

21 AUG 1967
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COUNTRY USSR

SUBJECT Report on Conversations With Soviet Scientists on Subject of Unidentified Flying Objects in the USSR

REPORT NO.

DATE DISTR. 10 AUG 67

NO. PAGES 2

REFERENCES

(351)

DATE OF INFO.

PLACE & DATE ACQ. USSR:

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SOURCE

1. This report is an account of conversational exchanges on the subject of UFO's during the course of a one-month trip of a US scientist through the USSR in 1967, for the purpose of visiting several astronomical observatories having staff members engaged in planetary research. The only scientists contacted during the trip were astronomers, and inquiries concerning Soviet observations and interpretations of UFO's were a minor aspect of the trip. Within these limitations, an attempt was made to assess Soviet scientific thinking on this controversial topic.

2. He visited V.I. Moroz, Sternberg Institute, Moscow, who was noncommittal on the subject of UFO's. The scientist who served as translator, a radio astronomer, emphatically stated that he knew of no sightings of UFO's in the USSR and added with a laugh that if they were only seen in the US, they must be of Soviet origin.

3. At the Pulkovo Observatory, Leningrad, one of the astronomers mentioned that she had heard of some sightings of unidentified objects near the Caucasus. She was unaware of any study being made of them but was open-minded on the subject.

4. The US scientist's main visit was to N.A. Kozyrev, who was very interested in the problem. He had read Menzel's book (which has been translated into Russian) but did not accept his conclusions. Kozyrev knew of some sightings in the northern part of the USSR, but said that reports of such sightings are not presented in Soviet newspapers because they are not regarded as scientific observations. (Comment: This is interesting in view of the readiness of Soviet newspapers to print more fantastic reports of hypotheses and "observations" suggested by more imaginative members of the scientific community. Apparently some official sanction is needed.) Kozyrev has been interested in reports of UFO's and readily accepts their reality. In fact, it is his personal opinion that the UFO's may originate on Venus. He is well aware of the negative effect of "enlightened" scientific opinion on the interpretation of questionable observations as he has had personal

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5490 NUMBER

23 24 11 22 33 44 55 66 77 88