

Pin-headed aliens invade Russia — official

NIGHT LIFE in Voronezh, a dour city of 850,000 people in the great Russian heartlands, is definitely looking up. Once the best you could hope for was a 50-year-old prima ballerina who sometimes starred at the local opera house. If you go there after dark now, you may see UFOs and small-headed hominoids 12 feet tall.

We have this from no less an authority than Tass. As deadpan as in its more accustomed role of relaying verbatim endless speeches by Mikhail Gorbachev,

From Rupert Cornwell
in Moscow

the official Soviet news agency reported yesterday on a town terrorised by "at least three" visitations from outer space — and vouched for by eminent local scientists, no less. But the tale is best told in Tass's sober prose.

"A large shining ball or disc was seen hovering above the park. Then it landed, a hatch opened and one, two or three creatures

similar to humans and a small robot came out. The aliens were three to four metres [10-13ft] tall, but with very small heads. They walked near the ball or disc and then disappeared inside. Onlookers were overwhelmed by a fear lasting several days. Many also claimed to have seen a banana-shaped object in the sky, and a characteristic illuminated sign."

Confirmation of this astounding occurrence — which must banish any churlish suggestion that the affair is to be put down to

Russia's eternal obsession with the supernatural — was provided by Genrikh Silanov, head of the Voronezh Geophysical Laboratory. His account to Tass follows.

"We identified the site by means of biolocation. We detected a circle 20 metres across. Four dents, each 4-5 centimetres deep and with a diameter of 14-16cm, were clearly visible. They are situated at the four points of a rhombus. We also found two mysterious pieces of rock. At first glance these looked like sand-

stone of a deep-red colour. However, mineralogical analysis showed that the substance cannot be found on Earth. But additional tests are needed to reach a more definite conclusion."

Meanwhile, one odd coincidence must be noted: the "banana-shaped object and characteristic illuminated sign" were apparently similarly described by an American journal, *Saga*. But, as Tass concluded: "It is unlikely that residents of Voronezh could have read the magazine."

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