

PR Thomas

TPs

BEAM ME UP, ALIEN



NEIGHBOURS . . . Russia's *Komsomolskaya Pravda* published this picture of a bright orange globe along with reports that a Soviet reporter 'met the creatures from outer space'.

THEY CAME from Planet Red Star. But when a Soviet reporter asked the extraterrestrials to take him home with them, the answer was negative.

"There would be no return for you and it would be dangerous for us...you would bring thought bacteria," reporter Pavel Mukhortov says the glowing creatures told him during their encounter in the Ural mountains.

Mukhortov's report on what he called the first encounter between earthlings and aliens was published in *Komsomolskaya Pravda*.

DEADPAN

It was the latest in a series of fantastic accounts in the official Soviet media concerning the appearance of three-eyed aliens armed with ray guns, a dancing robot, and other spacemen.

They have been reported in deadpan style and many people in a country with a traditional fascination for the bizarre and supernatural say they believe them. At the very least the tales are providing relief from the shortages of goods, bad news about the economy, and ethnic

Soviet scribe wanted a lift

unrest afflicting the Soviet Union.

Mukhortov said he met the creatures near Perm on the night of July 30. They were about six to 13ft tall and glowed.

They chatted from a distance of 1,000 feet.

Or not exactly chatted. Mukhortov said he simply thought his questions to the aliens and the answers appeared before him in the form of illuminated letters.

Komsomolskaya Pravda did not say in which language they communicated but said the exchange went:

Mukhortov: "Where are you from?"

Aliens: "The constellation Libra, Red Star — our homeland."

"Your goal?"

"It depends on the centre. We

are directed by a central system."

"Can you take me to your planet?"

"There would be no return for you and it would be dangerous for us."

"Why would it be dangerous?"

"You would bring thought bacteria." The incident happened in an area where strange things have been noted since 1983, including floating orange globes and warm spots of ground.

Komsomolskaya Pravda also reported other sightings of unidentified flying objects near Perm, an industrial city notorious for a labour camp located there.

It said that on July 16, workers at a collective farm saw a group of huge black headless people, moving as if on a motorbike.