

Sent: Friday, June 08, 2012 7:12 AM

Subject: Unusual Russian missile test sparks mideast UFO flap

1. We've been here before. A Russian missile launch. Startled observers. UFO excitement. Expert proclamations of nonsensical explanations.
2. The difference is, this time it's 'over' the volatile Middle East, already trigger happy enough without sudden sky spectacles.
3. Actually, the rocket was thousands of kilometers away, over Kazakhstan. But why it was seen so far is the REAL story.
4. Disregard EVERYTHING experts are saying about the 'spiral' being caused by a failed rocket tumbling out of control. 5. The 'spiral' does NOT look to me to be a sign of a "failed missile test" -- it has been a common visual feature of Russian missile launches for more than thirty years and seems associated with a roll maneuver to 'dump' unwanted surplus thrust for short-range test flights. Since you can't shut down a solid fuel rocket early, you need to find a way to 'dump' thrust so you don't overshoot a target.
6. One way is to open portals on the sides of the rocket as it burns -- sending much of the thrust out to the sides. Two opposite facing portals are usually installed, to counterbalance the thrust and not knock it off course. 7. A careful analysis of the infamous 'Norway spiral' several years ago shows TWIN plumes emerging from the central object, in opposite directions.
8. An alternate method is just to pitch the rocket off 'straight ahead' and then corkscrew, so as to spray some of the thrust off to the sides and keep your speed down to what you really need. 9. Otherwise you'll overshoot your intended target.
10. This launch was from the Volga River 'Kapustin Yar' ['Cabbage Crag' in Russian] test range, active since 1947, but ICBM tests are infrequent.
11. Direction was east, headed for the Sary Shagan impact zone in Kazakhstan, normally used only for testing anti-missile radars and interceptor missiles.
12. That's hardly more than 2000 km away, so the test clearly wasn't of the missile itself but of its warhead's 'penaids' -- penetration aids to frustrate tracking and targetting by US anti-missile systems.

13. This would result in a very unusual trajectory to get up to full ICBM speed without overshooting the target zone -- probably lofted a LOT higher than normal and then headed back DOWN towards the target zone while still thrusting.

14. The range from Kazakhstan to Israel isn't that great -- the missile got 'above the horizon' from Israel pretty quickly, even with Earth's curvature.

15. Another contributing factor: It's June -- near the time of the 'midnight Sun' in northern latitudes. That means sunlight is streaming over the pole, throughout the night. Something in the northern sky above the atmosphere over Kazakhstan would be backlit by that sunlight.

16. These 'accidental' factors combined to make this show possible.

17. And the widespread availability of pocket camcorders made recording it much more common than in the past.

18. In Russia these days, rocket launchings are announced, even military tests -- and when launched from submarines in international waters [not this time], advanced warnings are given [NOTAMS].

19. In Soviet days, these launches weren't announced. Ever. Even after.

20. So you've got to wonder, in years past, how many similar sightings in the Middle East and elsewhere were made of similar 'light shows' -- but they went without explanation. 21. They would have been 'UFOs'. Maybe?

22. But US military intelligence would have KNOWN such reports could have been connected with top secret Soviet missile tests. They would want to collect all such reports. Military attaches in countries bordering the USSR would have been tasked to collect and forward all such reports for analysis regarding the insights they could provide about the missile tests themselves.

23. So the DoD's interest in "UFO reports" would have NOTHING to do with 'true UFOs' -- but with what the real cause of the 'UFO reports' were, Soviet missile tests like this one. But they wouldn't have wanted the Soviets to realize how much such reports were helping analysts.

24. That explains a lot. This event helps underscore that connection.

25. Note all the off-the-cuff 'explain-away' suggestions from local experts -- meteors, tumbling rockets, submarine missiles. Major 'face palm' time. Disregard them all.