

Airline passengers watch spacecraft sample atmosphere

Trailblazing UFO!

By ALEX JACKSON

Frightened passengers and crew on a Soviet jetliner stared in stunned disbelief when a UFO invaded Russian air space on a reconnaissance mission.

The mysterious craft shot out incredible shafts of light that illuminated the ground from a height of 25 to 30 miles, according to the Soviet newspaper *Trud*, which reported the eerie tale.

The amazing 4 a.m. encounter was reported by Capt. Igor Cherkashin, pilot of an Aeroflot Tupolev 134 jet with 7,500 hours flying experience. The alien ship also was sighted by another commercial plane and tracked by radar. Soviet intelligence intercepted and decoded a computerized message from the UFO crew, an East German source said.

"As near as can be determined from the secret code, the spacecraft was using three beams of light to check the atmosphere," said the source.

"Apparently, their mission was to determine if the atmosphere at different altitudes is compatible with their world in another galaxy."

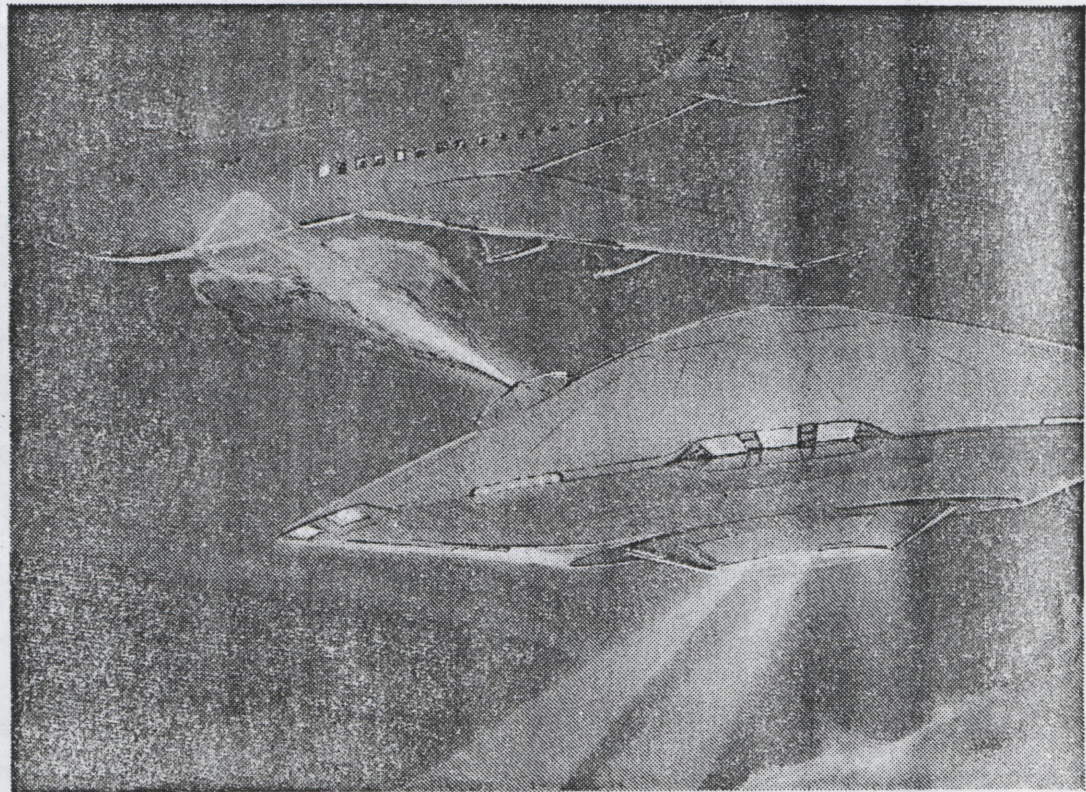
The pilot and crew of the

Experts crack coded message from starship

commercial jet first noticed a large yellow elongated spot while flying over the Russian city of Minsk, according to *Trud*.

Three cones of white light flashed from the ship, clearly showing roads and houses 25 to 30 miles below. The white lights then flared up and turned into a green cloud, which shot toward the plane.

After zooming up and down on



either side of the airliner, the alien ship flew alongside from Minsk to Tallinn.

"An honor escort — what a distinction for us," pilot Cherkashin told the newspaper.

The eerie alien ship was seen by passengers on the flight and by the crew of another Russian airliner passing 10 miles away.

Air traffic controllers at the

Baltic port of Minsk also tracked it on radar.

Before Russian jet fighters could intercept the spaceship, it disappeared from radar screens and vanished.