

China UFO Event of 1982 June 18 and possible link to Soviet military space activities

REVIEW DRAFT 3

James Oberg // April 29, 2016

*Not to be quoted without author
validation of no new updates*

“Manchurian Candidate UFO”

- Positive identification remains elusive
- Night event --- moving shape-shifting cloud
- Multiple witnesses in northeast China [and more]
- Military jet interceptors reported multiple electromagnetic effects on instruments
- No reports of any radar detection
- Suggestive links with Soviet space activities
- Witness descriptions parallel past reports
- Range, other features difficult to reconcile
- Initial Sources : Beyond Top Secret, Timothy Good, 1996, cited as Haines Case 49.
- Further sources – Shi Bo and Dong/Stevens

Outline

- Region of sightings, illumination conditions
- Sources of information
- Aircraft encounter
- Ground observers reports
- Initial satellite launch hypothesis
- Previous analogies
- Objections to rocket hypothesis
- New hypothesis – space battle
- Discussion
- Appendix 1 – Detailed observer reports

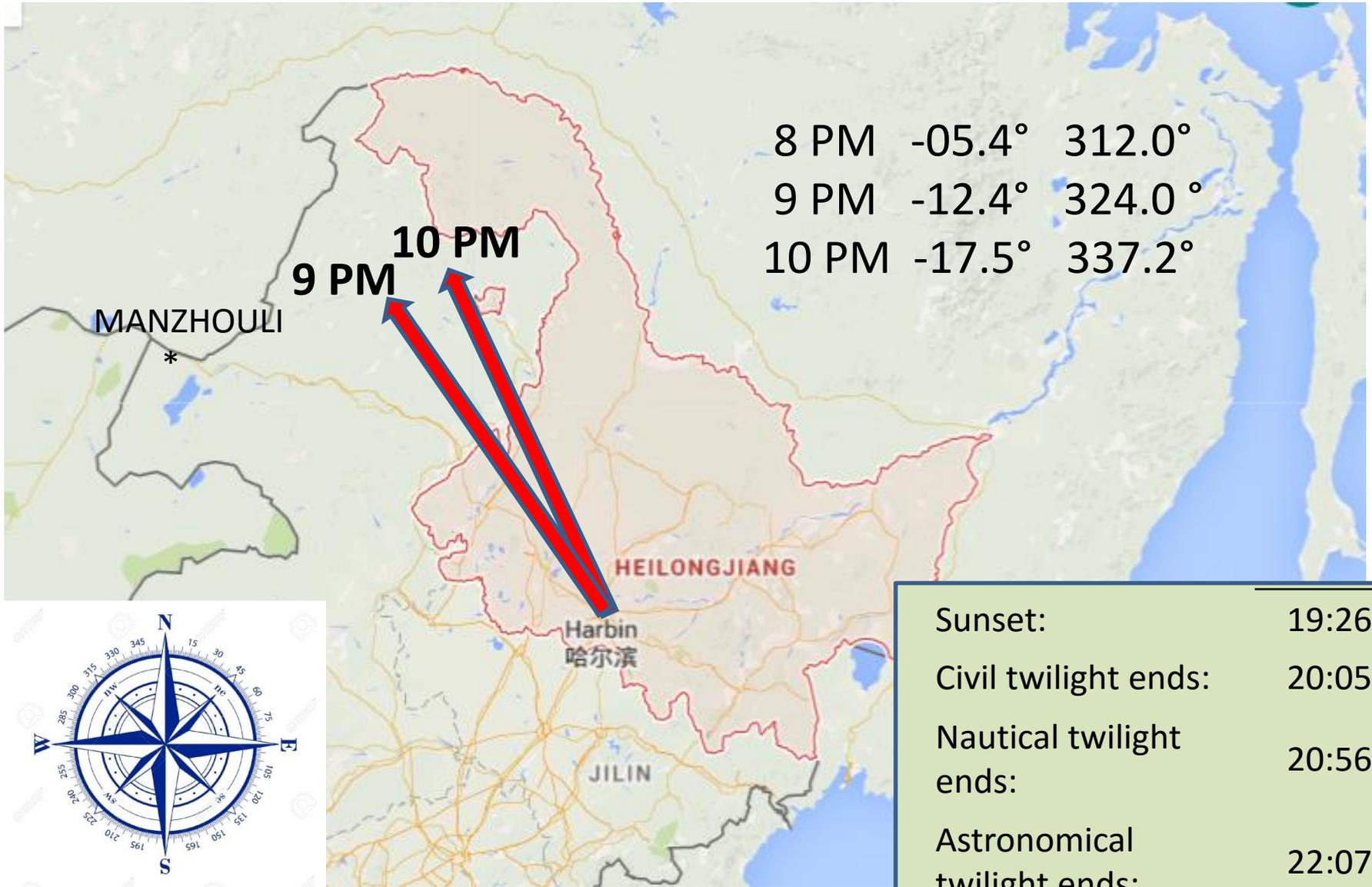
OVER WIDE AREA, CONSISTENTLY SEEN IN NORTHERN SKY

Reports from Heilongjiang, Liaoning, and Inner Mongolia



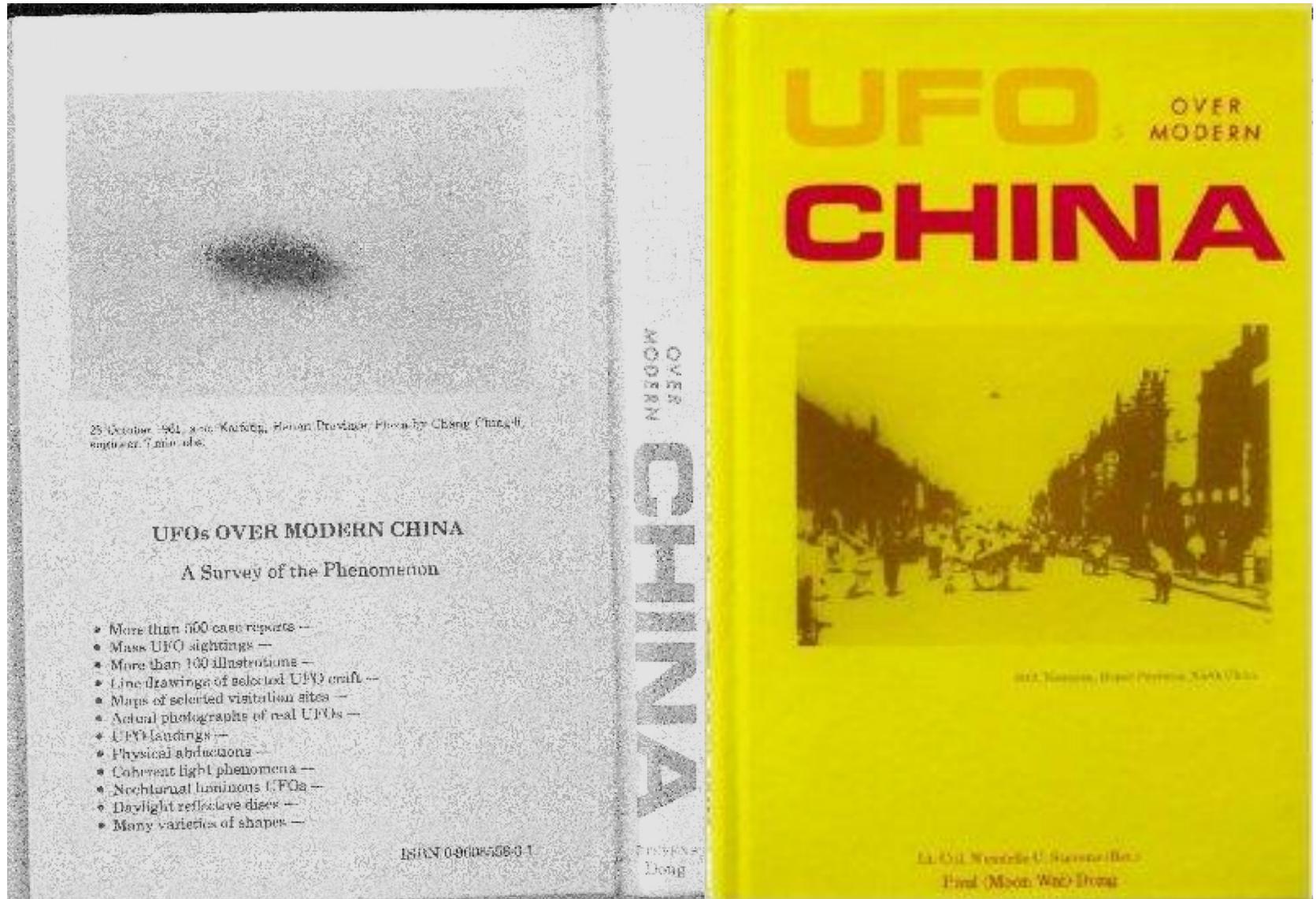
Azimuth to 'Midnight Sun'

Sun's position constrains nature and location of source of apparition



UFOS OVER MODERN CHINA

1983, Paul Dong and Wendelle Stevens



L'EMPIRE DU MILIEU troublé par les

OVNIS

SHIBO

L'Empire du Milieu troublé par les Ovnis

Ce livre apportera bien des réponses et posera des problèmes à nos théoriciens de l'ufologie. Le continent chinois s'ouvre à l'expérience ovni. Les observations, les contacts rapportés ici, qu'ils remontent à plusieurs siècles ou qu'ils appartiennent à la dernière décennie, sont confrontés avec les cas les plus divers du monde occidental que M. Shi Bo lui-même n'a vraiment découverts et étudiés que dans les années 90.

Ce Chinois encore jeune, aux activités multiples, a été aussi un des pionniers de l'ufologie dans son pays. Ayant appris le français à l'Université de Pékin, il a déjà livré au public, en 1983, *La Chine et les Extraterrestres* (Ed. du Mercure de France) préfacé par le regretté Aimé Michel.

Venu par la suite à Paris avec de nouveaux documents, il nous offre ici un second ouvrage. La spontanéité des témoignages, la saveur extrême-orientale des récits suffisoient à en faire l'intérêt s'il n'y avait aussi la comparaison avec les phénomènes recensés en Occident, la révélation du Qi Gong pour provoquer des retours de mémoire, mais par dessus tout, ce livre imposera la considération suivante : un peuple de culture différente, fermé à l'ufologie pendant des années, fait état du même type de manifestations que chez nous alors que les témoins ignorait tout de notre folklore «soucoupique». Cela n'est-ce pas bien quelque chose...

