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Author(s): stringer V. Magas under the rubric ``Incidents``: ``How a  
UFO Was Downed``--first paragraph is editorial  
introduction]

Headline: Air Defense Forces Shoot Down Balloon Over Kola

Source Line: PM0609080290 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 6 Sep 90  
First Edition p 3

Subslug: [Article by stringer V. Magas under the rubric  
``Incidents``: ``How a UFO Was Downed``--first paragraph is  
editorial introduction]

**FULL TEXT OF ARTICLE:**

1. [Article by stringer V. Magas under the rubric ``Incidents``:  
``How a UFO Was Downed``--first paragraph is editorial introduction]
2. [Text] On 4 September this year our newspaper published a TASS  
correspondent article on the UFO seen 2 September by residents of  
Murmansk. But it turns out that the UFO was also being observed by  
the country's air defense servicemen. Our stringer reports what  
happened next.
3. As it approached the coast the spherical UFO came within range of  
air defense surface-to-air missile complexes. But it was not  
possible for them to open fire to destroy the ``uninvited guest``  
because the target was over a heavily populated area. Therefore the  
superior command (and it had been receiving regular reports from the  
moment contact was made) ordered that observations be continued....
4. The UFO hovered over Murmansk and Severomorsk at a height of up  
to 29,000 meters without emitting any radio signals. By the morning  
of 3 September it had moved deep into the Kola Peninsula, and it was  
then that fighter squadron commander Captain First Class I.  
Sdatchenko was ordered to destroy the target. In actual fact, it was  
not a UFO at all but a balloon. The experienced pilot carried out  
the mission successfully--the balloon was destroyed at 0806 hours  
north of the town of Kovdor.
5. According to the pilot the balloon was enormous--up to 40 to 50  
meters in diameter. This refuted the previous suggestion that it was  
an ordinary weather balloon. After the balloon burst, the containers  
it was carrying landed with the aid of automatically deployed

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parachutes. Border guards have passed them on to a scientific research institute to be studied. So far just one thing is known: The ``UFO`` was produced abroad.

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