

UFO

Once more into the unknown

In the wake of a spate of reported UFO sightings in the Vologda region of central Russia, **Igor Tsarev** asks **Alexander Kuzovkin**, a physicist who has been studying UFOs for almost 20 years, to comment

ON JUNE 6, we had reports of flying saucers landing near the town of Konantsevo, Vologda region, and on June 11 and 12, several UFOs were 'spotted' in Vologda itself.

There is nothing unique about such reports: at least 10,000 eyewitness accounts have been recorded by the Moscow UFO research team alone. And, it is estimated that over 100,000 encounters with unidentified flying objects have been registered the world over.

As a rule, flying objects have a terrestrial or atmospheric origin. There are some, however, for which there seems to be no ready logical

explanation.

In the Middle Ages UFOs had "religious halos".

In the late 19th Century, scores of "unidentified dirigibles" were reported in the United States.

While, during the Second World War, British pilots saw "flying fire balls" in the German skies, something they believed to be a German "secret weapon".

Now, it seems, the majority of aliens fly "saucers".

UFO reports continue to come in at regular intervals. They have been seen by cosmonauts, pilots, sailors, divers, and thousands of or-

dinary people, to say nothing of signals received on radars and photographs.

The human eye, of course, is less powerful than a camera. Very often, we simply can't see what does exist in reality.

Numerous scientific studies testify that there are, indeed, anomalous phenomena in the atmosphere and on the surface of the Earth.

Though we can't see these clusters of energy, we do know a thing or two about their behaviour. All this gives ground to believe that there are ethereal forms of life.

This absolutely fantastic proposition is based on numerous facts illustrating "intelligent" behaviour of various objects and energy clusters.

In 1987 an international conference of astronomers held in Hungary stated quite clearly that, from the scientific point of view, the biological form of life

is not the only one possible.

Of course, recognition of this fact is still no explanation of flying saucers.

The great variety of UFOs, all kinds of 'cigars', 'saucers' and 'spheres', can be explained by the way human eyes and brains work.

When an object moves too fast, our brain fails to match our eyes, and so produces its own 'pictures' instead.

That is just my hypothesis. Other Soviet Academicians are more pessimistic.

For instance, Academician Migulin, head of the Academy's anomalous phenomena research group, believes we still don't have enough information either to confirm or deny anything concerning UFOs. He maintains that all extraterrestrial phenomena have down-to-earth explanations.

It is a debate that is certain to be continued . . .