ISBN: 2905967110



L'EMPIRE DU MILIEU troublé par les

OVNIS



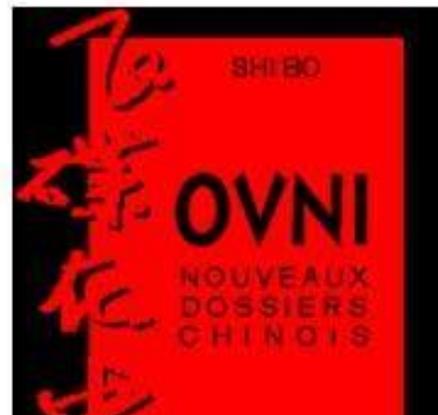
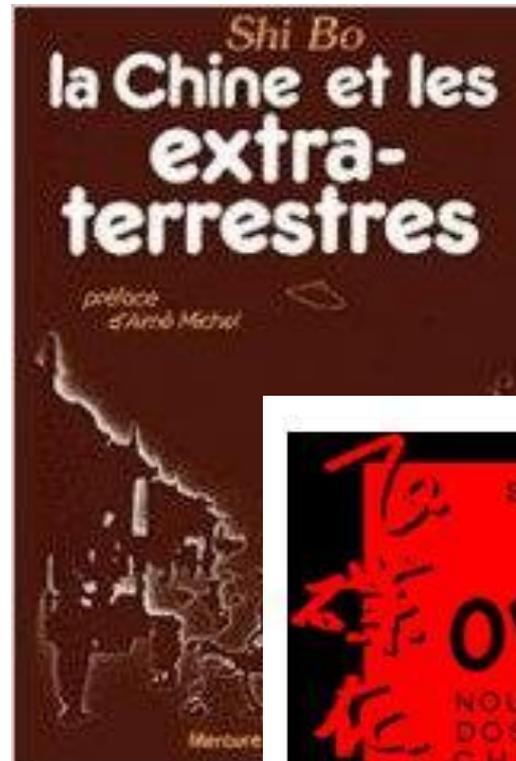
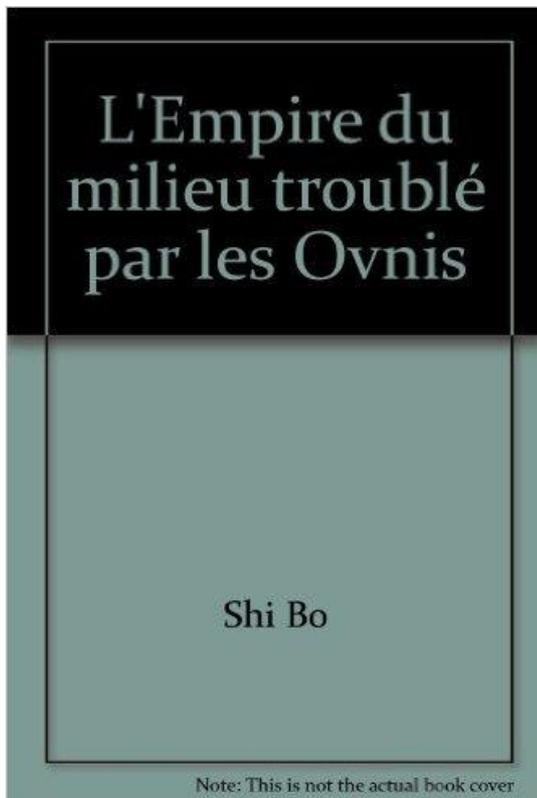
SHI BO

Shi Bo:
“Middle
Kingdom
troubled
by UFOs”
[L'Empire du
Milieu troublé
par les OVNI]

Shi Bo's account, translated into French, has a wealth of data. Apparently, Shi Bo was shown a military file in Aug 1982. Bo seems to quote multiple military eyewitness reports, include the main one with an exact-to-the-second chronology that slightly modifies the 2157 time we have seen. The actual EM effects started at 2204:50 and the UFO visual sighting was first made at 2206:50. Colleague is working on an English summary

L'Empire du Milieu troublé par les OVNI's

- Orion Axis Mundi (1 janvier 1990)
- Shi Bo @ 11, rue Sarrette. F - 75014 Paris
Tel (Fax) 01 42 79 96 48



NICAP -- 5 Chinese Pilots Encounter Object / EME

- http://www.nicap.org/820618china_dir.htm

June 18, 1982

Gong Heui area, Hebei, China

21:57 GMT GMT	Military
Duration mins +	5 observers
aircraft not given	EMI
CINA	No radar contact

Visual description of object

- Oval nebulous glow in sky about size of full moon, a 'mountain of mist' whirling rapidly
- Quickly became a beam of light similar to a car headlight directed vertically toward ground
- After 30 seconds, beam of light vanished and was replaced by sphere with clear edges, climbing rapidly, increasing in size and brightness
- Enlarged quickly, generated rings of light
- Fire in the center of ring of light
- After ten seconds, fire in center exploded and enlarged
- Black spots seen on interior of object

Description of EMI effects

- Five jets on patrol – unclear if all, or only one, suffered electromagnetic interference [‘EMI’] effects. Text indicates other pilots described object but only one pilot described EMI effects.
- Prior to sighting, aircraft electrical system malfunctioned and both communications and navigation systems failed
- Instruments ‘returned to normal’ after descent, but then radio ‘began to jam’ and comm became noisy, while radio compass gave anomalous direction
- Report says pilot descended to 500 meters, then climbed to 6,000 to 7,000 meters during incident – suspect ‘500’ is typo for ‘5,000’
- CASE INCLUDED IN NASA’S RICHARD HAINES’ SPECIAL STUDY OF EMI EFFECTS ASSOCIATED WITH UFO PROXIMITY

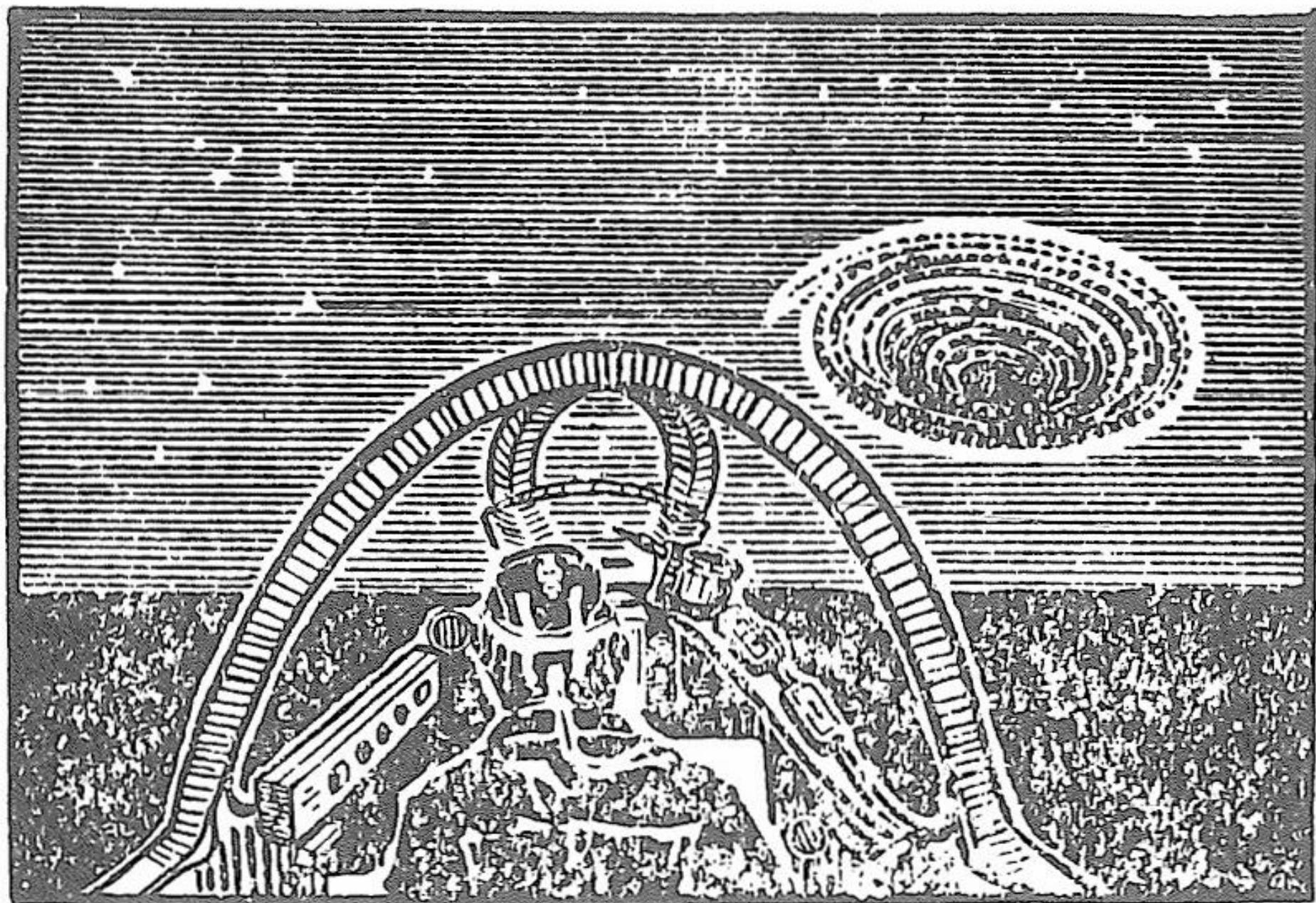
A Preliminary Study of Sixty Four Pilot Sighting Reports Involving Alleged Electromagnetic Effects on Aircraft Systems

- **Richard F. Haines and Dominique F. Weinstein // May 15, 2001**
- This preliminary report presents the findings of a comprehensive review of over fifty years of pilot reports in which permanent or transient electromagnetic (EM) effects occurred on in-flight aircraft systems allegedly as a direct or indirect result of the relatively near presence of one or more unidentified aerial phenomena (UAP).... These findings are potentially important and deserve further in-depth study and confirmation by obtaining additional high quality aviation reports

- **Case 49 June 18, 1982 21:57**
- **Gong Heui area, Hubei, China (44°20 N / 114°31 E)**

- These cases involve one or more on-board systems (navigation, guidance and control equipment, cockpit displays, circuit breakers, other electro-magnetically controlled systems) were influenced allegedly when one or more UAP were physically near the aircraft. Clearly, it is both the physical proximity of the UAP as well as the transient nature of these E-M effects that make them so interesting. If it can be shown that there is a direct, range-related influence of UAP on cockpit (and other) on-board systems then the application of traditional laws of physics is appropriate. And, if these effects last only as long as the UAP is near the aircraft and return to normal function after the UAP departs, it suggests that they are caused directly by the UAP and are not random or unrelated energy interactions within the airborne system(s)

- <http://narcap.org/reports/emcarm.htm>



Haines -- Military jets in Gong Heui area, Hubei, China 21:57 GMT.

