



An unidentified flying object photographed over Shiraz, Iran, in 1967 by a 16-year-old student.

Soviet scientist scoffs at sightings

MOSCOW, Sunday (AAP-AP). — A top Soviet scientist said yesterday that sightings of UFOs, both in the Soviet

or UFOs, both in the Soviet Union and abroad, belonged to science fiction and that there were no visitors from outer space.

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In an interview with the Tass news agency, Dr Migulin said the Soviet Academy of Sciences was seriously studying periodic sightings over the USSR.

"Any suggestion that these involve extraterrestrial visitors is without serious foundation", he said.

Dr Migulin, the director of the Institute of Earth Magnetism, said, "Sightings described as flying saucers are insufficiently seriously documented and are rather a basis for science fiction stories".

His view clashed with that recently expressed by another Sovi-

celestial bodies distorted through atmospheric refraction, aircraft, satellites and weather balloons", he said.

"As for those that cannot be classified, Soviet research shows some are connected with changes in the physical layers of the earth atmosphere, in particular the ionosphere, which have been caused by solar and human activity".

et academician, Mr Felix Zigel, of the Moscow Aviation Institute, who suggested visitors from outer space caused a gigantic explosion over Siberia that has baffled scientists for 70 years.

Mr Zigel gave the many Soviet UFO believers a boost when he said an extraterrestrial vessel exploded over the Tunguska region in 1908.

Dr Migulin confirmed that UFOs were sometimes seen over the Soviet Union.

"Most of these are polar lights, celestial bodies distorted through