

UFO BABY SAVED

Soviet skies trembled and an alien child fell to earth

WHEN LIGHTNING flashed over a tiny Soviet hamlet and explosions ripped the night sky, petrified villagers thought they were under attack by Americans. Instead, days later, military search teams found what they now believe was a baby from space.

Asked what he thought of the find, Colonel Dzholdash Aytmatov of the local military command, who was in charge of the investigations, said: "All evidence leads to the conclusion that an extraterrestrial child has been jettisoned out of a cosmic ship in trouble.

"It landed safely, thanks to the technology of the escape vehicle, and appears to be unharmed."

The baby from outer space was allegedly found near Sosnovka, a village in Kirghizstan, in July last year.

The space alien, which looked very similar to a human baby, was taken into the care of the Medical Research Institute in Frunze, the Kirghiz capital, and later, amid strict secrecy, transferred to the children's hospital in nearby Alma-Ata.

According to official sources, the child

died in early October, nearly three months later.

Early reports said the explosions followed the crash of an alien scoutship, from which two charred humanoid bodies were taken.

Gris and a US pal, Charles Parmiter, (left) went from Frunze to Moscow on their space baby story.

Then a shepherd reported a startling find: a baby-sized safety pod. The quarantine teams took from it the 60cm-tall infant with eyes of purple and between his fingers and toes, webs. In front of their homes the terrified

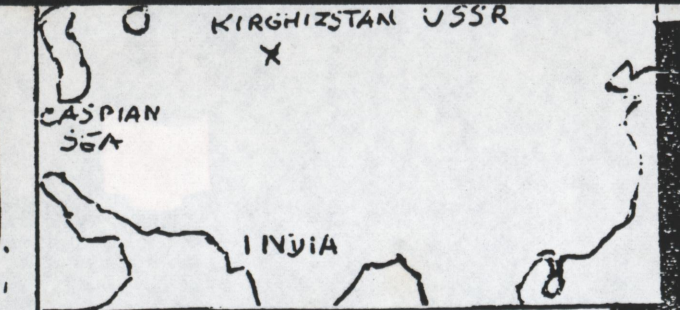
villagers stood, waiting. "They had never witnessed anything as frightening as this." Captain Chingiz Chamrayev of the Frunze militia said. He had rushed by car from Frunze, the capital of Soviet Kirghizstan, after being told of the panic in Sosnovka.

"They thought that maybe it was an American atom bomb exploding in their mountains, something they had been warned to expect."

Meanwhile the military command of this Soviet region bordering Sinkiang, China, had already gone into action on reports from its chain of lookout posts strung along the Chinese frontier. Terse and accurate, they pinpointed the spot where the explosion took place: 20km below Sosnovka near the Tyuzashi pass, 3600 metres above sea level in the Dzumgoltau mountain range, inaccessible except by helicopter.

It was still night when three helicopters set out from Frunze to inspect the area. Equipped with powerful searchlights they found a smouldering wreckage on a ledge in the mountains. The helicopters waited until daybreak and at dawn military investigators landed near the spot. The wreckage had burned itself out and all

The baby's room, on the fourth floor of the Frunze medical institute, was kept under the tightest security.



that remained was a blanket of hot ashes.

The military cordoned off the area and remained at the site to await word from Moscow. By nightfall a disquieting rumour became both haunting and persuasive: it must have been an extraterrestrial ship.

