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STARSHIP RADIOS RUSSIAN AIRLINER

Alien voice helps jet avoid mid-air collision

PARIS — A Soviet airliner with 168 passengers aboard banked sharply and plummeted 20,000 feet after a near collision with a UFO that communicated with the Russian pilot to avoid disaster at the last possible instant.

The close encounter that occurred February 22 over the western edge of the Caspian Sea was revealed when a team of Soviet scientists investigating the incident submitted a formal request for photographs taken over the region by a French weather satellite.

Western intelligence sources with access to the Russian files on the case say the eerie exchange between the Soviet airline pilot and the UFO was overheard and recorded by air traffic controllers in Stalingrad.

"The incident took place about 45 minutes into an Aeroflot flight bound for Stalingrad from the city of Baku on the Caspian coast," said a French intelligence officer who spoke on the condition that he not be identified.

"The airliner climbed to a cruising altitude of 32,000 feet on a course carrying it over the western portion of the Caspian Sea," the source said. "Just moments after the airliner was handed off to controllers at Stalingrad the pilot reported the sighting of an extremely bright light in the night sky directly in front of him at a distance of some five miles."

The Aeroflot pilot identified as Viktor Okulov later told amazed Soviet officials that the brightly lit object approached at blinding speed,

Airport officials overhear startling encounter

revealing the outline of the craft that was approximately three times the size of his jetliner.

"The pilot was frozen and a collision appeared unavoidable until a voice from the UFO instructed him how to avoid danger," a French officer said.

The intelligence officer who heard a tape of the ex-

change said the calm voice from the UFO sounded like that of a little girl and told the Soviet pilot to "immediately bank left 90 degrees. We cannot alter course while you are in our energy field."

"As soon as the pilot turned away the jet's engines and instruments were suddenly knocked out and the plane went into a steep dive," the intelligence officer said. "At an altitude of 12,000 feet the airliner regained power and made an emergency landing at Astrakhan."

According to the source, the badly shaken crew and their passengers were kept in isolation for a week.

"The satellite photos show-

ed nothing out of the ordinary, but the UFO appeared on radar for nearly 10 minutes before it vanished," the officer said. "It is an in-

credibly well documented encounter, but at this point the Russians are more interested in keeping it quiet."

— MICHAEL O'MALLEY



SOVIET AIRLINER encountered a massive UFO and appeared to be headed for a collision.



MAP shows route of jetliner. The scheduled flight was to go from Baku to Stalingrad but landed in Astrakhan after making contact with the starship, shown by X.