

# UFOs in Russia are

# 'tests of weapons' V.M.

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in New York

**F**REQUENT reports of UFO sightings in Russia are, in fact, the result of illegal strategic weapon testing by the Soviet government said Mr James Oberg, a senior

NASA mission controller from Houston, Texas.

"Cossacks in the Ukrainian countryside and sophisticated Muscovites in city streets have stared in awe at UFO formations passing overhead," he told the American Association for the Advancement of Science, meeting in New York.

"But the government in Moscow knows where these UFOs come from, who launched them, how they are propelled, and why they are travelling through Russian skies.

"It knows all this, and refuses to admit it."

Mr Oberg told of a 1979 report by the Soviet Academy of Sciences, which had been endorsed by Prof. Nikolay Kardashev, a leading astronomer. It gave numerous specific examples of UFO sightings in Russia.

### 'Brazen hoax'

"But this report may one day be ranked as a hoax as brazen as the Piltdown Man," Mr Oberg said. "It was a ruse, designed to divert attention from the truth about Soviet UFOs."

The "sightings" were, in fact, experiments of the Fractional Orbital Bombardment System which the Russians had been secretly building in violation of the 1963 Outer Space Treaty.

The treaty forbids the stationing of weapons of mass destruction in orbit.

Because the launches of rockets and the fiery returns to earth of dummy warheads could not be concealed from the Russian people, the Government decided to present them as a mystery, the work of alien creatures from another planet.