

# Interplanetary probe captures 700-mile-long object

A Soviet probe of the solar system photographed a gigantic blue egg as they passed within a few miles of each other in space, European sources report.

"I know it sounds crazy but the thing was 700 miles long, bluish gray and shaped just like the egg of a bird," astrophysicist Pflueger Schmidt told the German science journal *Space Tomorrow*.

"As a space information analyst for the Soviets I had access to literally hundreds of high-resolution photos.

"The possibility of the thing being a meteor or space debris has not been ruled out, of course, but neither has the possibility of it being a living embryo.

"An embryo that's just waiting to hatch, grow and live in outer space."

Schmidt would not say precisely where the egg was located and refused to comment when asked if the object posed an immediate threat to Earth.

Soviet sources flatly denied the unidentified space probe's late 1986 encounter with the object until mid-March, when a six-paragraph story on it appeared in a Soviet newspaper.

The article was couched in the double-talk and ambiguities that

# GIANT EGG FOUND FLOATING IN SPACE

characterize Soviet reporting.

But in subsequent interviews Soviet space scientist Vladimir Pakhomav flatly stated that the object "could be the most impor-

tant discovery since the planet Pluto was spotted and identified in 1930."

"Consider for a moment that the object was an egg," he said.

"That would not only mean that there is extraterrestrial life, but that life is moving through and perhaps colonizing space.

"The sheer size of the object is

something else again. The magnitude of a life form that was 700 miles long at birth could easily rival that of our own moon once it matured.

"Just think of it," he continued, "an entity that big could destroy every civilization on Earth with a couple of strategic footsteps.

"Colliding with it could knock our entire planet off its axis and possibly even out of orbit. That would be the end of our planet, no doubt.

"Even if it wasn't destructive, just knowing that it existed would necessarily change almost everything we believe about this mysterious thing we call life."

Drs. Schmidt and Pakhomav agreed that calling the object a life form requires a staggering leap of the imagination.

"Other than its shape the only evidence to suggest that it is alive is the texture of the exterior," said Dr. Schmidt. "Un-

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## 'This could be the most important discovery since the planet Pluto'

is definitely not going too far to  
say that it looked like the shell  
of a bird egg.

"The textures are almost  
identical.

"It is gone forever," he said,  
"and that's the shame of it.

"We can, and will, analyze  
photographs until the end of  
time and still not know if it  
was a living thing or a huge  
stone, that was just float-  
ing through outer space.

There are some questions  
science simply cannot an-  
swer."

— ELIOT SCOTT

**ARTIST'S CONCEPTION** of  
the massive space egg discov-  
ered during an unmanned ex-  
ploration of the solar system  
by the Soviet Union. The start-  
ling object could be proof of  
extraterrestrial life, say sci-  
entists. The amazing encounter  
has produced hundreds of  
photographs that were trans-  
mitted back to Moscow.

