

Extract from the

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Red-eye view of the day a Venus spaceship hit Russia

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SOVIET scientists are speculating that a "meteorite" which fell in Siberia 50 years ago may have been an atomic-powered spaceship from Venus, the official Czech trade union newspaper "Prace" said in a front-page article yesterday.

A book has been published in the Soviet Union presenting evidence from various Soviet scientists supporting the theory, it said.

The book, by Alexander Kazancev, entitled "A Guest from the Universe," presented the following finding by Soviet scientists supporting the theory:

Fireball

The explosion caused by the "meteorite" produced a big fire ball which was followed by a mushroom-shaped cloud.

People living near the site of the impact died of a then unknown illness, which showed the same symptoms as exposure to atomic radiation.

The explosion had its biggest impact at some distance from its centre — exactly like an atomic explosion. There is no crater.

Jet speed

A Soviet expedition to the site of the explosion two years ago discovered particles of iron which are not part of a meteorite.

Eye-witness accounts of the explosion indicate that the object slowed down to about the speed of present-day jet planes before exploding in the air.

At the time of the explosion— June 30, 1908—the planet Venus was at its nearest to the earth.

The article was headlined: "Remarkable discoveries of Soviet scientists concerning the Siberian meteorite of 1908—did a rocket from another planet hit the earth?"

It said scientists' suspicions were aroused when several expeditions to the explosion site in the Siberian woods did not find a single trace of a meteorite.

The newspaper quotes the "well-known Soviet expert on astronautics, Professor Sternfeld, who was responsible for working out the courses of the Soviet satellites," as saying the spaceship most likely came from Venus.