

UFO POTPOURRI

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British jetliner reports UFO over Soviet Union

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The incident occurred in April, but first came to light in a front-page article Saturday in *The Times of London*.

Solloway confirmed that the crew of the Boeing 747 jumbo jet reported seeing a UFO over the Soviet Union on April 22 while flying from London to Bangkok, Thailand.

He said it was the first such case in the airline's history.

"We have had crews report seeing space debris burning, but we can't recall a UFO being sighted and being logged as a UFO," Solloway said.

Solloway said the crew checked with Soviet air traffic control, which reported no other aircraft in the vicinity.

Howard Miles, director of the

artificial satellite section of the British Astronomical Association, told *The Times* the crew could have seen a satellite re-entering the atmosphere.

But he said satellites normally burn up at an altitude of about 80 miles, and the aircraft was flying at about 10 miles.

"It must therefore have been an optical illusion, with the actual lights being much farther away," he was quoted as saying.

The *Times* said all five crew members reported seeing an object with twinkling lights fly directly toward them and vanish quickly over the Kazhakstan horizon.

"It was definitely not an aircraft," the paper quoted First Officer Anthony Colin, 42, as saying. "Of that I am positive. None of us had ever seen anything like it before. We are all bitter, cynical aviators who like a scientific explanation for everything. But this has got us foxed."

★★ The Houston Post/Sun., June 28, 1987/ 5B

British jet's crew reportedly saw UFO over U.S.S.R.

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He said it was the first such case in the airline's history.

"We have had crews report seeing space debris burning, but we can't recall a UFO being sighted and being logged as a UFO," he said.

"Usually, there is a scientific explanation for whatever was seen, but there doesn't seem to be a scientific explanation for this."

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Solloway said the crew checked with Soviet air traffic control, which reported no other aircraft were in the vicinity.

CR1 J. R. JOHNSON

Poland's army paper reports UFO sightings

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — Poland's official army newspaper reported that several military pilots spotted mysterious objects flying silently over the country at high speeds, and it asked readers to report any similar incidents.

"Object Sailed Without Sound — Unidentified Flying Objects Over Poland" read the headline Sunday in the army daily *Zolnierz Wolnosci* (Soldier of Freedom).

"I saw a plane passing about 60 yards below me with a plume of bright fire trailing it. I was surprised, because I should have heard the roar of a jet engine, while the plane passed by me without a sound," the article quoted the pilot of an AN-2 plane as saying.

The article also gave a report of another military pilot describing a UFO sighting.

It quoted him as saying, "That night we were to practice interception. All of a sudden someone cried out to look up.

"Right above us an object was sailing eastwards at an altitude of some 600

yards. . . . It was literally sailing by, as no sound could be heard. Physically, it seemed impossible."

A third incident reportedly occurred in July 1983 when two pilots received orders to intercept an airborne object.

"After I got to a distance of 300 yards, I noticed its strange shape," the article quoted a Lt. Marek J. as saying, without giving his last name. "The object was an oblong cylinder."

According to the lieutenant's account, the object seemed to toy with his jet fighter until finally, "as if bored," it sped out of sight.

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★★★★

Houston Chronicle

Tuesday, June 30, 1987

BY JOHN F. SCHUESSLER

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Visits by UFOs hot topic again

New books stir interest

By CHRISTOPHER HANSON
Reuter News Service

WASHINGTON — They are 4 feet tall with huge eyes and large bubble-shaped heads. They come from across the galaxy — and they may be planning to kidnap you.

Forty years after the first wave of "flying saucer" sightings, the topic of visitors from outer space is heating up again in the United States and saucer buffs are asserting that creatures like these are the advance guard of an alien civilization come to study mankind.

Although their claims are branded absurd by many in the

scientific community, three respected publishing houses have aired them in Budd Hopkins' *Intruders* (Random House), *Light Years* by Gary Kinder (Atlantic Monthly Press), and *Communion* by Whitley Strieber (Morrow).

"This isn't a kook book, it's serious and responsible," said Elisabeth Scharlatt, Random House editor of *Intruders*.

