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COU HIRY USER

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SUMMET RA

Report on Conversations With Seviet Scientists on Subject of Unidentified Flying Objects in the USER CATE DISTR. 18

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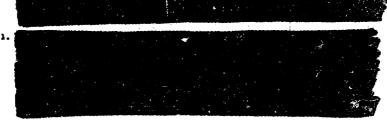
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- 2. He visited who was noncommittal on the subject of UFO's. The scientist who served as translator, a radio astronomer, emphatically stated that he knew of no eightings of UFO's in the USSR and added with a length that if they were only seen in the US, they must be of Soviet origin.
- At the that had beard of some sightings of unidentified objects near the Caucasus. She was unaware of any study being made of them but was openminded on the subject.
- ested in the problem. He had read Menzel 5 book (which has been translated into Aussian) but did not accept his conclusions. Meet of some sightings in the northern part of the USSR, but seid 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 readingse of Soviet newspapers to print rether fantastic reports of hypotheses and "observations" aggreted by the more imiginative sembers of the scientific community. Apparently some official sanction is needed.) These been interested in US reports of UFO's and readily accepts their reality. In fact, it is his personal opinion that the UFO's may originate on Venus. He is well aware of the negative effect of "enlightened" scientific opinion on the interpretation of questionable observations as he has had personal

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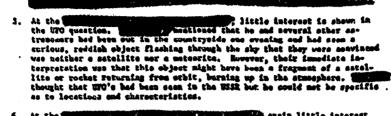
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experience of this effect. (Compent:



- to be discuss the experience is detail but clearly had been errock by the possibility that the object might have been a "seasor."
- The institute includes presided over by presided over by the director flower, the initial discussion of the problem was with the director of the institute, book, but considered it an adequate treatment of the subject which be consequently fult was elseed. He indicated that no observations of UTO's had been made by his staff and that they had received no reports of such observations. However, when the presented it indicate the results of McDonald's critical study of the problem, the readily concaded that there might be sore to it and concluded by stating that it was "clearly still am open question."
- 8. Another astronomer were most that in the morthern part of Enselhatan there had been repeated rightings of hall lightning.

 The many had said the form out to investigate and discovered that that the being seen were reflections of automobile headlights from an inversion layer.
- 9. Later, a discussion was held with MCC. He was not very impressed with Henzel's book, but was also not impressed 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, the was also dissentisfied with Hensel's book and felt that there was definitely an appropriate for additional research.
- 11. The general feeling one gets is that no official treatment of the UFO problem has been given in the UESR. Instead people refer to the UES work, principall Hensel's book, to demonstrate the absence of real scientific problems. At the same time, there is an almost universal evarences of the history and characteristics of the phenomenon efter associated with considerable interest. The result is that a manuscration of the insdequecy of UE Official explanations coupled with some proof of the resility of the observations might excite enthusians more regidly among Soviet astronomers than among their US counterparts who are more energy influenced by the official ridicule associated with UFO's in the UES.

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