
Space junk causes UFO scare

MIAMI (UPI) — A spent rocket body from a manned Soviet spaceflight burned up in the atmosphere over Florida, lighting up the sky with a brilliant fireball and lighting up military and police switchboards with UFO reports.

The bright white light streaked across the sky from north to south, turning to green and blue before disappearing over the horizon. Some thought it was a meteor; others weren't so sure.

"Some said 'UFO,'" said Joe Peragine, a security officer at the Kennedy Space Center, who fielded many of the telephone calls Sunday night.

The National Weather Service speculated the flash could have been lightning reflected off banks of clouds, and officials at the Miami Space Planetarium suggested it could have been a meteor shower.

But officials at the U.S. Space Command in Colorado Springs, Colo., said yesterday the fireball was caused by debris from the Soviet flight.

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