

DID SPACE ALIENS DROP IN ON SCIENTISTS?

FOUR scientists camping in southern Russia came across a large saucer-shaped object in the grass. One man threw stones at the thing—and, to his astonishment, the stones seemed to disappear inside its metallic-looking shell.

Suddenly, the campers felt a strange "force" and the closest man was knocked out. The others felt drowsy but managed to drag him away.

While one of the campers sneaked off to fetch help, the other two couldn't resist falling asleep beside their unconscious companion.

When they awoke, the men saw two 3ft.-tall figures in weird space suits and helmets staring at them. Before they could speak, the tiny figures returned to their strange craft and disappeared through its hull.

The craft glowed—then vanished.

CHANCE

The scientist leading Russia's official team of UFO investigators said: "There's no doubt that a spaceship landed—possibly because of illness among the crew."

But Professor F. Zigel was taking a chance when he reported this. The official Kremlin line on UFOs is that they are simply odd cloud formations—or have some other logical explanation.

And visits by aliens from outer space are condemned as the imaginings of simple folk who might also believe in witches and goblins.

But, in this case, the

From ALAN HENDERSON in MOSCOW

witnesses were scientists.

And while they were recovering from the shock three other scientists had an uncannily similar encounter in another part of Russia.

The man knocked out in the first encounter is a highly-respected professor of historical sciences, Dr. A. I. Nikolaev.

He spent the next three months in hospital recovering.

The second sighting of an alien craft by scientists happened only 67 miles from Moscow. These men were also on a camping holiday.

One of the UFO investigating team, Professor V. K. Zhuraviev, said both groups described being overcome by an uncontrollable sense of fear, despite their cool-headed scientific backgrounds.

The second group were huddled in their tents one night when they heard loud voices, jabbering in an unidentifiable language.

Prof. Zhuraviev said in his report: "The voices

The official line in Russia is that UFOs don't exist. But now Soviet boffins have admitted their own strange encounters

frightened them so much they didn't dare to peer outside for half an hour."

Then they saw "something like an enormous electric light bulb" about 500ft. away, with a shining violet light. It seemed about 80ft. high.

As they watched, the bulb rose, wobbled a little, then soared into the sky.

The scientists kept watching until it was enveloped by a fluorescent cloud and disappeared.

FLATTENED

Next morning they found a great circle of flattened grass where some large object had rested.

Since these reports by the Soviet UFO investigators, the Russian newspaper *Pravda* has started publishing accounts of other strange sightings from different parts of the country.

One that created almost as big a stir as the scientists' stories came from a vet, Dr. V. G. Paltsev.

He said he found a grounded alien craft while on his rounds in the

he too was knocked out by some strange force.

When he recovered, his watch had stopped and he saw the saucer-shaped craft glow before rising and vanishing.

After that, the vet dreamed repeatedly that he had been carried into the saucer while unconscious.

And a doctor who questioned Paltsev under hypnosis said it seemed that he probably had been taken for a saucer ride.

But one Russian who has travelled in space himself discounts these stories.

Cosmonaut Georgi Grekko said: "They were our rocket rubbish bins floating in space."