

# Soviet news agency reports UFO sightings

By ALISON MITCHELL  
 NEWSDAY

MOSCOW — Just when it seemed like the Soviet Union had enough to worry about, the official Soviet news agency has discovered UFOs.

Creatures “three or four meters high but with very small heads,” and accompanied by a small robot, landed a large shining disc in the Russian city of Voronezh and took at least three nocturnal strolls through the city park, Tass reported Monday, quoting unidentified witnesses.

“Onlookers were overwhelmed with a fear which lasted for several days,” Tass said. It added that Soviet scientists “have identified the landing site and found traces of aliens who made a short promenade about the park.”

The news agency’s usual fare tends to be more mundane: endless, unannotated speeches from President Mikhail S. Gorbachev, commentaries on arms control and news accounts from

the Soviet republics.

But Monday’s report on UFOs was just the latest example of a preoccupation with things supernatural that seems to have grown stronger in Soviet society in the past few months as living standards decline, food shortages grow and life on earth seems more unpalatable.

Each morning on Soviet television an extra-sensory healer purports to cure the masses. Late evenings he appears on talk shows. Another hypnotist holds group seances in the Ukraine. And recently, a lesser known mystic was killed when he walked onto a railroad track in the path of a speeding train and unsuccessfully “willed” it to stop.

UFO stories also made an appearance in July, when the newspaper Socialist Industry reported that a 26-foot-wide circle of burned ground on the outskirts of Moscow was caused by a vehicle from outer space. The newspaper quoted a specialist on unidentified flying ob-

jects.

That time, after several days of reports, Tass was the spoiler, saying firemen believed the burned spot had been caused by a haystack fire.

But Monday, Tass quoted Genrikh Silanov, head of the Voronezh Geophysical Laboratory, who said scientists had found a 20-meter circle of indented ground in Voronezh, 300 miles from Moscow, and two mysterious pieces of rock.

“At first glance, they looked like sandstone of a deep-red color,” Silanov was quoted as saying by Tass. “However, mineralogical analysis has shown that the substance cannot be found on earth. However, additional tests are needed to reach a more definite conclusion,” he said.

Tass said Silanov used “biolocation” — which it left undefined — to trace the trails of the aliens. Witnesses, who were not told of Silanov’s work, independently described aliens walking along the same route, Tass said. The news agency did not say when the aliens appeared.

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**MARCELLO TRUZZI** via **COUD—1**