It is also financially successful, as are the other two, publishers say. They are selling very well.

Supposedly official documents citing mysterious "unidentified flying objects," or UFOs, have also been circulated in support of the believers' case in recent months.

Skeptics say these documents are hoaxes, but UFO researchers insist they are evidence of a "cosmic Watergate" in which the government has concealed visits by space alien to avoid panic.

Hopkins, author of *Intruders*, told a recent international conference on UFOs that, in researching his book, he had interviewed more than 140 people who claimed to have been abducted by aliens and taken into space ships.

They said they had been subjected to medical experiments and returned to Earth after hours of poking and prodding.

Critics such as science writer Phillip Klass counter that these

supposed abductees crave attention and suffer from delusions or other mental illnesses.

Klass said that, months ago, he had offered \$10,000 to any "victim" who reported his kidnapping to the FBI, provided it confirmed the claim. No one accepted.

Scharlatt of Random House said the alleged abductees were not publicity-seekers but ordinary men and women. Most felt stigmatized by the experience and refused to let their names be used.

She said she was a UFO skeptic herself but was convinced by Hopkins' manuscript that "something is happening . . . these people are not crazy. If their accounts are true, it is the biggest story of all time."

Hopkins said that, before publishing, he compiled details from stories of supposed abductees, who had never met except for cases involving families.

Most said their captors had inserted a large needle with a metal ball on the end into their noses — not a detail dozens of people were likely to fabricate independently, he said.

Drawings of the aliens done after hypnosis were also quite similar, he said, displaying several sketches. Each depicted a bubble-shaped head with large oval slanting eyes, a tiny nose, and thin, delicate lips.

Another source of controversy is an authentic-looking document, distributed at the UFO conference, which refers to a strange aircraft crash near Roswell, N.M., on July 7, 1947, just after the first modern wave of UFO sightings in America.

The document, dated Nov. 18, 1952, purports to be a briefing for President-elect Dwight Eisenhower by "Majestic 12," a secret government team probing UFO reports.

It says "four small human-like beings had apparently ejected from the craft . . . before it exploded . . . All four were dead and had badly decomposed . . . A special scientific team took charge of removing these bodies for study."

UFO researcher Jaime Shandera said he got the document from intelligence sources in 1984.

Klass, the UFO debunker, said the paper was a hoax, riddled with inconsistencies.

The supposed craft was in fact a radar-testing device that had been hoisted aloft by a balloon, he said.



EISENHOWER:
"Majestic 12"

Plane's close encounter still mystery

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) — The National Weather Service doubts it was theirs and the Defense Department insists it wasn't theirs. About the only thing the Federal Aviation Administration can say about the object that encountered a Delta Air Lines jet at 29,500 feet is that no one is likely to find it.

The pilot of Delta Flight 1083, en route from Pittsburgh to Atlanta, told investigators an object that appeared to be a missile seemed headed straight for his Boeing 737 Thursday morning before passing to the side and slightly below.

"The pilot described it as a rocket or a missile about 4 feet long, with fins that were each about a foot or a foot and a half in height," said Delta spokesman Bill Berry. "It went so fast, that's all he saw. He didn't see it long enough to recognize any markings."

FAA said Friday it probably will never know what had the close encounter with the jet, carrying 60 people, at 29,500 feet 31 miles northeast of Charleston.

"It may have been a blimp-shaped helium balloon," said Kathleen Bergen, a spokeswoman for the FAA's regional headquarters in New York. "It's unlikely we'll ever find it, for a lot of reasons."

The National Weather Service said the jet stream, a fast current of air at high altitudes, was not crossing West Virginia at the time of the encounter and that wind in the area was not strong enough to make an unpowered object like a balloon move fast.

Maj. Larry Icenogle, a spokesman for the Pentagon, said that while other agencies were dealing in speculation, he could offer one fact: "The Defense Department had nothing going on yesterday that would have anything to do with that."

Bergen said that left the FAA with two explanations: The official one is that it was a promotional balloon that escaped, and she said she preferred not to talk about the other option.

"Balloons can travel pretty far," she said. "We don't acknowledge the existence of UFOs."