

have been visited by the Red visit their sons. A generalized

# What happened after E.T. left a boy's Moscow flat

From Richard Owen, Moscow

E.T. did not go home after all. He is alive and well in the Soviet Union, and has made friends with a 14-year old boy in Moscow. The boy's claims to have established contact with an extra-terrestrial being have attracted the attention not only of Soviet Press and television but also of scientists and the local police.

It all began when the boy heard a ring at the door of his family's two-room Moscow flat one day. Being alone, he peeped through the spy-hole, and saw "a being with a non-human face", as *Komsomolskaya Pravda* put it. The being was not alone, and when the boy opened the door a crowd of extra-terrestrial creatures pushed past him. After apparently friendly exchanges (presumably in Russian), they left.

After this incident, "strange happenings" began to take place in the flat, to the point where the rest of the family became suspicious. Poltergeists began moving the

furniture about, food began to fly out of the refrigerator, a jacket caught fire of its own accord.

The boy admitted to his parents that he had had a close encounter of the third kind, and the word spread. Curious neighbours crowded in, followed by the police television cameras and eventually medical and scientific personnel.

One of the doctors, not convinced that the boy was telling the truth, arranged for him to be examined by a panel of specialists

The panel decided that the whole story had been invented by an adolescent imagination fed on a diet of science fiction books and films (although not *E.T.* itself, which has not been released here).

All of which, the doctor wrote in *Komsomolska Pravda*, showed that a lot of busy professional people could be fooled in to wasting valuable time.

Times

19 Mar 83