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Classification: unclassified Status: [STAT]  
 Report Type: Foreign Press Note Report Date:  
 Report Number: FB PN 90-123 UDC Number:

Headline: USSR: UFO SIGHTINGS NO. 2 -- GENERAL MALTSEV COMMENTS

**FULL TEXT OF ARTICLE:**

1. Leading Soviet newspapers have continued to carry numerous reports on UFO sightings in the Soviet Union (see Foreign Press Note FB PN 89-292 dated 22 November 1989 entitled "USSR: Media Report Multitude of UFO Sightings"). This coverage reached a new level when the 19 April issue of RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA carried a lengthy report on UFO sightings on 21 March, including comments by Col Gen of Aviation Igor Maltsev, chief of the Main Staff of the Soviet Air Defense Forces.

2. The report in RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA consists of excerpts of "documents" submitted by Colonel General Maltsev reporting "visual observations" of UFO sightings on 21 March, as well as two photographs; the paper was able to publish excerpts from only a few of the "more than 100 visual observations" compiled by the commanders of several air defense units of the Moscow Military District. After radar stations and aircraft assigned to the Air Defense Forces were placed on alert on 21 March and ordered to attempt to detect and identify an object or objects flying in the area of Pereslavl-Zalesskiy, a pilot made the following report:

3. "I, Lt Col A.A. Semenchenko, received the command to go on an alert exercise. At 2138, I received the command to take off. Once in the air, in the region of Pereslavl, I received my task of detecting and identifying a target at an altitude of 2,000 meters. Following a true course of 220 degrees, I visually detected the target, designated by two flashing white lights, at 2205; it was ahead and to the right, at an angle of 10 degrees. The target altered its altitude by distances of up to 1,000 meters and altered its direction of flight. With the permission of the command post, I locked my sights onto the radiation after checking to be sure that my weaponry was switched off.

4. "The target did not respond to the 'identify--friend or foe' request. In addition to the target, three or four regularly scheduled airliners could be seen on the screen. As ordered by the command post, I carried out a banked turn. While completing the turn, I observed a luminous phenomenon, reminiscent of the Aurora Borealis but with weak intensity, to the north and northwest. I approached the target to within a range of about 500-600 meters and passed above it, trying to define its character. I saw only two bright flashing white lights. I briefly saw the silhouette of the

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target against the background of the illuminated city. It was difficult to determine its nature or classification due to the limited lighting. On order from the command post, I ended my mission and returned to the airfield. I landed with 700 liters of fuel still remaining. The weather in the region was 0-10."

5. Between 2000 and 2400 on 21 March, UFOs were reported in the regions of Pereslavl-Zalesskiy, Novoselye, Zagorsk, Yakovlevo, Ploshevo, Dubki, Kablukovo, Fryazino, and Kirzhach. The RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA report includes the following excerpts from observation reports:

6. A radar observation post in the Pereslavl-Zalesskiy region: "A shining object with red lights at an azimuth of 260-270 degrees and a range of about 40 kilometers, moving at a speed many times greater than that of an aircraft, appeared at 2119. A shining object with white lights and the same parameters was following it. At 2135 the object with the luminous red lights disappeared at an azimuth of 220 degrees and at an undetermined range. At 2140 there were alternate appearances and disappearances of the second object with white lights at an azimuth of 270-250 degrees and range of 40-100 kilometers. At 2140 there was a steady appearance and hovering of the object at an azimuth of 270 degrees. At 2155 the object disappeared at an azimuth of 240 degrees and a range of 40 kilometers. At 2157 the object appeared in the parameters indicated above. At 2159 an airplane was observed at an azimuth of 250 degrees, a range of 30-50 kilometers, and a course of 330 degrees. The object was turning and, at great speed, approaching the airplane. After an approach to a distance of about 20 kilometers, the object disappeared from the field of observation and then appeared again to the rear and above the plane. The object was moving in an arc at an azimuth of 270 degrees. At 2201 the object was hovering in place at an azimuth of 190-200 degrees and a range up to 100 kilometers. At 2203 a fighter aircraft appeared in the field of observation at an azimuth of 240 degrees. While the fighter was approaching the object, the latter disappeared. At 2205 the object appeared at an azimuth of 190-220 degrees, hovered, and, after 1-2 minutes, disappeared."