Five Chinese Air Force pilots were on patrol over north China's military frontier. Jet fighter's electrical systems malfunctioned; communications and navigation systems failed. Suddenly a pilot encountered a UFO of a milky yellowish-green luminous color, about the size of the full moon.

The object grew larger and picked up speed, at which point it looked "as big as a mountain of mist", then black spots were seen in the interior of the phenomenon. One pilot stated in his report : "When I first saw the object, it flew toward me at a high rate of speed as it whirled rapidly. While it was rotating it generated rings of light. In the center of the light ring was fire. In 10 seconds the center of the ring exploded, then the body of the object expanded rapidly."

The planes were forced to return to base because of equipment failures. The other 4 pilots also prepared reports. It is not known if gun-camera film was taken.

After 30 seconds, the beam of light disappeared completely and was replaced by a yellow sphere with clear edges. This sphere climbed rapidly and increased its size and brightness.

The instruments returned to normal when the pilot descended to 500 meters altitude. At 22:01, one of the pilots arrived to his first turn at Cong Huei. Then after he flew for 3 mn toward his second step his radio began to jam, loud noises in the receiver, as if rain clouds and thunderstorm were in front of him, and the voice of the control tower operator became less audible. The radio compass instead of giving the direction of the tracking station direction gave a direction 30° on his right.

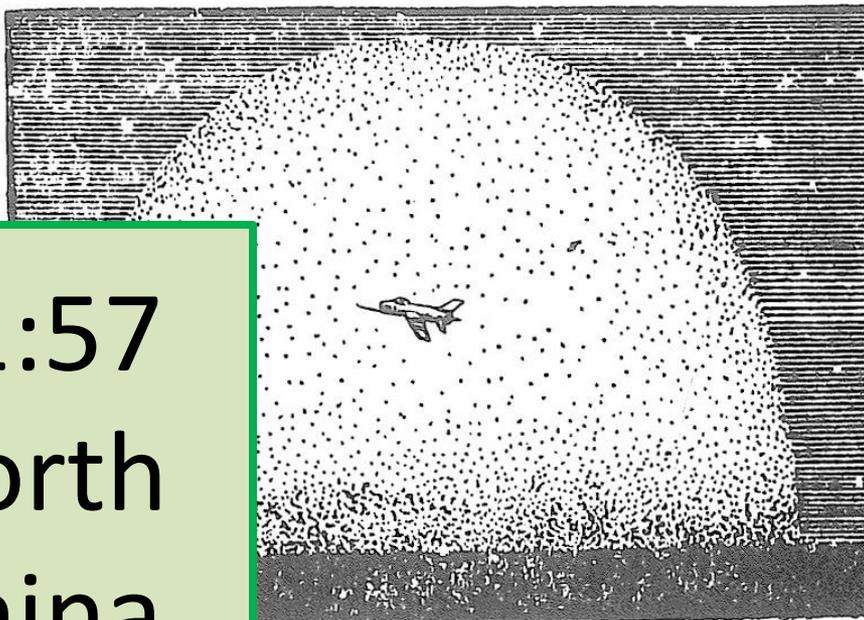
He climbed to 6,000 then 7,000 meters, then he flew horizontally, but the unusual noises continued to be heard in the receivers and the radio compass was still indicating a wrong direction 30° right.

The pilot saw a bright object above the horizon and very quickly this object became a beam of yellow light similar to a car headlight and was directed vertically toward the ground, in the same direction indicated by the radio compass.

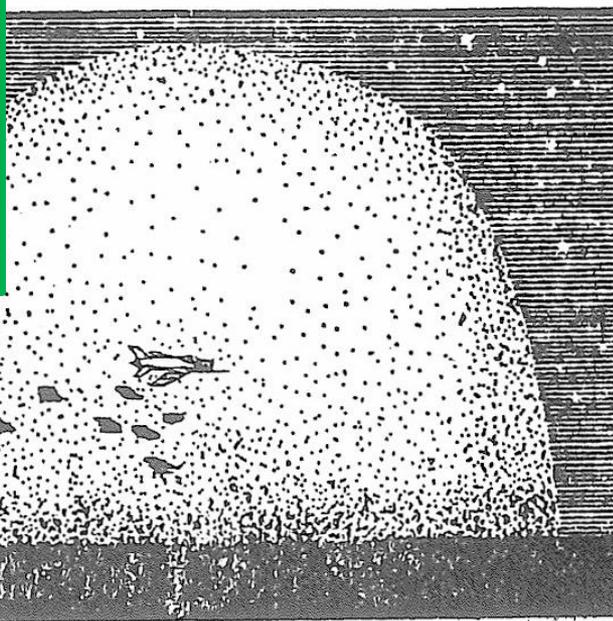
The Journal of UFO research published a report of an aerial encounter with a UFO by pilots of the Chinese Air Force. A group of 5 jet fighter aircraft were on air patrol over North China when, at about 21:57, their aircraft electrical power systems began to malfunction and their communications and navigational systems failed. Suddenly they encountered an unidentified flying object of a milky yellowish-green luminous color, and about the size of a full moon. It was first seen as an oval nebulous glow in the sky. They were forced to return to base because of the equipment failures. The object enlarged in size and picked up speed. It began to look as big as a mountain of mist. Then black spots were seen in the interior of the phenomenon. One pilot said in his report, "When I first saw the object, it flew toward me at a high rate of speed as it whirled rapidly. While it was rotating it generated rings of light. In the center of the light ring was fire. In ten seconds the center of the ring exploded, then the body of the object expanded rapidly." The other 4 pilots also wrote reports of the experience, which were published in the first issue of The Journal Of UFO Research with sketches on pages 10 and 11 as shown.

DONG/STEVENS

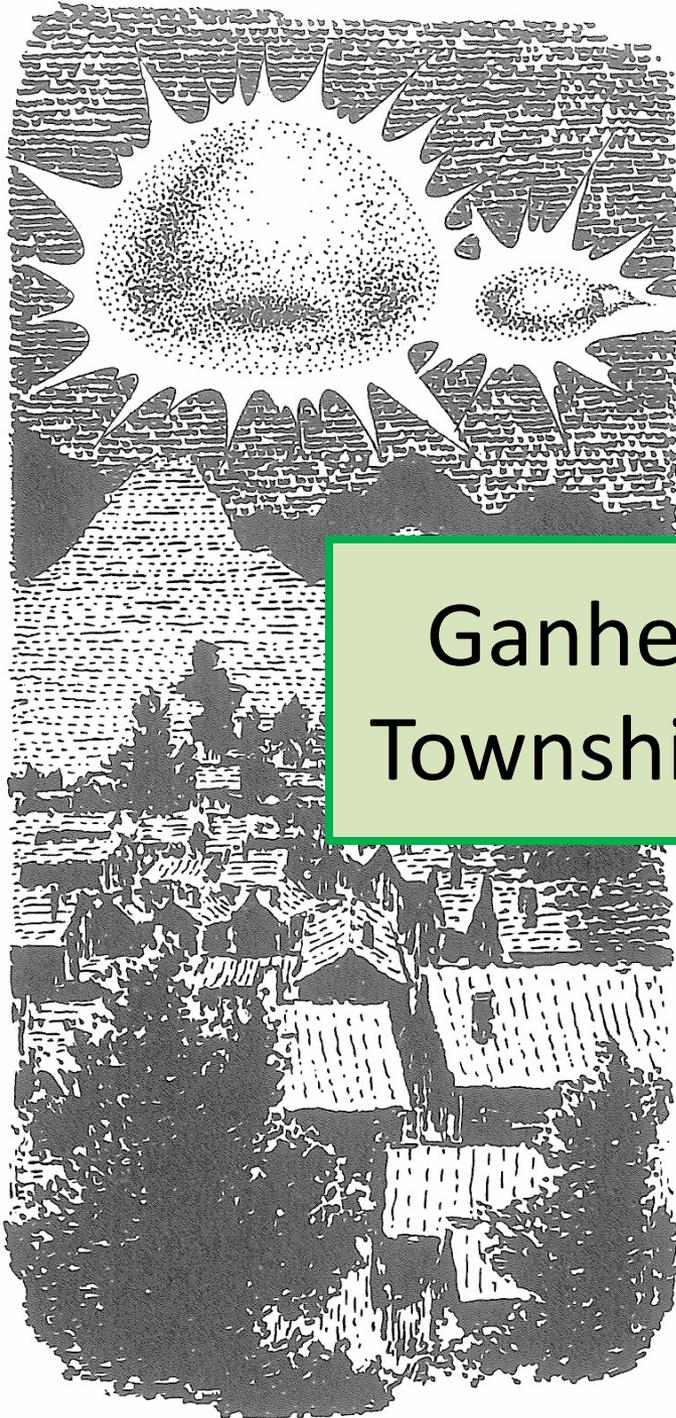
后一切都很顺利，最后一批



6



7



Ganhe Township

21:57
North
China
Military
Frontier

，方向如此特殊？在很“怪云”指挥台下发展下，他们指挥！这不，情突然准备近

Observation times by all witnesses

- Beian [Heilongjiang] 10 pm local ["Jun 17"]
- Ganhe [Xinganling mtns] 9:10 local
- Military jets 21:57 ++
- Manzhouli 22:05
- Bishui forest preserve 10:10 pm
- Lilong about 10 PM
- Urgihan forest 10:07 pm
- Changkong 10:53 PM
- Kangping, Liaoning 10:15 PM
- Xinganling 10:05 PM
- Japan Airlines 403 & 451 "about midnight [Tokyo]"
- Sakhalin & Amur "2 AM local"

Conversion of China local time to GMT

- Originally, I thought that conversion of local time to GMT would be far more complex than just looking up ‘world time zones’ on Wikipedia. Although currently Beijing is GMT + 8, the use of ‘Summer Time’ in northern provinces in the early 1980s was poorly documented, as was use of ‘Harbin Time’ [GMT + 8 ½] in the same period. This would be crucial to identifying candidate solutions.
- See discussion <http://mm.icann.org/pipermail/tz/2014-July/021100.html>
- *Chen Lan, editor, China Space News [Apr 21, 2016 email]:* “This is actually an interesting issue. I have traveled to many cities in China including Urumqi and Harbin. I have never know different time zones used there rather than Beijing Time. So I did a research as well – based on Chinese language materials.
- “Now I can confirm that China uses a single standard time, the GMT+8 Beijing Time, since 1949 when PRC is established, except for two cases. One is the GMT+9 “Summer Time” from 1986 to 1991. In these years, the Summer Time starts from mid of April to mid of September and is effective in the whole country. Another exception is the Urumqi Time (Xinjiang time) that is now official though most Han Chinese (as a result most govt bodies and companies) there still use Beijing Time.
- “In Harbin, the GMT+8.5 local time (Changbai Time Zone, one of five time zones before 1949) is no longer used after 1949, though ROC in Taiwan still used the five time zone system for some years after 1949.
- “So, I believe that “local time” mentioned in all witness reports are Beijing Time (including Summer Time), unless it is explicitly indicated as the “astronomical local time”- that’s another story.

