

MIND-BOGGLING MYSTERY IN

RUSSIAN FIGHTER JETS attempted to intercept the object described as a "shiny black disc with flashing lights on its edges." A stunned pilot said the object was as "big as a soccer field."

Soviet

icebreaker

The crew of a Soviet icebreaker played cat and mouse for more than 72 hours with a mysterious underwater object that was later described as being big as a soccer field, East German sources report.

The nail-biting confrontation began when the Soviets spotted the object — allegedly a black disc surrounded by flashing red lights — on sonar in the Kara Sea.

The object reportedly did not respond to Soviet radio transmissions ordering it to surface.

And it is believed by offi-

cials that depth charges, occasionally used to break up heavy ice floes, were dropped on the disc with-

out effect. At least one Soviet sailor is said to have been washed overboard when the object crashed

through the polar ice and vanished into space.

The East German sources also said the icebreaker

suffered superficial damage from huge chunks of ice that fell off the disc when it made its ascent to the heavens.

"It is my understanding that the object hovered over the ship for 20 minutes after it emerged from the sea," said one source, who requested anonymity.

"It was described as being shiny black, like onyx, and having red, flashing lights on its edges. Curiously, nothing was said about it making any noise, even though it seems like an object that big would have to."

The source said Soviet fighter jets scrambled from