

14) ENCOUNTERS

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UFO aliens go walkabout in Russia

Aliens 13ft high have visited a Soviet city — and it's official.

Soviet agency Tass, the normally strait-laced voice of the state, said the tall creatures with tiny heads emerged from a UFO.

They then went for a midnight stroll in the city of Voronezh, it added.

Asked whether the latest report in a string of alien sightings could be a hoax, a Tass spokesman said: "Tass never jokes.

"If we start joking we'll stop existing," he added.

Scientists were called in after frightened residents in the city reported that on at least three occasions they had seen a large shining ball hover above a park in the city and then land.

"A hatch opened and one, two or three creatures similar to humans and a small robot came out," witnesses told Tass.

"The aliens were 12 to 13 feet high but had very small heads.

"They walked near the ball and then disappeared inside." Scientists have concluded that they were aliens.

Tass said the landings occurred

recently. It said scientists had identified the landing site and found traces of aliens "who made a short promenade about the park".

UFOs have a special fascination for Russians and the state press regularly carry reports of unusual sightings.

Authorities set up a Commission into Abnormal Phenomena in February 1984.

Recent stories in the newly unfettered Soviet press include other sightings of aliens, abominable snowman-type creatures and a young mystic who goes into a trance and flies about the cosmos.