Ground Eyewitness Reports

- Mainly from Dong/Stevens book [full text provided in appendix]
- Caution needed in taking translations too literally.
- Range and size omitted in summaries as notoriously unreliable
- Colors also omitted due to low light level
- Fidelity of artist concepts unknown, but 'vegetable analogies' suggestive
- Other reports on that date in central & southern China have uncertain connection with this event
- Subsequent discovery of related reports from Japan and east Siberian Maritimes; further search goes on

Eyewitness summaries - 1

- Ganhe [Inner Mongolia] – Two huge luminous objects, the bigger in the shape of a radiating ball, stationary in the air. The other was smaller, brighter, ellipsoid in shape, with a revolving lustrous train of light, like “a red turnip with tilting tail”. It lasted 40 minutes, vanished, ten minutes later came back for another hour.
- Dongcheng – A moon-like circular object in the northeast. It rose straight up, and in one minute shot out of sight.

Eyewitness summaries -2

- Manzhouli [on Soviet border] – Red light shot up like stream of crimson sparks, followed by two balls of light. A dazzling white star flew out from one, and discharged a fast swirling circle of light, which grew larger. The radiant star moved east, projecting a fan-like light in the direction of its movement. Duration five minutes.
- Urgihan – A red light behind the mountain in the north. A luminous plate rose up and ejected a puff of radiant cloud. It whipped past us, gave off a revolving ball of smoke that remained an hour.

Eyewitness summaries -3

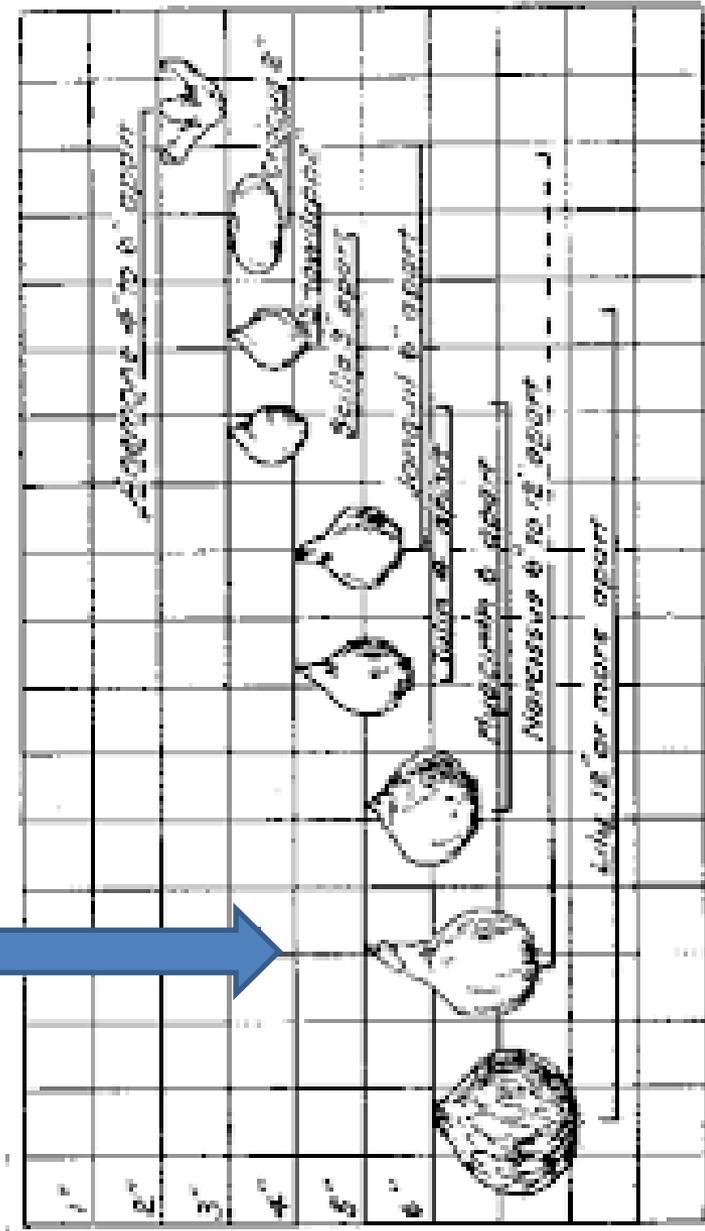
- Bishui – A beam of light shot up, turned into a spiral and coiled three or four times with a buzzing sound. A plate-like object emitted a trail of blue light and flew northeast and disappeared in seven minutes. Others said it lasted an hour.
- Kangping [Liaoning province] – “Ring of light” north of city, bottom seemed to touch the Earth. It sailed west to east in three minutes.

Eyewitness summaries - 4

- Beian – In northwest a luminous sphere, sailing eastwards, slightly slower than a satellite. Encircled by some gas, a hazy periphery. Halted in northeast, then vanished leaving “a ring of gas” which dispersed in all directions. Duration seven to eight minutes.
- [Note: Date given as June 17 but item states “similar reports came in from all across the region” which suggests this case, like the others, was June 18, but different date is a memory or transcription error. Illustration claims ‘June 14’]

Additional ground report

- 18 June 1982 22:05 - Great Xinganling Prefecture, China -
- **Mist.** Viewed through 5x binoculars. Radiant object flew upward, **spewing white glowing vapor.** Periphery of UFO gave off bluish-green light, had portholes underneath. [Moved] to the south, **changed shape to bulb.** No sound.
- What is a “bulb shape?”



<http://thecid.com/ufo/chrono/chrono/1982.htm>

Japan Airlines Report

"A large glowing globe of light sitting just beyond the horizon and extending well above it."

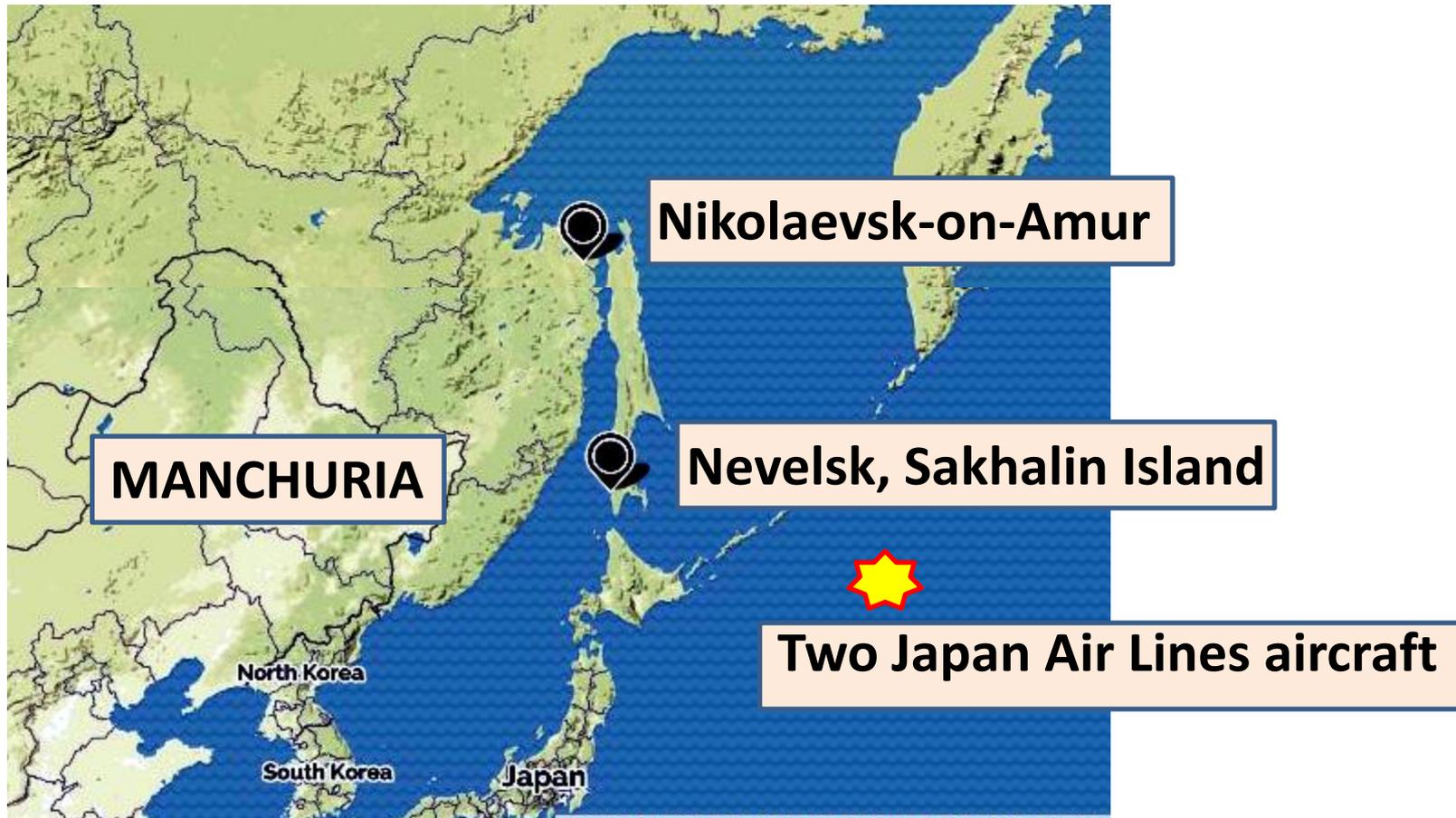
.. The diameter of the ball was estimated as at least 18-27 km

Asahi Evening News, Tokyo, June 22, 1982

On June 18, 1982, pilots and crews of Japan Air Lines Flights 403 and 421 reported sighting a giant, expanding globe of light in the North Pacific, 42N, 153E. No time/azimuth specified.

