

# Outer-Space Humanoids Landed In Russian City, Tass Reports

MOSCOW (AP) — Towering, tiny-headed humanoids from outer space landed their UFO in the Russian city of Voronezh and emerged for a promenade around the park, spreading fear among residents — at least that's what the official Tass news agency said Monday.

The Soviet media, unleashed by the Kremlin's policy of glasnost — greater openness — feel free now to hype incredible stories that seem more at home in the supermarket tabloids of the West. Recent examples include other accounts of UFOs, sightings of abominable snowman-type creatures and a tale about a young mystic who goes into a trance and flies about the cosmos. A rash of mystics and ESP-artists also have invaded state TV.

In Buffalo, N.Y., Paul Kurtz, chairman of the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal, commented: "We're extremely skeptical of this claim. It's not the first one (in the Soviet media). There's many. There seems to be a rash of reports, largely uncorroborated."

Tass, contributing to a string of weird tales that have crept into the formerly stuffy state-controlled media in recent months, said in a straight-faced report that Soviet scientists vouched for the UFO's landing.

"Scientists have confirmed that an unidentified flying object recently landed in a park in the Russian city of Voronezh," Tass said. "They have also identified the landing site and found traces of aliens who made a short promenade about the park."

A Tass duty officer, contacted Monday evening by telephone, refused to identify the reporter who sent the dispatch from Voronezh but stood by the story. "It is not April Fool's today," he said.

According to Monday's Tass report, a large shining ball or disk was seen hovering over the park by Voronezh residents. They saw the UFO land and up to three creatures similar to humans emerge, accompanied by a small robot, Tass said.

"The aliens were 3 or even 4 meters tall (almost 10 feet to 13 feet) but with very small heads," the news agency quoted witnesses

as saying. "They walked near the ball or disc and then disappeared inside." The report resembled a story last summer in the daily newspaper Socialist Industry, which carried an alleged "close encounter" between a milkmaid and an alien in central Russia's Perm region. The Tass report, which did not give the date of the purported "landing" in Voronezh, said onlookers were "overwhelmed with a fear that lasted for several days." Genrikh Silanov, head of the Voronezh Geophysical Laboratory, told Tass that scientists investigating the UFO report found a 20-yard depression with four deep dents, as well as two pieces of unidentified rocks. "At first glance, they looked like sandstone of a deep-red color. However, mineralogical analysis has shown that the substance cannot be found on Earth," Tass quoted Silanov as saying.

Silanov said the landing site and path taken by the aliens was confirmed using the "biolocation" method of tracking. The agency did not explain what that was. Kurtz, a professor of philosophy at the State University of New York at Buffalo, said the account "has all the characteristics of science fiction."

## UFO landing confirmed, Tass says

The Associated Press

MOSCOW — The official Tass news agency said today that scientists have confirmed the landing of an alien spaceship carrying giant people with tiny heads.

The report was the latest strange tale in the official Soviet media, which under the policy of glasnost, "or openness," have recently told of other sightings of unidentified flying objects and alien creatures.

Scientists have confirmed that an unidentified flying object recently landed in a park in the Russian city of Voronezh, Tass said in a dispatch from the city, 300 miles southeast of Moscow. "They have also identified the landing site and found traces of aliens who

made a short promenade about the park."

Tass said Voronezh residents saw a large shining ball or disc hovering over the park. They reported that the UFO landed and up to three creatures similar to humans emerged, accompanied by a small robot, Tass said.

"The aliens were three or even four meters (9 to 12 feet) tall, but with very small heads," the news agency quoted witnesses as saying. "They walked near the ball or disc and then disappeared inside."

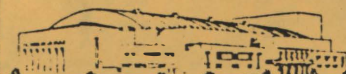
The report was similar to a story last summer in the daily newspaper Socialist Industry, which told of a purported "close encounter" between a milkmaid and an alien in Central Russia's Perm region.

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Syracuse Herald-Journal, Monday, October 9, 1989

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