

UFO possibly spaceship part

Staff Reporter

A "cigar-shaped Russian space vehicle" is reported in a Dutch newspaper, De Telegraaf, to have landed in the Indian Ocean on April 11.

The newspaper's April 16 edition reported that the crew of an Australian patrol aircraft noticed the spacecraft, which was being kept up by a flotation collar.

De Telegraaf published a photograph of the spaceship with several Soviet

technicians near it in a rubber dinghy. Seven Soviet warships were reported to have been in the area.

The director of the Johannesburg planetarium at the University of the Witwatersrand, Professor Tom Geary, said last night it was "entirely possible" that the unidentified flying object reportedly seen over the Cape, Natal and Transvaal on Tuesday night could have been a jettisoned part of a spaceship.

A Sandvlei resident, Mr Charles Dempster, was one of several people to report sightings of a "bright, deep-orange light that looked like a half-moon", about 10.20 on Tuesday night. A Beaufort West man apparently saw two green lights early on Wednesday morning, after which he claims his car suddenly accelerated to over 160km/h.

"I really don't believe that it was a flying sau-

cer," Professor Geary said. "Perhaps I'm cynical, but I have watched the skies all my life and never seen anything that couldn't be explained."

Professor Geary expressed surprise on being told of the reported sighting of the Soviet spaceship off the South African coast. Asked whether debris could have crashed to the earth more than a week after the spaceship, he replied: "Definitely."