- <http://thecid.com/ufo/chrono/chrono/1982.htm>
- 18 June 1982 "Around midnight" - Hokkaido E, Pacific – ISSUE UNDER INVESTIGATION

Russian ufologist Mikhail Gershtein shares accounts of two apparently simultaneous Siberian sightings



June 19, 1982 -- Nevelsk, Sakhalin Island

[contemporary letter from witness Sergey Bulgakov]

- “It was a dark starry night. ...About 2 o'clock in the morning a car with [fishery] inspectors stopped for the night to the east of the village of Lovetskaya, about 2 km away. from the sea... -
- “Over the hills a hemisphere glowed, in shape like a rising moon, however, of such large size that it seemed as if some planet was approaching Earth. This hemisphere glowed a dull light, like the color of the cloudy day sky. Between the sky darkness and the luminous celestial globe ran a clear boundary. The ball didn't emit light. It was like a huge bright paper circle superimposed on the dark sky.
- “When the shock of the first impression passed, we all saw that the ball is slowly growing, however, most intensely it grew higher and to the right, that is, to the north. The more the mysterious ‘Moon’ ascended, the whiter became its light, and in the center, over the hills, the stars began to be viewed. Finally the hemisphere took the entire sky and the glow disappeared, as if it dissolved in the bottomless blackness. All this happened within 35-40 minutes.” .

June 19, 1982 –Amur River, Siberia

- “The crew of the aircraft AN-26, located at that time in Nikolaevsk-on-Amur, saw the same phenomenon. According to the story of radio operator G. Obukhov., their crew at about 2 o'clock in the morning refueled the plane and suddenly they all saw a bright point, which grew rapidly, as if approaching, until in the end it practically repeated the same thing we saw in Nevelsk in Sakhalin region.”
- Second-hand report in letter from Sergey Bulgakov [Булгаков Сергей Фролович], Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk [Южно-Сахалинск], Sakhalin Island, Russia
- Mikhail Gershtein [email April 24, 2016] -- I did not save other letters or pictures from eyewitnesses, because it was clearly not a true UFO, but only a launch. I even did not know that somebody will be interested in misidentifications as well.

Ganhe [Inner Mongolia]
like “a red turnip with
tilting tail”. Is this a clue
of a nearby launch?



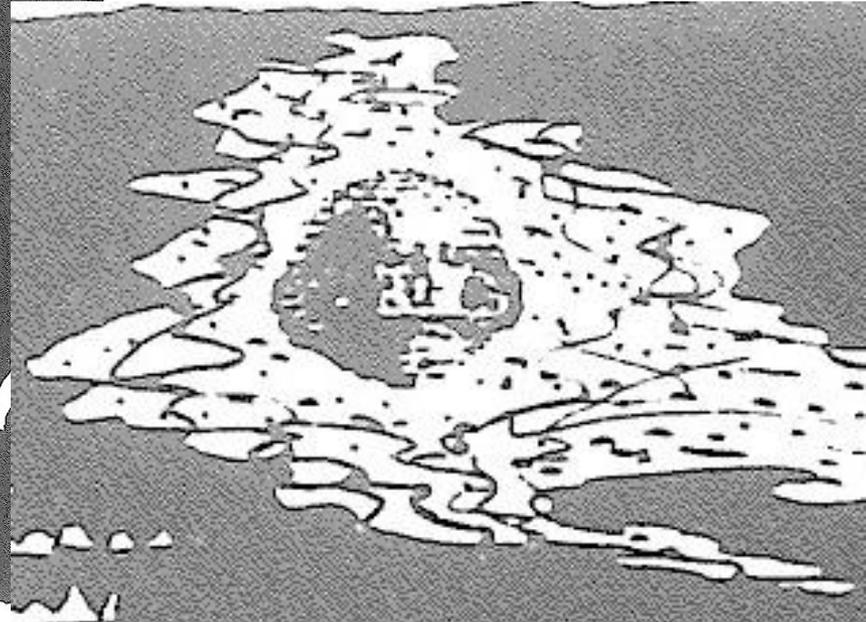
[above] Soyuz booster
ascent plume
[left] Chinese turnip

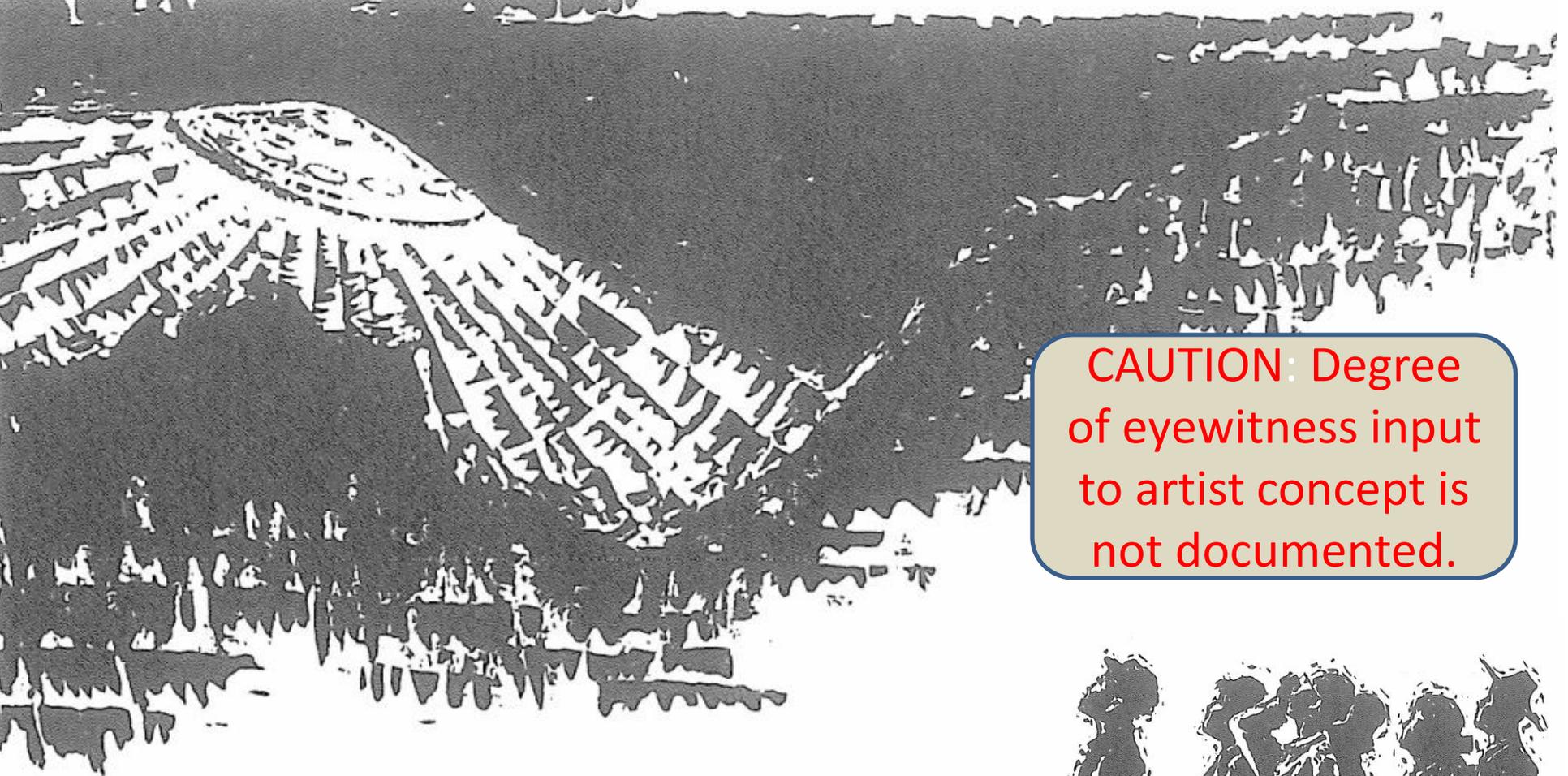
http://www.sgvegetables.com/media/catalog/product/cache/1/image/82050b5465722d00cf53705798f060cf/i/m/img_2923.jpg

14 June 1982, 22:00,
Beian County,
Heilongjian Province

CAUTION: Degree
of eyewitness input
to artist concept is
not documented.

