

# NEWS

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**An earth-orbiting Soviet cosmonaut is dying of a space-borne alien virus that scientists say is so lethal it will make the AIDS plague seem like the common cold!**

Kremlin leaders have only just revealed that a secret operation was carried out late last year to rescue the stricken cosmonaut from his earth-orbiting Salyut spacecraft.

Incredibly, the unidentified spaceman was deathly ill for a month before the effort was made to bring him back to earth. But by then, he was in a feverish coma and was teetering on the brink of death.

Although details of the deadly alien virus have not yet broken through the Iron Curtain, scientists and researchers in the Free World are growing increasingly alarmed over reports that the virus is wildly contagious and, worse still, cannot be treated by any drug that can be produced in an earth environment.

"This is the catastrophe everyone in space medicine has dreaded ever since America put its astronauts on the moon," declared a German doctor once involved in the Russian space program.

"God only knows what we're dealing with. We have tried to get more information on the virus, but the Soviets

By **MICKEY McGUIRE**

heavy veil of secrecy, some information has filtered out to Western scientists. It is known that the cosmonaut suffered agonizing pain and temperatures of 104 plus degrees much of the time he was aboard the spacecraft. And the cosmonaut's two comrades were quarantined at heavily guarded military bases south of Kharkov.

But the big question desperately needed to be answered concerns what efforts, if any are being made to find a way to kill the alien virus before it infects the entire population of earth.

"I believe there is reason for great concern that the virus could bring the great-

*Soviets clamp lid of secrecy on cosmonaut's deadlier-than-AIDS bug, but experts say . . .*

# Killer virus came from outer space!

***The human race may be headed for extinction, says noted scientist***

have refused even to identify the cosmonaut, give his condition or tell us if he is alive or dead."

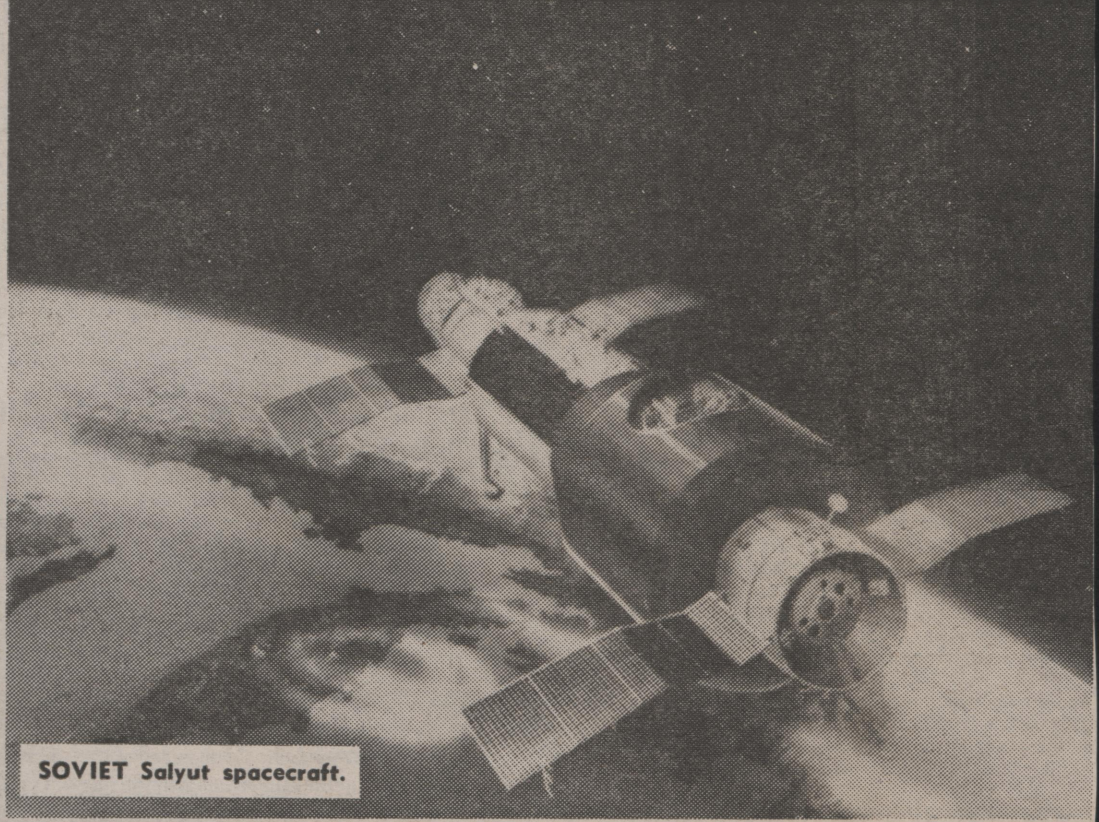
Though the Kremlin has said nothing on the matter, clandestine reports that the virus is "wildly contagious" are viewed as strong indicators that the disease has infected the stricken cosmonaut's two comrades, perhaps even ground personnel and medical teams.

Despite Moscow's efforts to keep the incident under a

est catastrophe man has ever known," declared a noted French virologist.

"Any alien organism that is brought to earth from outer space has the potential to wipe out tens of millions of people.

"And chances are that nothing will be found here on earth that could be used to control its spread. If the Soviets have not succeeded in containing the virus, the human race may be headed for extinction."



SOVIET Salyut spacecraft.