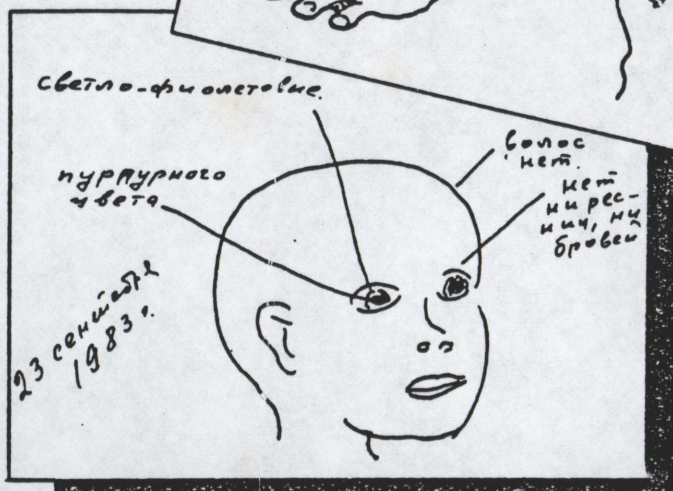
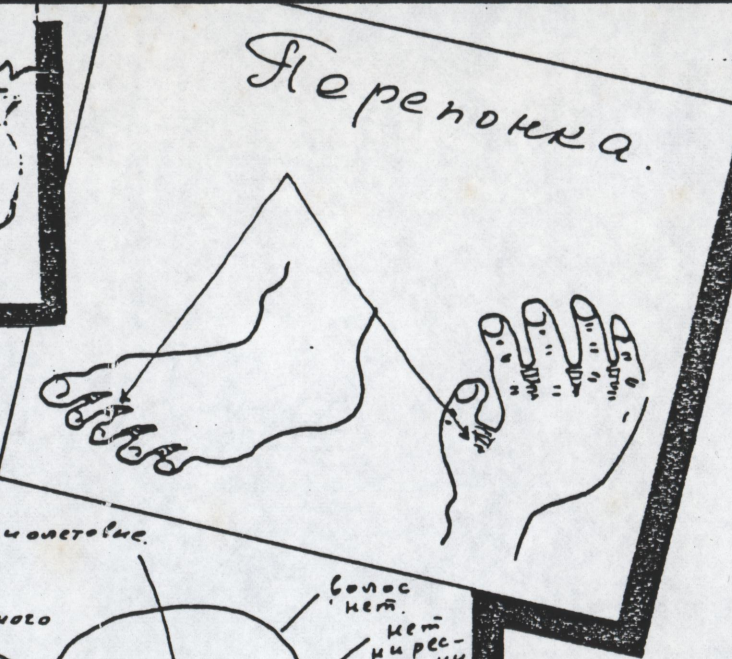
Later the search party received a radio message: a local shepherd had found an object jettisoned from the sky, south-west of Sosnovka.

By this time an urgent directive from the government building in Frunze instructed Captain Chamrayev to desist from further investigation and to surrender the case to Colonel Aytmatov.

The colonel came upon an egg-shaped metal capsule about 1.5 metres long and half that in width. It had short stubby legs and what appeared to be a small retro-rocket in its underbelly. Its upper part featured what looked like a neatly fitted, hinged lid. Aytmatov decided not to wait until daybreak but to have a bomb squad fly in to pry it open.

In the eerie glow of searchlights from three helicopters, the bomb disposal squad carefully removed the lid. It came off easily. The men first checked out the object with sonar devices to satisfy themselves there was no bomb inside.

'Webbing', reads a Soviet specialist's note on the baby's digits.



The child had neither hair, eyebrows nor eyelashes. Other Russian notations point to the purple colour of his pupils and the light violet of his irises.

What they did find inside was a male baby, at first glance obviously human. It was breathing, seemingly peacefully asleep. Doctors from the Frunze Medical

Research Institute were despatched by helicopter to take possession of both the child and the capsule.

Colonel Aytmatov then advised the villagers that a Soviet military transport plane had crashed and exploded, killing all men aboard. "It is imperative that this be kept secret," he said.

Despite all efforts to keep it alive, the little visitor from outer space died almost three months later on October 3.

Unaware of developments, I settled down to tape record the following telephone conversation with the doctor in charge whom I had interviewed in Frunze a fortnight earlier:

"Hello, doctor, how is the baby?"
 "The baby is dead."
 "Did you say dead?"
 "Yes, dead. I am sorry."
 "What happened?"
 "It was just as we feared. Acute and massive infection. The little boy went into shock in a matter of hours. We tried everything to save him, but nothing worked. The nurses reported that the baby's temperature was slightly elevated. This was followed by minor respiratory distress. Less than 12 hours later the child was dead. It was that fast."
 "But you anticipated problems. Couldn't you have forestalled them?"

