

Monster aliens land in Russia — official

MANY extraordinary events have happened in Russia in recent years — perestroika, glasnost, plans for a McDonald's. But this could be the strangest thing of all...

SCIENTISTS have confirmed that an alien spaceship manned by giant people with tiny heads landed in Russia, the official Soviet news agency said yesterday.

Tass said the unidentified flying object, looking like a large shining ball or disc, landed in a park in the city of Voronezh, terrifying onlookers.

'Scientists identified the landing site and found traces of aliens who made a short promenade about the park,' said Tass, which is not known for its sense of humour.

Residents in the city 300 miles south-east of Moscow watched as the spaceship hovered over the park before landing. Then, three creatures similar to humans emerged, accompanied by a small robot.

Overwhelmed

'The aliens were nine to 12 feet tall, but with very small heads,' witnesses said. 'They walked near the ship and then disappeared inside.'

Tass, which said the landing happened 'recently,' said onlookers were 'overwhelmed with a fear that lasted for several days.'

Genrikh Silanov, head of the Voronezh Geophysical Laboratory, told Tass that scientists found a 20-yard depression with four deep dents as well as two pieces of unidentified rock.

'Analysis has shown that the substance cannot be found on Earth,' Silanov said, adding: 'However, additional tests are needed to reach a more definite conclusion.'

Tass said residents also reported recent sightings of a 'banana-shaped' object in the sky similar to one described in an American magazine — which it was unlikely they could have read.

What, no Elvis?

UNIDENTIFIED Flying Objects never land anywhere important. So it is that Tass—vying with our own Sunday Sport—reports that in the obscure city of Voronezh, 300 miles south east of Moscow, three, nine foot tall humanoids with tiny heads promenaded in a local park. If only they had included that extra-terrestrial detail which makes our Western UFO tales sparkle—the presence among the space creatures of the late Mr Elvis Presley.

Alien corn

SO the Russians are at last seeing the benefits of a free press. Tackling, without censorship, the subject of Unidentified Flying Objects is a sign that glasnost is truly working. However the Soviets still have a long way to go before they reach proper journalistic standards. Not until we see a headline reading "Mikhail ate my hamster" should they be admitted into the fold of genuinely free nations.—M Bainbridge, Highgate Grove, Highgate.

WAS it an accident that Tass's report on the UFO sighting in central Russia was carried on Monday? According to the Gregorian Calendar that day was 26 September, the Feast of St John the Divine, who of course wrote The Revelations.—J Diggory, Portobello Road, North Kensington.