

The Soviet Union and other countries behind the Iron Curtain have been terrorized since 1975 by an incredible blitz of close encounters with UFOs. Reports reaching the West tell of UFO sightings, visits to earth by weird humanoids, and other phenomena. The ENQUIRER sent reporter Henry Gris to Russia to investigate these

astonishing reports. Gris obtained documents and interviewed eyewitnesses, scientists, UFO researchers and others — and the results of his probe are startling. Here, in the second of an exclusive six-part ENQUIRER special series, Gris reports on a terrifying confrontation between Russian scientists and a flying saucer and its alien crew.

Russian Scientists Encounter UFO and Its Crew

By RON CAYLOR

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Four Soviet scientists are still recovering from a heart-stopping UFO experience and encounter with humanoid aliens that left one scientist unconscious.

On Sept. 6, 1977, while on a camping trip in a remote wilderness area of the Caucasus, the four men spotted a metallic saucer-shaped object on a

small plateau, according to V.K. Zhuravlev, a physics professor and a Russian UFO investigator.

As they approached the strange craft, the scientists tried without success to establish contact by shouting and waving.

When they were within about 50 feet of the object, they were all suddenly overwhelmed by an uncontrollable sense of fear.

"All of them experienced this sudden panic simultaneously," Dr. Zhuravlev told The ENQUIRER.

After taking a few more steps, professor of historical sciences Dr. A.I. Nikolaev — who had been leading the others — "sank to his knees and passed out," Dr. Zhuravlev recalled, quoting the scientists. "They then grabbed Dr. Nikolaev and retreated."

When efforts to wake up Dr. Nikolaev failed, O.P. Lezhava, a professor of engineering sciences, went for help.

"After he was gone, professor of physics A.M. Gurbenidze and I.I. Gershenson, a professor of technical sciences, returned to the space-

craft, and threw small rocks at the hull. The rocks seemed to penetrate the hull and left no holes.

"Then the scientists lashed several fishing poles end to end and touched the tip to one of the UFO's three standing legs.

"The tip sank with ease into the metal. And when they withdrew the poles,

they found that about an inch and a half of the tip was destroyed."

The two remaining scientists, with their still-unconscious colleague, made camp nearby.

"Shortly before dawn they awoke to find five small disk-shaped UFOs hovering near the campsite. Two small figures — about three feet tall — in space suits and helmets

stepped into the light of the campfire. In shape and movement they appeared human," Dr. Zhuravlev said.

According to the researcher, the aliens disappeared through the walls of the spacecraft. Moments later, "the hull began to glow with an orange, iridescent light and the UFO flew away, followed immediately by the hovering smaller craft."

Dr. Nikolaev shortly regained consciousness, but he needed "three months of psychiatric treatment," revealed Dr. Zhuravlev.

Two 3-Ft. Tall Figures Stepped Into the Light...

Professor Felix Yurievich Zigel, who heads a Russian team of 20 top scientists who investigate

UFOs, told The ENQUIRER: "We have concluded that a spaceship landed in the Caucasus — possibly as the result of a death or illness among the crew. We believe that a replacement crew took over.

NEXT WEEK: Three Soviet scientists are terrified by the voices of extraterrestrials — shortly before sighting a UFO shaped like a giant light bulb.