

# Giant aliens landed in city, Tass says

## Humanoid-looking creatures went for stroll, Soviets say

*Knight-Ridder News Service*

MOSCOW — Humanoid-looking aliens, with tiny heads on 10- to 13-foot bodies, disembarked from their disc-shaped spaceship and strolled around a park in the Russian city of Voronezh recently, the official news agency Tass said yesterday.

At the landing site, the agency said, scientists found two pieces of a rock-like substance not previously found on Earth.

*Perestroika*, Mikhail S. Gorbachev's ambitious reform program, has attracted attention far beyond Soviet borders, as Tass has frequently reported. What else could possibly account for the otherworldly interest in Voronezh, an industrial city 300 miles south of the Soviet capital?

Tass is not known for light-hearted spoofs.

It has reported on suspected sightings of unidentified flying objects (translated UFO, and pronounced "youfoe" in Russian) around the Soviet Union, but never with the certainty and detail provided in yesterday's report.

Like Americans, Soviet citizens are fascinated by UFO stories. A few weeks ago, some budding "biznesmen" set up a booth on the Arbat pedestrian mall in Moscow and charged 30 kopeks (50 cents) admission to view an exhibit on reports of UFO sightings.

A check last night at the editorial offices disclosed no coup attempt, no wild partying, no mischief afoot. No subversive elements from the *National Enquirer* had slipped into the newsroom.

"It is not April Fool's today," said a Tass editor, when the Associated Press called to ask about the story. He refused to identify the reporter who sent the dispatch from Voronezh, but stood by the story.

According to the report, scientists have "confirmed" that a UFO landed in the park in Voronezh and left traces of their visit.

"A large shining ball or disk was seen hovering above the park," Tass said. "It then landed, a hatch opened and one, two or three creatures similar to humans and a small robot came out.

"Onlookers were overwhelmed with a fear, which lasted several days."

Within a circle 20 yards in diameter were found four deep dents, apparently the place where the landing gear of the spaceship had rested, a local scientist, Genrikh Silanov, told Tass.

Silanov said they also found the two pieces of rock.

"At first glance, they looked like sandstone of a deep-red color," Silanov was quoted as saying. "However, mineralogical analysis has shown that the substance cannot be found on Earth."

Scientists tracked the path of the aliens on the ground by an unexplained method called "biolocation," Tass said, tracing a route that coincided with that described by witnesses.

Tass said that the witnesses also claimed to have seen an illuminated, "banana-shaped" object in the sky.

Clearly expecting the accounts of the good people of Voronezh to be challenged, Tass said that sightings of this very same UFO had earlier been reported in an American magazine.

"It is unlikely that residents of Voronezh could have read the *Enquirer* had slipped into the magazine," the official news agency assured its readers.

### to strike

strikes that "create a to people's lives and as well as work stoppages ers in railroads, public ation, civil aviation, ations, energy, defense, nt bodies, law enforce- round-the-clock produc- ries. forbids, strikes to con- h the putting forth of or a violent overthrow of the government or m, and also demands yfoliation of ethnic or ty," Tass said.

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