

COUD-1

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ROBIN SELZ
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Soviet kids hushed up about aliens

VORONEZH, Soviet Union (Reuter) — If the huge, three-eyed aliens were out there, nobody's talking.

Children who reported seeing the creatures in Central Russia last week have been silenced by their parents, frustrating investigators who are trying to verify the spaceship landing.

The youngsters enthralled the country earlier with tales of spaceships, robots and gun-toting extra-terrestrials in this industrial city of 900,000 people.

"The parents want their kids to be left alone," said Slava Martinov, a member of the Commission for the Investigation of Abnormal Phenomena.

Commission head Genrykh Silanov, holding a copper rod to try to divine traces of the aliens yesterday, took his team to the bushy glade where several children claimed to have seen the spaceship land.

The children say a spaceship landed on Sept. 27 in a Voronezh park about 500 kilometres (310 miles) southeast of Moscow.

Lurid accounts in newspapers and the official news agency Tass have depicted 3-metre (10-foot) high creatures with three eyes and small knobby heads.

According to the reports, a silver-suited alien accompanied by a robot fired a large gun at a 16-year-old boy, who temporarily vanished. The boy reappeared when the spacecraft left.

"I am sure the ship came from Venus," said one resident. "I did not see it myself, but my grandmother's cousin once saw a spaceship attack a train in Siberia."