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WARN WARNING: TOPIC: DOMESTIC POLITICAL, TECHNOLOGY

SERI SERIAL: CEP20001117000432

COUN COUNTRY: RUSSIA

RUSSIA: AIR FORCE DISMISSES REPORTS ON UFO SIGHTINGS SUBJ SUBJ:

SOUR SOURCE: MOSCOW INTERFAX IN ENGLISH 1646 GMT 16 NOV 88

TEXT TEXT:

[FBIS TRANSCRIBED TEXT] MOSCOW, NOV 16 (INTERFAX) -- RUSSIA'S AIR FORCE DISMISSED ON THURSDAY REPORTS THAT AN UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT WAS SIGHTED IN RUSSIA EARLY ON TUESDAY.

A DAILY REPORT BY THE INTERIOR MINISTRY OF RUSSIA'S DAGESTAN REGION SAID GUARDS AT TWO RUSSIAN FRONTIER POSTS SAW A UFO AT 1.45 A.M. NEAR RUSSIA'S BORDER WITH AZERBAIJAN.

THE GUARDS, STATIONED NEAR THE VILLAGES OF KAZMALYAR AND NOVY FILYA IN DAGESTAN'S MAGARAMKENT DISTRICT, SAID THEY WATCHED AN OBJECT FLYING QUICKLY AT AN ALTITUDE OF ABOUT 100 METERS FOR TWO MINUTES.

THEY SAID THE OBJECT WAS MOVING TOWARD THE CASPIAN SEA FROM THE VICINITY OF LOCAL MOUNTAINS.

THREE LIGHTS ON THE OBJECT "THO METERS APART FROM EACH OTHER" WERE EVIDENCE THAT THE OBJECT WAS NOT A MISSILE FIRED FROM NEIGHBORING CHECHNYA, THE GUARDS SAID.

MEANWHILE, NORTH CAUCASUS BORDER GUARD CHIEF GEN. YEVGENY BOLKHOVITIN SAID ON THURSDAY A "CENTRAL AIR DEFENSE CONTROL POST" HAD TOLD HIM THE SUPPOSED UFO HAD BEEN A "RUSSIAN SPACE VEHICLE."

THE AIR FORCE SPOKESMAN IN MOSCOW DISMISSED THE GENERAL'S WORDS.

"GEN. BOLKHOVITIN'S ASSERTIONS, MITH REFERENCE TO A CENTRAL AIR DEFENSE CONTROL POST, THAT A RUSSIAN SPACE VEHICLE FLEW OVER DAGESTAN ARE NOT TRUE TO FACT," SPOKESMAN ALEXANDER DROBYSHEVSKY TOLD INTERFAX.

> **APPROVED FOR RELEASE** DATE: JUL 2002

"WE DON'T HAVE ANY SUCH POSTS ON THE NORTH CAUCASUS TERRITORY."

[DESCRIPTION OF SOURCE: MOSCOW INTERFAX -- NON-GOVERNMENT INFORMATION AGENCY KNOWN FOR ITS AGGRESSIVE REPORTING, EXTENSIVE ECONOMIC COVERAGE, AND GOOD COVERAGE OF RUSSIA'S REGIONSI THIS REPORT MAY CONTAIN COPYRIGHTED MATERIAL. COPYING AND DISSEMINATION IS PROHIBITED WITHOUT PERMISSION OF THE COPYRIGHT OWNERS.

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