7. Captain V. Birin: "The object looked like a flying saucer with two very bright lights along the edges. Its diameter was approximately 100-200 meters, judging by the shining lights. A less intense light, which looked like a porthole, could be seen between the two bright lights. After the object receded, a red light with average intensity remained. The trajectory depended on the flashing of the bright side lights: the more often they flashed, the faster the speed of the UFO, and vice versa. While hovering, the object extinguished its lights almost completely. At 2230 the object headed off in the direction of Moscow. I am enclosing a drawing of it."

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8. Captain V. Ivchenko: "I could not make out the contours of the object, but I clearly saw two lights flashing with a definite periodicity. The illumination from these lights could be compared with a photoflash. The UFO was carrying out an 'S-turn' flight, gradually approaching our city; its route passed from east to west at an angle of sight of approximately 75 degrees relative to the town. I distinguished two aircraft near the object. I am enclosing the approximate route of the UFO."

9. Captain N. Filatov: "To all visual perceptions, the object was rotating in a horizontal plane around its own axis, since the light sources merged and divided in turn. The magnitudes of the sources of intensity with respect to power, intensity, and luminous flux were significantly greater than for signal lights of the aircraft which were flying around in our region at that time. The lights of the UFO flashed every 2-3 seconds. The object was located in the direction of Zagorsk. The trajectory of its movement was an 'S-turn,' horizontally and vertically."

10. Captain I. Lapin: "At 2200, the flashing lights of the object vanished for 5 minutes, then a sharp light flared up. An entire cloud was illuminated and, after that, the object appeared again. Two aircraft accompanied it, with red identification lights. After dropping in altitude, the object flew away at great speed in the direction of Moscow. It left a red luminescence of average intensity behind in the clouds. I observed the object until 2240. I experienced no sensation whatsoever."

11. A photograph with the following caption is included with the report: "In the picture--the 'saucer' (paired points to the left) and an aircraft approaching them (the two lights to the right), photographed from a distance of 40 kilometers. Exposure was 4-5 seconds and, consequently, the flashing lights appeared on the film several times, corresponding to the progression of the UFO." It is noted that the contours of the UFO and the aircraft cannot be determined from the picture because the outlines are obscured by the bright lights.

12. The report ends with the following comments by Colonel General Maltsev: "I am not a specialist on UFOs and, therefore, I can only correlate the data and express my own belief. According to the evidence of these eyewitnesses, the UFO represented itself as a disk with a diameter of 100-200 meters. Two pulsating lights were positioned on its sides. When the object flew in a horizontal plane, the line of lights was parallel to the horizon. During vertical movement, it rotated and the line was perpendicular to the ground. Moreover, the object rotated around its axis and performed an

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'S-turn' flight both in the horizontal and vertical planes. Next, the UFO hovered above the ground and then flew at a speed that was 2-3 times that of modern jet fighters. All of the observers noticed that the flight speed was directly related to the flashing of the side lights--the more often they flashed, the higher the speed. The objects flew at altitudes ranging from 1,000 to 7,000 meters. The movement of the UFO was not accompanied by sound of any kind and was distinguished by its startling maneuverability. It seemed that the UFO was completely devoid of inertia. In other words, they had somehow 'come to terms' with gravity. At the present time, terrestrial machines could hardly have any such capabilities. The object was observed as a 'pip' from a radar target on the screens of aircraft radar sights and on the screens of electronic surveillance units. At one station, no observation was established."

13. In an editor's note, RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA assesses Colonel General Maltsev's documents as "substantial confirmation" that UFOs, piloted by intelligent beings of some sort, have been visiting the USSR.

14. In related developments, the 15 April issue of RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA had published a report from a Major V. Stroynetskiy, who stated that he and several hundred other witnesses have repeatedly observed UFOs over the Yaroslavl Highway, many of which "looked like great triangular milk cartons." The objects were flying at altitudes that Stroynetskiy estimated at 500-800 meters. He said that at times the whole body of the object "scintillated" with illumination, while at other times this illumination vanished, whereupon the objects "flashed and became iridescent with lights of various colors." He said that the objects could fly at great speeds, make sudden stops in mid-air, or suddenly break off in a lateral direction from the line of flight "at which time they emitted rays." He said that he had the impression "that the flashes of light of the objects are, in some way, connected with this movement. The greater the frequency and brightness of the flashes, the greater the speed of the UFOs." In an editor's note, the paper noted that "as this issue was being put together, information came into the editorial office: units of the Air Defense Forces near Moscow had gotten a fix on the position of an object in the Zagorsk region." The issue also included a report comparing recent UFO sightings in the USSR with similar events in Belgium.

15. RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA on 19 April, referring to its 15 April report, commented in its editor's note accompanying the Maltsev documents and the "saucer" photograph cited above: "The events that occurred along the Yaroslavl Highway are quite remarkable. They strike a major blow at those who hold the hypothesis that UFOs are related to atmospheric phenomena. Order can be sensed in the movement of the object in the photograph, and it is obvious that the lights of the object are

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firmly fixed in relation to each other. Atmospheric phenomena are marked by chaos."

16. The 11 April issue of SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA had reported that the Belgian Society for the Study of Space Phenomena had called a press conference at which journalists were shown a video of UFOs that had recently penetrated Belgian air space. The film was made by a citizen of Brussels on the night of 30-31 March and was claimed to show triangular UFOs, with bright lights outlining their edges and with weaker sources of light flashing in their centers which reportedly were clearly visible to many observers as they moved at an altitude of about 400 meters. The Belgian air force was placed on alert and F-16 fighters were ordered to intercept the objects. The objects disappeared as the aircraft approached but not before two radar stations had registered them on their screens.

17. The following paragraphs describe only a few of the many Soviet newspaper and journal articles on UFOs appearing in recent months. Unlike the sightings described in the articles listed above, air force aircraft and radar stations were not involved in the observations:

18. The 5 April issue of SOVETSKAYA ESTONIA reported that many observers, including one of its own correspondents, had recently observed UFOs flying over Estonia. The UFOs reportedly hovered over power lines along the Tallinn Highway, and the newspaper published what it called photographs of them sent by correspondent Ye. Kapova.

19. The 4 April issue of RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA reported that an ethylene pipeline inspector for the Nizhnekamsk Petrochemical Authority in the Bashkir Autonomous Republic, who had been ordered by his dispatcher to check his run of pipe after monitoring instruments began to fluctuate erratically, reported back that a UFO was hovering over the area where the pipe was buried and that rays emanating from the disk-shaped object were touching the ground above the pipeline.

20. The 24 March issue of VECHERNAYA MOSKVA reported that a scientist, Vladimir Azhazha, had been appointed as the head of the new All-Union Interbranch Ufological Scientific-Coordination Center, which is affiliated with the USSR Academy of Sciences. It is reportedly the first center to represent the USSR as a whole in research concentrated on the UFO phenomenon.

21. The 3 March issue of SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA published an article proposing possible explanations for such anomalous phenomena as UFOs.

22. The March issue of the military journal KOMMUNIST VOORUZHENNYKH SIL published a 7-page article on UFOs, including a section that

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refers to "the political character" of cycles of attitudes toward the publication of reports on UFO sightings. The article notes that during politically conservative periods, Soviet censors have been able to prohibit the publication of such reports. Unlike those "cold periods," the Soviet Union is now in "hot times" and the public is being encouraged to focus its attention on UFOs. The author of the article points out that even the prestigious Academy of Sciences has established official organs to study UFOs and disseminate information about them.

23. The 22 February issue of RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA published a report by Krasnoyarsk militiamen who stated that two disk-shaped UFOs had followed their patrol cars, moving slowly above them in a "parallel course" for 3 or 4 kilometers. The militiamen maintained that when the patrol cars stopped at the village of Drokino, one of the "saucers" landed on a hill near the cars and harrassed them with rays of yellow and red light before flying away.

24. The 17 February issue of RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA devoted its entire fourth page to UFOs, including a discussion of the question as to whether or not UFOs are being flown by extraterrestrials.

25. The 24 December 1989 issue of TRUD published a report from two deputy chiefs of the Moscow-based 27th Militia Division who claimed that they and their subordinates had tracked a slowly moving UFO flying at low altitude through the outskirts of Moscow. According to TRUD, a member of the expert commission on anomalous phenomena in the USSR Academy of Sciences, Yu. Platov, states that there is a possibility that the militiamen mistook Venus, seen "through complex atmospheric conditions," for a UFO.

26. The 5 December issue of SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA described a recent Japanese expedition to the site of the Tunguska meteorite in Siberia. In theory, a great meteor exploded there in 1908, destroying trees over an area of hundreds of square miles, although no meteorite has ever been found. The Japanese team stated that their research at the site clearly indicated that the explosion had been caused by the crash of a nuclear-powered spacecraft. The Japanese scientists erected a monument at the site--the first memorial in the USSR to commemorate a UFO, according to SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA.

27. [REDACTED] FB PN 90-123

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