

International  
Herald Tribune

30-5-84

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# 'Flying Cigar' in Gorki Ignites An Investigation in Moscow

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Reuters

MOSCOW — The Soviet Union has set up a commission to investigate Unidentified Flying Objects, Trud, the organ of the Trade Union Council, reported here.

Trud said the Commission on Abnormal Atmospheric Phenomena, headed by Pavel Popovich, a former cosmonaut, was established in February to investigate all sightings of moving objects or flashing lights in the sky.

Mr. Popovich was quoted as saying that there were hundreds of reports each year in the Soviet Union and that most could be explained scientifically. But he added that scientists had been disturbed by events in Gorki, 400 kilometers (250 miles) from Moscow, which defied rational analysis.

He said that on March 27, 1983, air traffic controllers at Gorki Airport saw an object which they described as a "flying cigar" about the size of an airliner, but without wings. They reported that the object was visible on radar screens for about 40 minutes before vanishing.

Mr. Popovich said this report was taken seriously because the witnesses were trained aircraft experts who could be relied on to give an accurate account of what they had seen.