

Russians 'sight alien beings'

Jonathan Steele in Moscow

SCIENTISTS in the Russian city of Voronezh say they have evidence to back up eyewitness reports that an unidentified flying object recently landed in a park there.

According to the news agency Tass, local people saw a large shining disc hover over the park and land. A hatch opened and out came "one, two, or three creatures similar to humans, and also a small robot.

"The aliens were three or even four metres [10-13 feet] tall, but with very small heads," the news agency quoted witnesses as saying.

They walked round and then

went inside again. Eyewitnesses were terrified for several days, Tass said.

Mr Genrikh Silanov, head of the Voronezh geophysical laboratory, told Tass he and his team have identified the exact spot.

"We detected a circle 20 metres in diameter, plus four dents of about four to five centimetres in depth. We also found two mysterious pieces of rock.

"At first glance, they looked like sandstone of a deep red colour. However, mineralogical analysis has shown that the substance cannot be found on Earth. But additional tests are needed to reach a more definite conclusion," he said.

The scientific findings of

where the UFO landed matched witnesses' accounts, he said.

The Tass story comes after a flood of stories about UFOs in the Soviet press.

Mr Anatoly Listratov, head of the department studying anomalous phenomena at the All-Union Geodesical Society, last week reported a sighting by two pilots.

One was blinded after seeing a strange object, and the other later died of cancer.

He said the causes of UFOs were still unknown, largely because Soviet scientists refuse to study them properly or publish their results.

Officers working on missile and space projects have reported numerous sightings.

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