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From Henry Gris in Moscow

PEOPLE EXCLUSIVE

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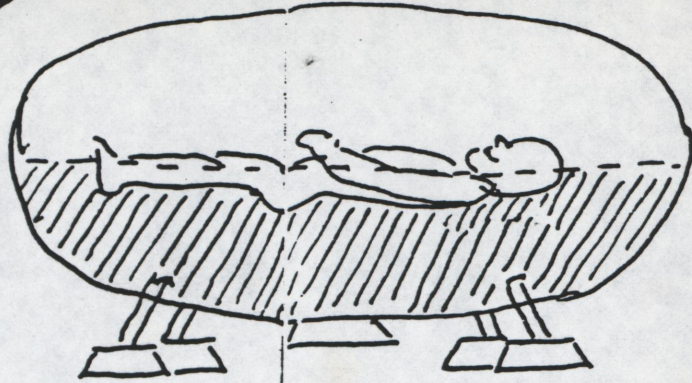
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After sonar scans, bomb disposal teams pried the lid from the egg-shaped metal capsule — to reveal its breathing, humanoid occupant.



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"No. Listen. I've already talked too much to you about this. I don't want to talk any more. Goodbye."

For eleven weeks and four days then, a child from another planet lived, breathed, ate, slept and grew under the watchful eyes of doctors and nurses, first at the Medical Research Institute in Frunze, later briefly at the Hospital for Contagious Children in neighbouring Alma-Ata.

A doctor at the Medical Research Institute, whom I was told to call Dr Mikhail Ibragimov, told me: "The child was delivered to the Institute on July 16, a Saturday. It was my day off. I was alerted at home and asked to report. By the time I got there the child had already been placed in an isolation ward and the entire floor evacuated. The capsule was also gone by then, taken away by the military.

"I was filled in on the situation as follows: what must have been a cosmic ship had crashed in the mountains near the Tyuzashu pass about 90km southwest of Frunze. Everybody aboard it perished and the wreck burned itself out before help could reach it.

"Then, a full day later, on the evening of July 15, a local villager came upon this egg-shaped object made of some hard substance resting on a multiple leg-type support.

"The military came, found the child inside and contacted the Institute. Our staff was ordered on full war-time standby and a total blackout was put in force.

"Since then, the child has been in our care. What can I tell you about it?"

"It's a little boy who looks very much like a human little boy. You could say he's a copy of us — or maybe we're a copy of him. Except for webbing between the fingers and toes, indicating that these

beings spend much time in the water, and the strange purple colour of its eyes, the baby looks human. X-rays shows that its body is like that of a human, with the exception of a slightly larger heart," he said.

At this point in our discussion, the medic was interrupted by a young, Russian nurse. She had brought a message which prompted the doctor to excuse himself. Walking the nurse back to the Institute, I asked her questions which, I said, had already been answered in part by the doctor.

After confirming that she was indeed one of the nurses who had been assigned to the space child, she said: "I am one of eight. We work in groups of two around the clock, six hours on and 18 hours off. 'Kosmik', as the nurses nicknamed him, was our only patient. He was in a room on the fifth floor of the Institute. On the night he was brought over I was off duty so I didn't see how he arrived.

"If the doctor told you that he looks like an ordinary boy baby, it's exactly so; of about one year of age. He is 66 centimetres tall. One of the doctors told me he doesn't show any emotions.

"Two armed men guard the entrance to his ward and entry is only allowed to those with a special pass."

The extraterrestrial baby is now apparently dead, a victim of the Earth's environment hostile to uninvited guests. Does this mean that no visitor from outer space would survive on our planet?

Looking back, the entire episode appears too incredible to be believed. Is it possible that the story given had been meticulously orchestrated to mislead two western journalists?

Still, knowing the Soviets and their devious ways, a different version must not be ruled out. Namely, that the space baby is well and very much alive and is being raised clandestinely by Soviet scientists resolved to keep the fantastic experience secret.

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