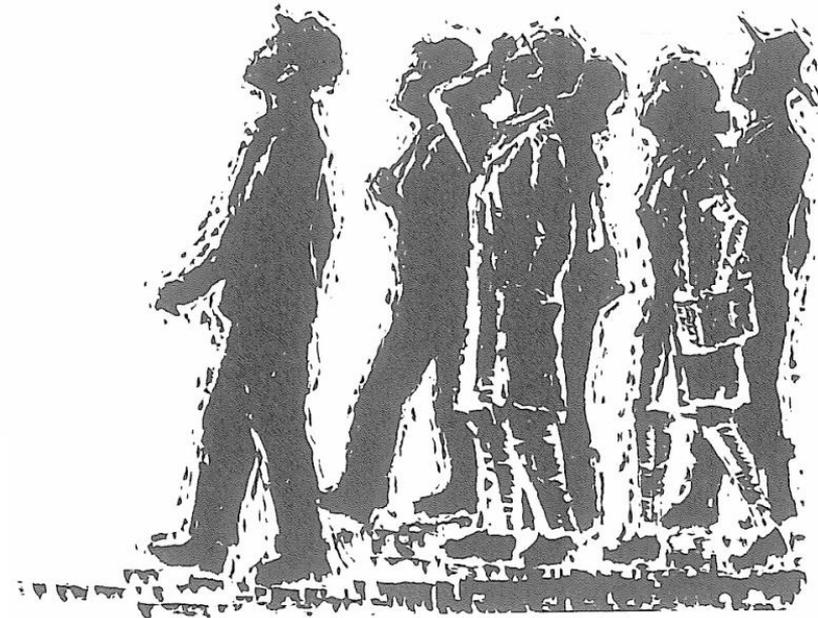
NARROWED TRAIL IS
CLASSIC INDICATOR OF
ROCKET JUST LEAVING
LOWER ATMOSPHERE

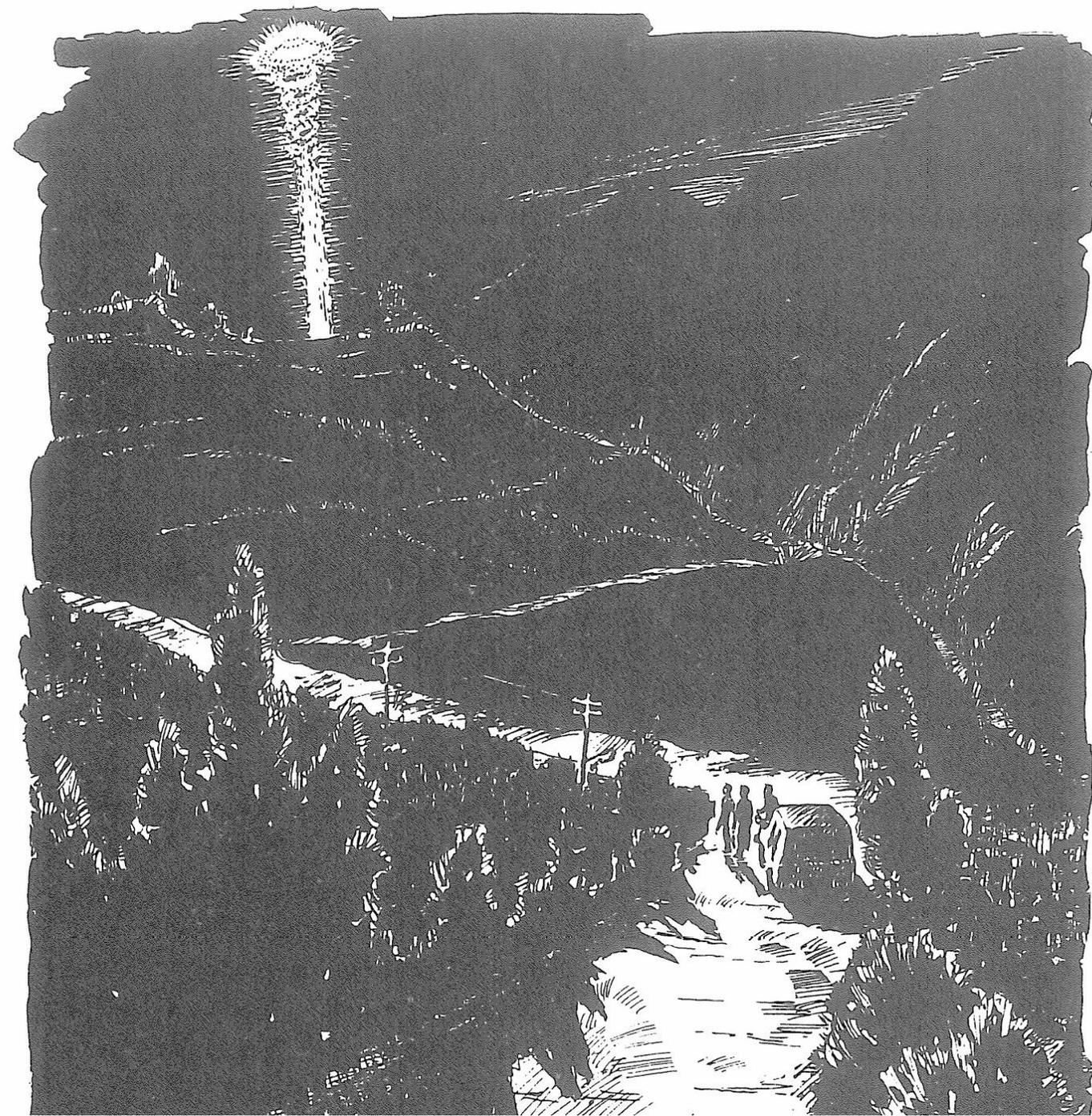




CAUTION: Degree of eyewitness input to artist concept is not documented.

22:12
Urgihan
Forestry
Center





18 June
22:10
15 li
from
Bishui
Forestry
Center

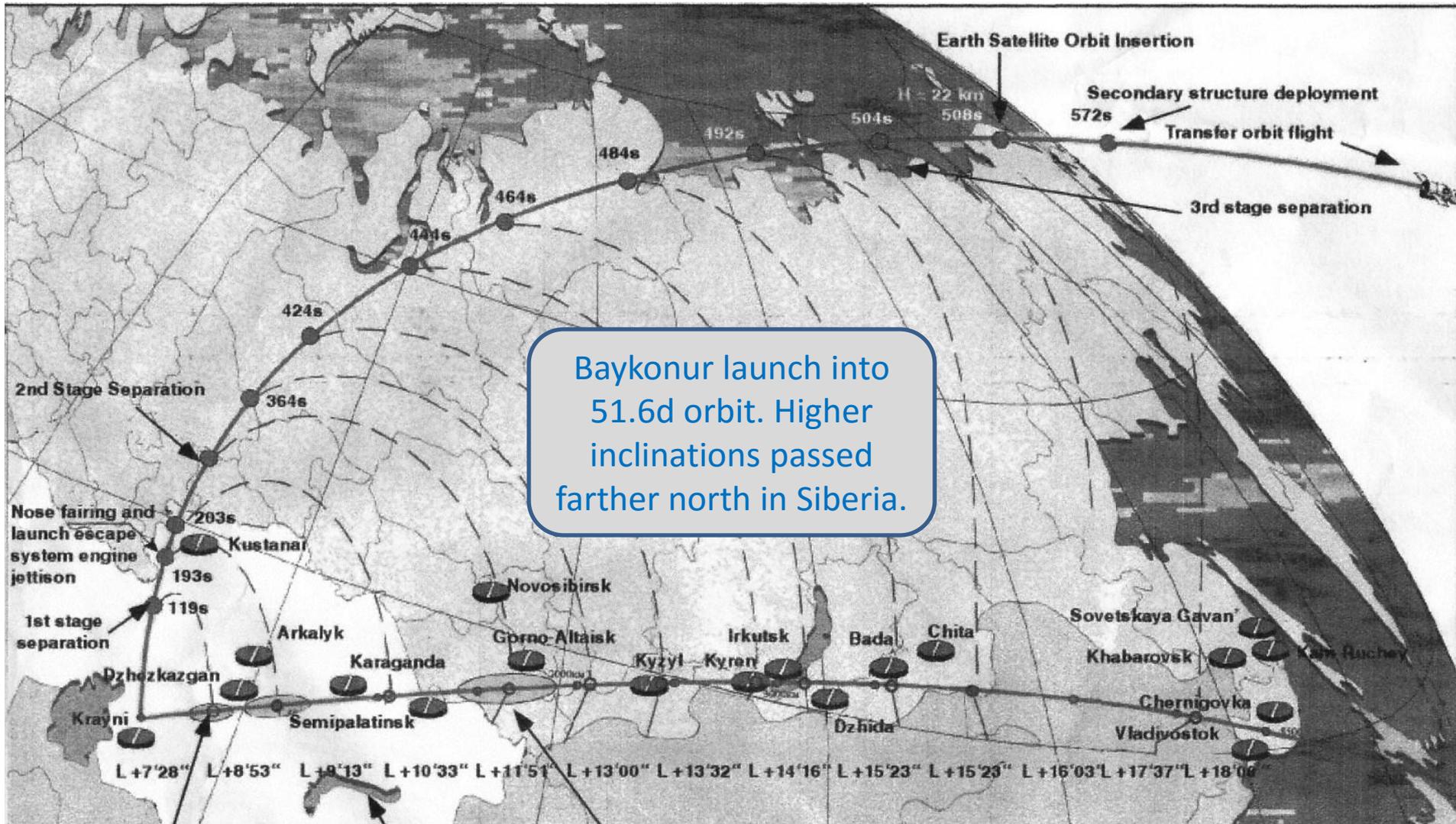
Similar previous perceptions

- Eyewitness reports on Trident ICBM launch
http://satobs.org/seesat_ref/misc/misperceiving_missiles.pdf
- Observations of Baykonur Soyuz launch
http://satobs.org/seesat_ref/misc/Soyuz_launch_4.pdf
- Plesetsk launch observed from ISS
http://www.jamesoberg.com/ISS_crew_spots_second_russian_rocket_rev_c.pdf
- In-space thrusting observed from ground
http://satobs.org/seesat_ref/misc/KYSS-12.pdf

What do descriptions remind us of?

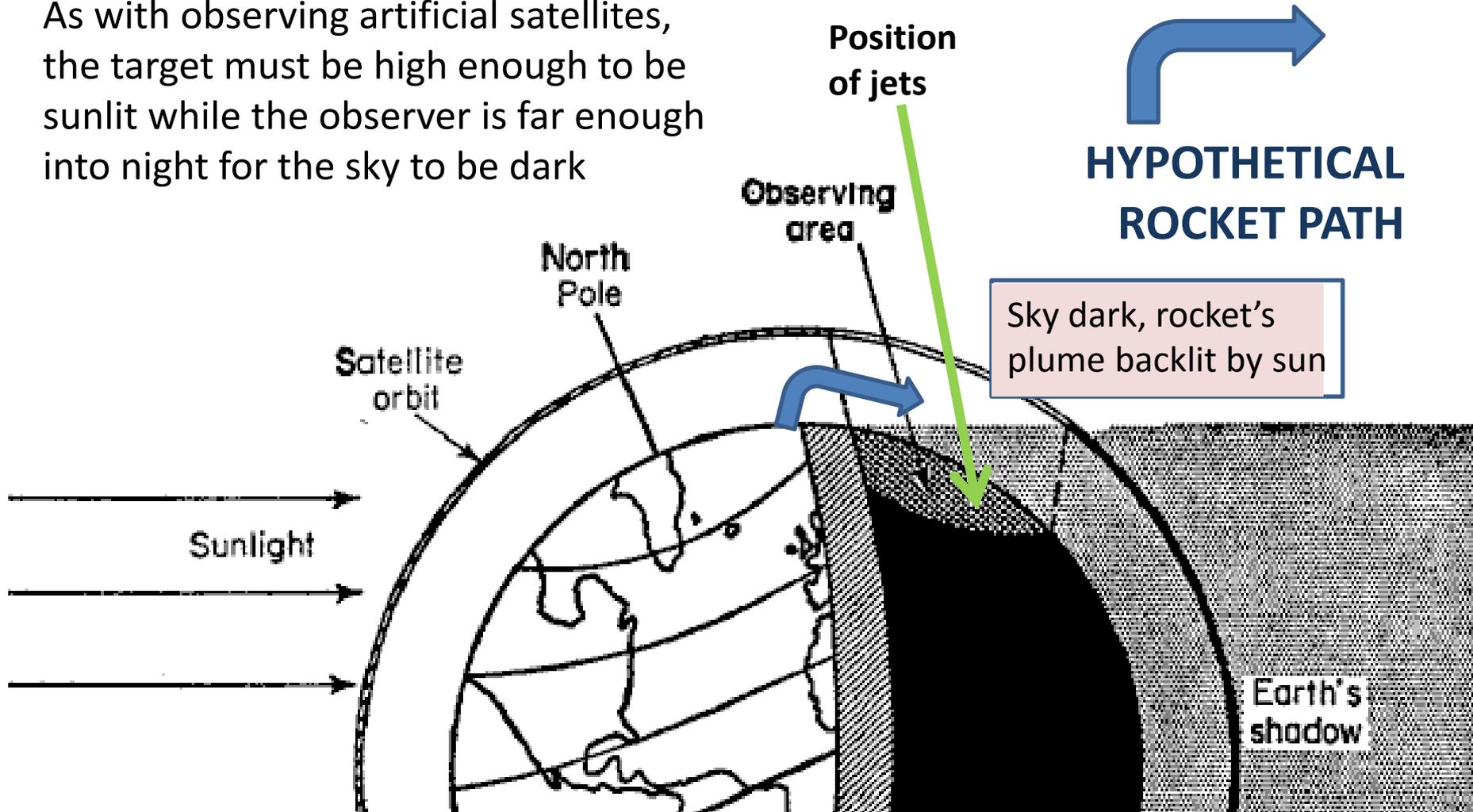
- Numerous descriptors remind us of similar analogies with other known rocket launches and on-orbit propulsive events
- Multiple references to gaseous hazy nature of objects and rapid circular expansion
- Spiral shape and expanding ring are classic descriptors from generic rocket and missile launches and orbital thrusting/venting
- Conflicting descriptions from different witnesses to [presumably] same event underscore high level of perceptual and mnemonic dispersion

