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SUMMER

Report on Conversations With Soviet Scientists on Subject of Unidentified Flying Objects in the USER DATE DISTR.

18 AUG 67

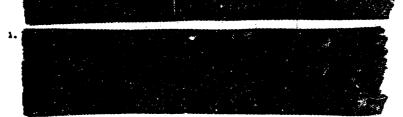
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SOURCE



- 2. He visited the subject of UTO's. The ectinitist who served as translator, a ratio astronomer, emphatically utsted that he knew of no sightings of UTO's in the USSR and added with a lough that if they were only seen in the US, they must be of Seviet origin.
- 2. At the that had beard of come sightings of unidentified objects near the Caucasus. She was uneverse of any study being made of them but was open-minded on the subject.
- ested in the problem. He had read Menzel's book (which has been translated into Russian) but did not accept his conclusions. Where of some sightings in the northern part of the USSR, but seld that reports of such sightings are not printed in Soviet newspapers because they are not regarded as scientific observations. (Comment: this is interesting in view of the readiness of Soviet newspapers to print rather fantastic reports of hypotheses and "observations" suggested by the more imignative members of the scientific community. Apparently some official sauction is needed.) These been interested in US reports of UTO's sed readily accepts their reality. In fact, it is his personal spinion that the UTO's may originate on Venus. He is well aware of the segative effect of "enlightened" scientific opinion on the interpretation of questionable observations as he has had personal

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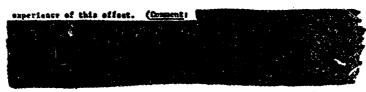
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- 1. At the UTO question. I metioned that he and several other estreamers had been out in the countrylide one evaning and had soon a curious, reddish object flashing through the sky that they were senvinced was neither a satellite sor a meteorite. However, their immediate interpretation was that this object might have been a fragment of a satellite or rechat returning from orbit, burning up in the examplers. Thought that UTO's had been seen in the USER but be could not be specific as to locations and characteristics.
- 6. At the was done of the astronours, the same again little interest was shown. One of the astronours, the same was with the group meantioned by the was confirmed the observation of a peculiar object. Be did not discuss the experience in detail but clearly had been struck by the possibility that the object might have been a "naucer."
- The institute includes the presided ever by the presided ever by the institute includes the presided ever by the institute. However, the initial discussion of the problem was with the director of the institute, the problem was with the director of the institute, the problem was with the consequently felt was closed. He indicated that no observations of 170's had been made by his staff and that they had received no reports of such observations. However, when the proceeded to indicate the results of McDonaid's critical study of the problem, the presidity concaded that there might be sore to it and concluded by stating that it was "clearly still me open question,"
- 8. Another estronomer wear-end that in the merthern part of Essekhatan there had been repeated rightings of ball lightning.

 The said them out to investigate and discovered that that being seen were reflections of entomblie headlights from an inversion layer.
- Later, a discussion was held with present with the significance of with Housel's book, but was also not impresent with the significance of the phenomenon. It is possible that some interest was kindled that might lead to additional investigations.
- 10. A stellar spectroscopist, was also interested in this problem. She was also dissetisfied with Mensel's book and felt that there was definitely an appropriate for additional research.
- 11. The general feeling one gots is that no official treatment of the UFO problem has been given in the USSR. Instead people refer to the US work, principall Hensel's book, to demonstrate the channes of real scientific problems. At the same time, there is an almost universal exarceous of the history and characteristics of the phenomenon often associated with considerable interest. The result is that a demonstration of the inadequacy of US Official explanations coupled with some proof of the reality of the abservations might excite anthuniasm more repulsy among Soviet astronouses than among their US counterparts who are more arroughy influenced by the official ridicule associated with UTO's in

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