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BRITISH AIRLINER CREW BAFFLED BY OBJECT OVER SOVIET UNION[PAR]

LONDON, June 27, Reuter - A British airline pilot told today how he had to take evasive action to avoid hitting a mystery object over the Soviet republic of Kazakhstan. [PAR]

''It was definitely not an aircraft, of that I am positive. None of us had ever seen anything like it before,'' First Officer Anthony Colin, said in a letter published in the the Times of London. [PAR]

The Times said the crew of five of a British Airways jumbo jet, on a flight from London to Bangkok in April, were baffled by the object with twinkling lights which flew directly toward them before disappearing at high speed over the horizon. [PAR]

A BA spokesman said that Soviet air traffic control had confirmed that there were no other aircraft in the area at the time. [PAR]

He suggested the most plausible explanation was that it was a piece of satellite re-entering the earth's atmosphere. [PAR]

''Captains sometimes report seeing space debris,'' he explained. [PAR]

''We are all bitter, cynical aviators who like to find a scientific explanation for everything. But this has got us foxed,'' Colin said. [PAR]

[PAR]

Reuter[PAR]

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