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'Flying saucers' for Siberia

"FLYING SAUCERS" might well become a common sight in the skies of Siberia, if Soviet airship experts have their way.

For they believe that it is precisely a disc-shaped airship that best suits the high-wind conditions there.

Scientist Sergei Yezer believes that only airships can solve the transport problem in developing the Soviet east.

Writing in the journal *Kommunist*, he says Soviet experts

conceive such an airship as being shaped like a "flying saucer" with a diameter of about 150 metres, able to lift up to 300 tons and with a flight range of 4,000 kilometres.

It could be filled with heated air, which would not only be inexpensive but also, heated to a temperature of 150-200°C, would keep the envelope warm and provide reliable means of de-icing.

It would be propelled by four

turbo-engines and have a cruising speed of 150 kilometres per hour.

Fuel consumption per ton/kilometre would be a fifth to a quarter of that of an aeroplane, which has to expend about half its energy to provide lift.

Such an airship could lift machines weighing hundreds of tons which at present have to be hauled by special sea, road and river convoys.

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Sympathetic magic?
Cargo cult? Aliens among the comrades?