Typical booster ascent profile [exaggerated vertical scale]



Evening twilight visibility of space plume

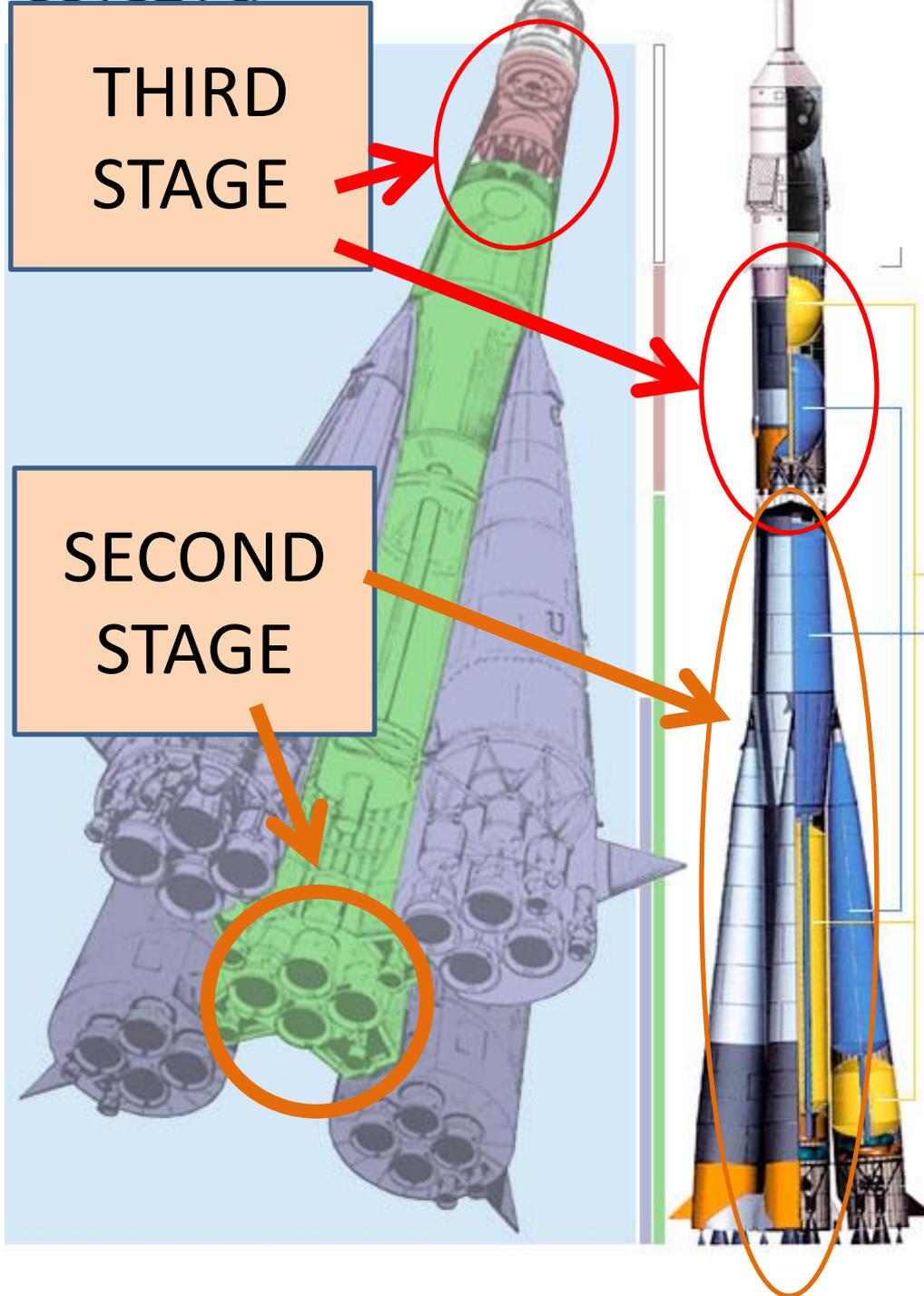
As with observing artificial satellites, the target must be high enough to be sunlit while the observer is far enough into night for the sky to be dark



THIRD
STAGE

SECOND
STAGE

If launch, what might
have been seen?
4 engines of stage-2, 3



Examples of engine plume

- 1
- 2
- 3



“COMMA CLOUD” FEATURE

Soyuz-TMA-M (Baykonur, 2015) [left, right] ISS view & Novokuznetsk
Soyuz-GLONASS (Plesetsk, 2013) [left, right] ISS view & Omsk view



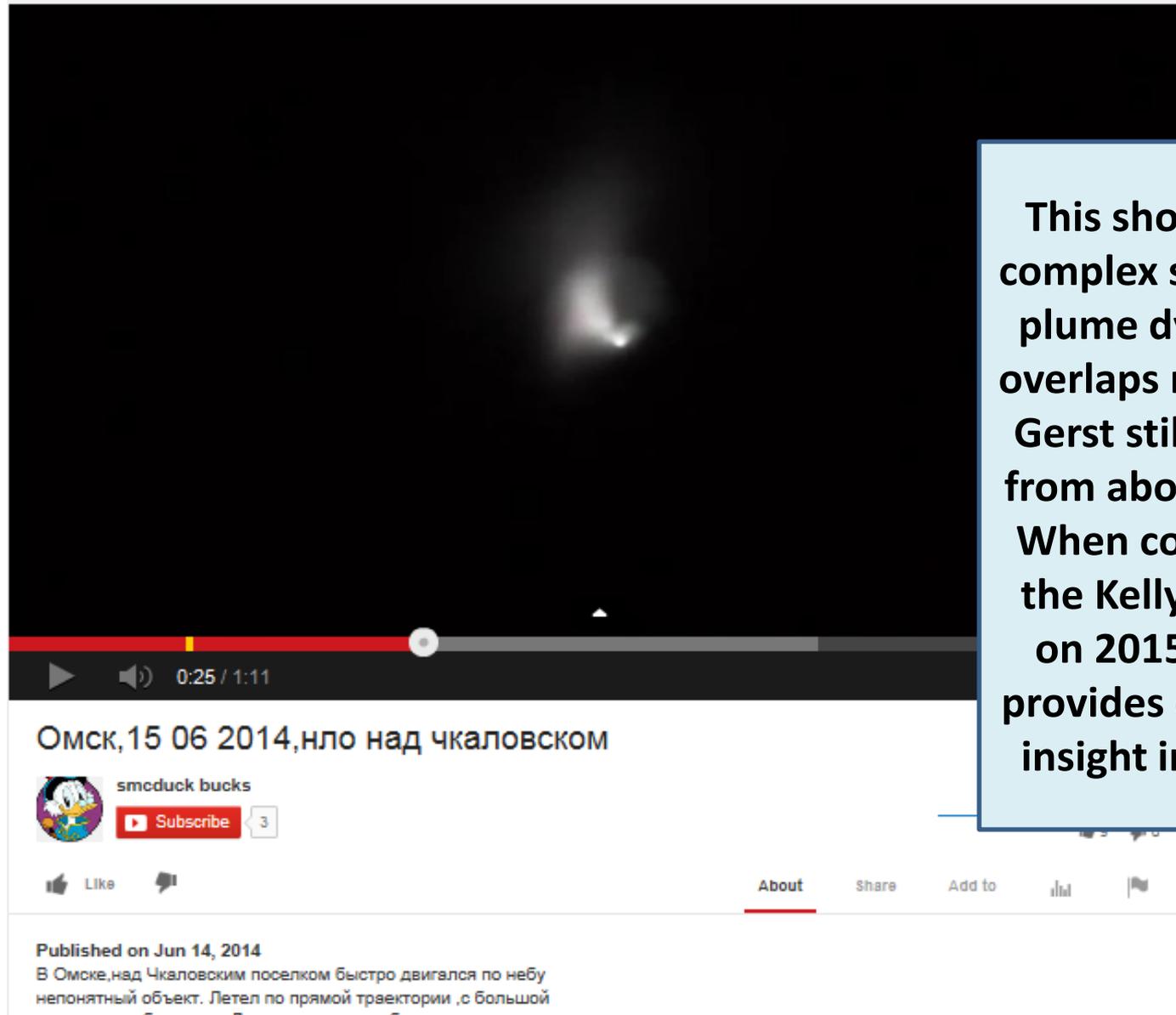
[Kourou, 2014]



All four similarly shaped and rotating clouds observed to form just 5 seconds after Soyuz launch vehicle third stage shutdown

Shape is connected with separation thrusting from fuel venting.

