

SOVIET THEORY

Flying saucers 'pollution'

MOSCOW, Tuesday (AAP-AP). — Air pollution is not just harmful to health, it may also be deceiving sky-watchers around the world by helping to create the illusion of flying saucers from outer space, according to Soviet scientists.

The official Soviet news agency Tass reported yesterday that researchers at Moscow's Institute of Oceanography have laboratory-simulated the formation of saucers with swirling air currents, water droplets and pollution-like dust particles.

Soviet geophysicists had linked the increase in environmental pollution with an increase in sightings of atmospheric phenomena in recent years the Tass report said.

Tass noted that unidentified flying objects — known as NLOs or neopoznannye letayushchive obyekty in Russian — have for decades aroused the imaginations of people and have sometimes been depicted as extraterrestrial space ships.

However, "Such UFOs can be just accumulations of dust or water . . . this has been confirmed experimentally by scientists of the Institute of Oceanography of the Soviet Academy of Sciences", the report said.

For many years scientists had theorised that disc-shaped visible formations in the atmosphere might appear as the result of complex turbulent movements of air masses, when particles of dust or water got into the air.

the air.

These movements could be the consequence of heterogeneity or different densities of atmospheric layers, the report said.