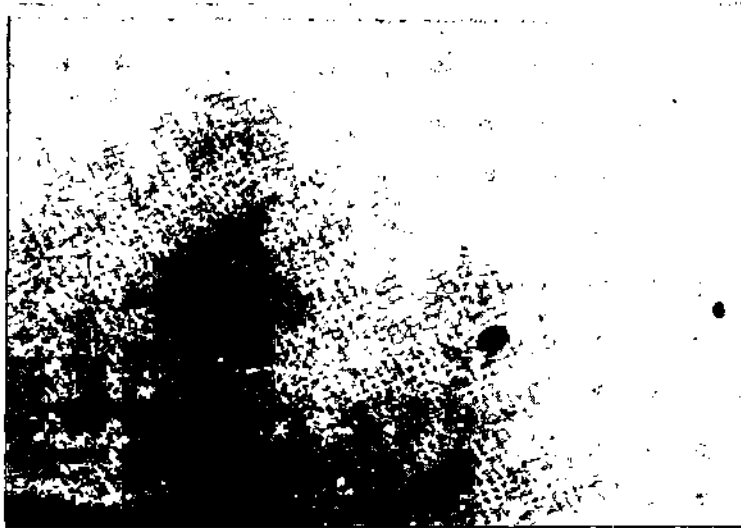
We know that the Russians published an article in 1989 arguing that the superpowers need to cooperate on the issue of UFOs because a sighting might one day trigger a nuclear exchange. We know that UFOs have appeared over nuclear facilities in both nations and have demonstrated their control of our weapons systems.

Yet doubts and doubters remain. In Russia, news of our journey was met with overt hostility in some circles. A lengthy article in a communist-linked newspaper raked us over the coals for stealing the secrets of the Motherland, and it attacked our sources for their cooperation with checkbook-toting foreigners.

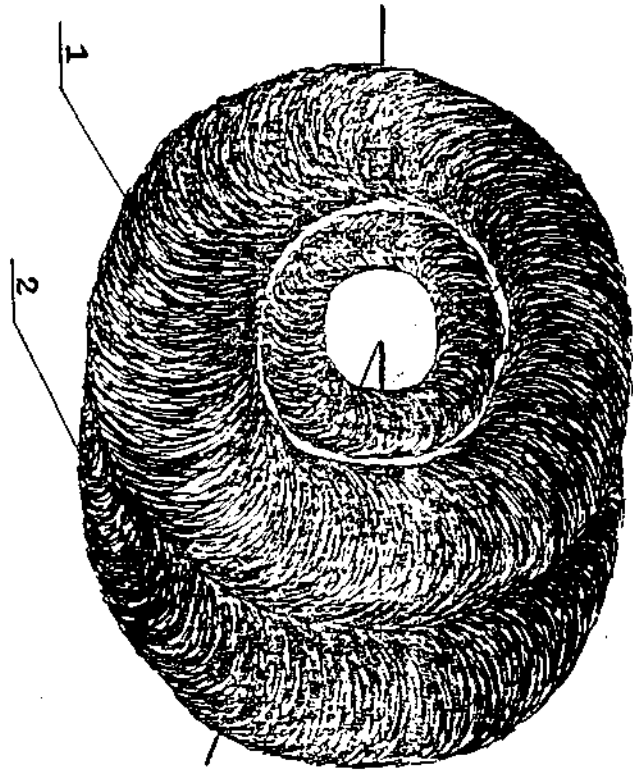
Here in the U.S., we recently read an article in *Omni Magazine* in which Mr. James Oberg argued that all information about UFOs which emanates from Russia must be disregarded out of hand because the Russians are incapable of distinguishing phony UFOs, especially government rocket tests, from the real item. This position is ridiculous. The Russian Academy of Science has already weeded out more than 90 percent of the cases it has studied but is still interested in the rest. The Russian Ministry of Defense did the same, and they were certainly in a position to know when and where missile tests took place.

Some people **don't** want the world to change. **That's** too bad, because the world is about to leave them behind. No less a Russian authority than Lenin, as quoted in a book by Jacques Vallee, said, "if we succeed in establishing interplanetary **communications**, all our **philosophical**, moral, and social views will have to be **revised**."

Perhaps **it's** time to start doing just that.



UFO photos from the files of the Academy of Sciences.
Still considered "unexplained."



Drawing of a UFO spotted by military personnel.
From the files of the Academy of Science.

