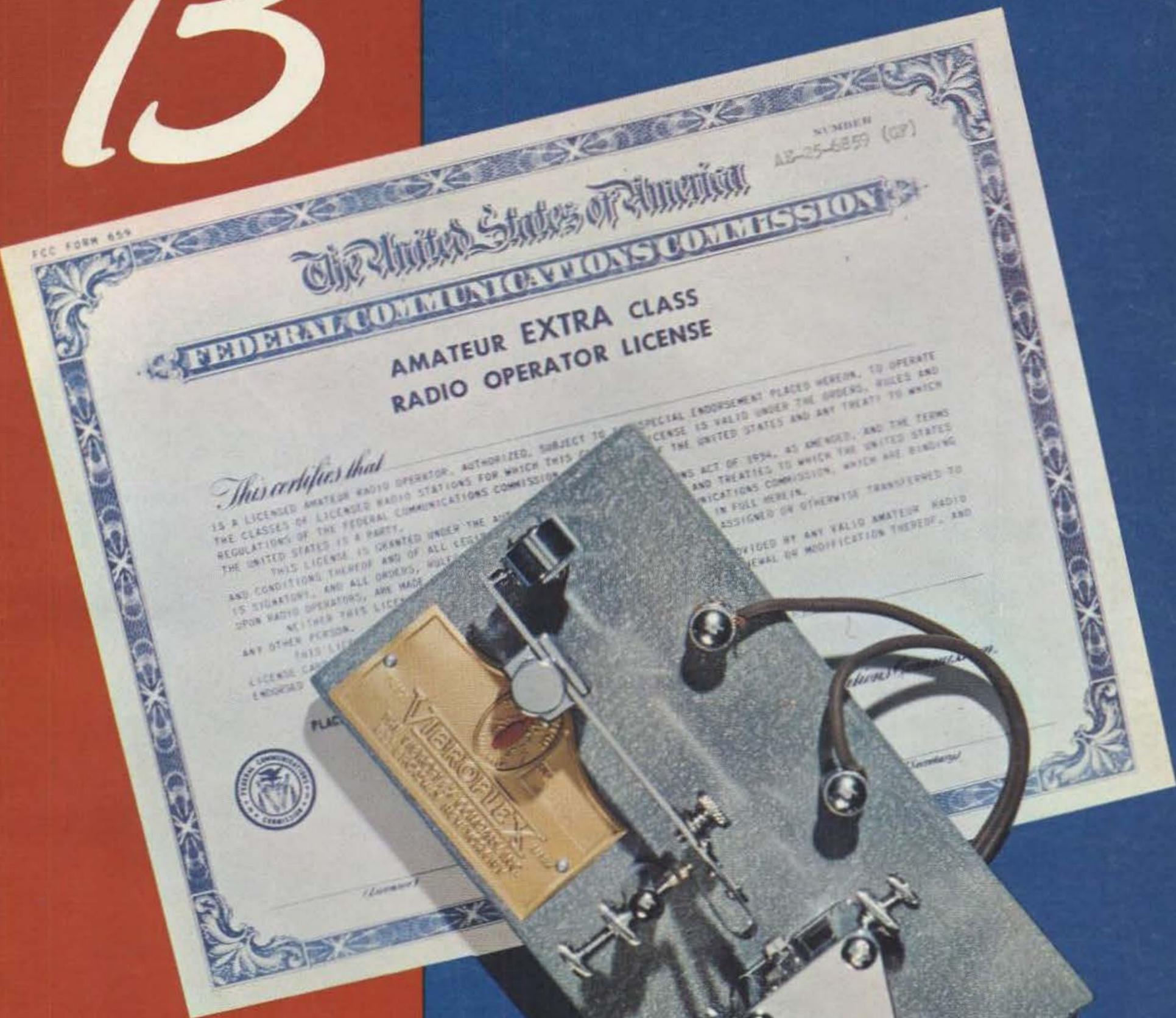


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Sudden UFO Interest Not Restricted To Hams

The radio amateur's interest in flying saucers may be more timely than one might at first suspect, for a similar interest was recently announced in Russia, a country with an earned record of ignoring such space phenomena. And when Russia takes a look at the world of flying saucers, that IS news! In what amounts to a complete reversal of official attitude toward flying saucers, Russia now rejects the tired explanations we Americans are accustomed to hearing: that UFO's are the result of "optical phenomena" and that they are quasi-natural occurrences of atmospheric or terrestrial origin. Russian scientists now go on record as offering their learned support to the hypothesis that UFO's originate on at least one other world somewhere in space.

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In articles appearing in "Kimsomol'skaya pravda" and "Teknika-Molodezhi," the Russian scientific community let pass a sequence of startling announcements that tend to confirm the need for a world-wide amateur radio "skywatch" plan. Included was a convincing conjecture that the famed Tungusky meteorite of 1908 was an artificial craft from another planet.

Information as to the contents of the two Russian scientific publications was released by Electro-Optical Systems, Inc., an aerospace firm in Pasadena, California, in a house-organ series entitled "Soviet Science in the News." The California firm, a subsidiary of the Xerox Corporation, makes regular translations of Soviet technical papers as a service to American scientists.

According to the Russian-to-English translation of the Soviet papers, there has been a number of recent Soviet investigations by the USSR's Academy of Sciences with respect to the Tungusky meteorite. The Tungusky explosion, the report said, had every parameter of an atmospheric nuclear blast and left considerable residual radioactivity. Also lending credence to the Soviet Academy's theory was the fact that the "meteorite" had apparently maneuvered immediately preceding the blast. The mysterious body exploded after apparently negotiating a 375-mile arc in the earth's atmosphere.

While the Russian's sudden interest in UFO's as a very real element of our times does not necessarily mean all old theories must be discarded, it does help to maintain an aura of sobriety in the discussion of a subject once reserved for the lunatic fringe.

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