2014 June 15 Plesetsk Soyuz GROUND view



Омск, 15 06 2014, нло над чкаловском

smoduck bucks

Subscribe 3

Like

About Share Add to

Published on Jun 14, 2014

В Омске, над Чкаловским поселком быстро двигался по небу непонятный объект. Летел по прямой траектории, с большой

This shows a **VERY** complex sequence of plume dynamics. It overlaps much of the Gerst still sequence from aboard the ISS. When compared to the Kelly sequence on 2015 Dec 15 it provides even **MORE** insight into plume.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wfpXJliQCU0>

Rocket Hypothesis

- Rich literature of witness misperceptions of launches in previous decades leading to spectacular 'UFO reports'
- Consistent pattern of inability of most UFO researchers to recognize and accept such prosaic explanations
- Direction, motion, and timing first suggested a Baykonur launch
- Specific rare illumination conditions [dark observation point, sun backlighting of object] met restrictive criteria of past observations
- Reported shapes were reminiscent of known launch observations
- Specific analogies [eg 'turnip' and 'cucumber' and 'bulb'] were seductively suggestive of actual previous launch images [tapered tale is feature of atmospheric plume below ~100 km]
- Preliminary back-of-the-envelope trajectories suggested low but plausible pass across northern horizon -- erroneously
- Uncertainty over where engine thrusting would be terminated led to convenient assumptions of duration

Candidate rocket event

- 1982-062 1982 Jun 18 1300 gmt
- 1982-062A Kosmos-1381 Zenit-6
- S13283 Soyuz-U 77049 -434
- NIIP-5 LC31 S AK15/RAEX
- 70.3 ° 360 - 451 km 92.6 m

- <http://www.planet4589.org/space/log/launchlog.txt>

Trajectory passes within sight of major cities in Siberia, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, etc.

-- WHEN PLUME IS SUNLIT AND GROUND DARK, HIGHLY VISIBLE --



**China witness reference to seeing ‘headlights’
on UFO ‘rings a bell’ with other rocket descriptions
[E.G., June 15, 2014 ‘Soyuz’ booster from Plesetsk]**

Website comments skeptical it was a rocket

- “What kind of missile during flight illuminates their way?”
- Da Ka [] – “I saw it spinning in clouds, shining like headlights.”
- Nikolay Fokin – “Where have you seen even one missile radiate light in front of it, and revolve around its axis?”

Forward-facing bright fan could be the booster separation thrusting after payload separation

Pattern of repeat sightings

- According to Shin Bo, “Since 1982 the phenomenon has repeated itself almost every year, always in summer, in the same region of the country. ”
- The apparitions appear in the northwest and move eastwards and vanish
- Possible association with Soviet missile/space activity would seem suggestive in some cases [not all such activity has been recorded]
- Satellites launched from Baykonur with Manchuria post-sunset flyovers on
 - 1983 May 26 and August 10
 - 1984 May 28 and Jul 31
 - 1985 May 23 and Jul 19
 - 1986 May 29, Jun 06, Jul 17, Aug 06
 - 1987 Jul 08
 - 1988 May 18, May 19, Jun 11, Jun 22, Aug 23
- In the case of 1988, the apparition was reported on several consecutive evenings at precisely the same time [not clear if any witness saw it multiple times or if single reports were received giving different dates erroneously]

Doubaoshan event

Specific case, 1988: witness Tang Shui Gui, in Doubaoshan, reported that on August 23, 25, and 26, at the same time, in the northwest sky was seen a “shining gourd” inside luminous circles, which lasted about thirty minutes.





Doubaoshan

“shining gourd”



TYPICAL SOYUZ BOOSTER
ASCENT IMAGE FROM SOUTH

ON RECORD: LAUNCH of
Kosmos-1984 from Baykonur
[recesat into 70° low orbit]
1988 Aug 23 1115 gmt

No activity on record for
other dates



SIBERIA [USSR]

LOCAL SUNSET
1144 UT
AZIMUTH 285deg

MONGOLIA

MANCHURIA
[CHINA]

HEILONGJIANG



Rocket launch [top left], Chinese gourds [bottom left]

http://www.123rf.com/photo_19786859_chinese-okra-angled-loofah-ribbed-gourd-ribbed-loofah-luffa-acutangula-fruit-with-10-sharp-angles-us.html

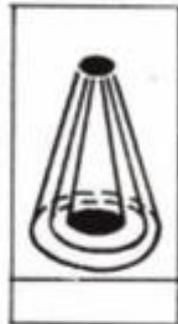
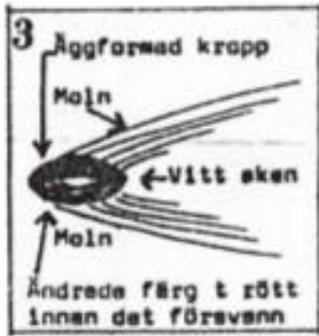
Sweden (left-of-track)

VS Minsk

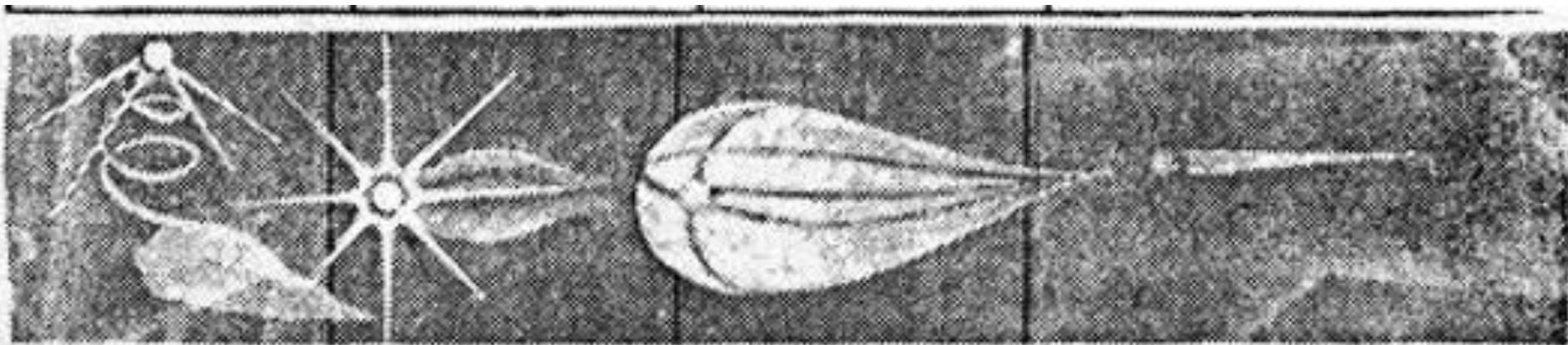
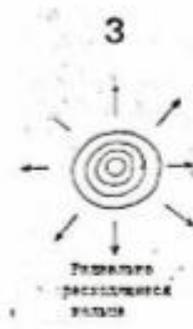
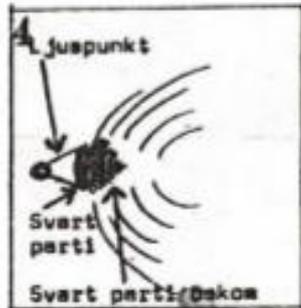
VS

Ufa (right-of-track)

Compare with decades of eyewitness sketches of USSR missiles & rockets



Once main flight phase was visible, parallel appearances are striking



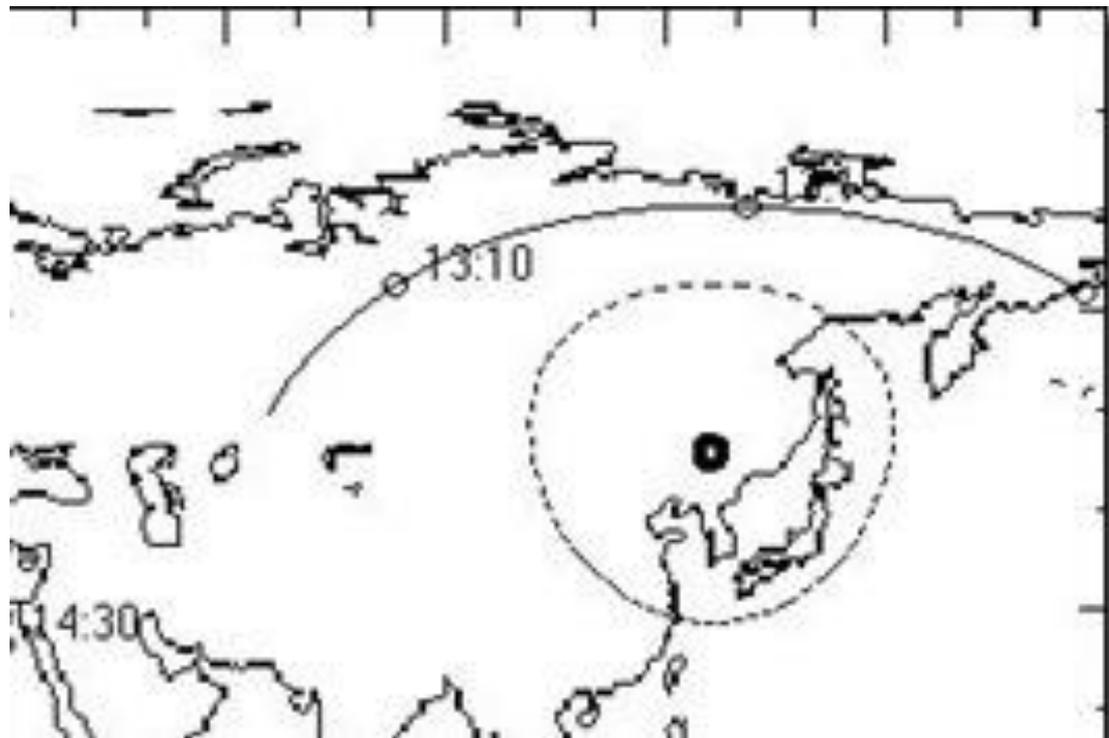
2 октября 1991 года: «Люди в ужасе смотрели в небо, откуда спирально низвергалось пламя».

Brad Sparks objection [2016 April 5]

- “The killer problem with this theory is the fact that the approximately 2,500 to 5,000-mile distance would put the Soviet launch from Baikonur / Tyuratam Cosmodrome ***well below the earth's horizon***. The Kosmos 1381 spy sat was launched into a naturally ***very low earth orbit*** of about 123 x 232 miles to get good pictures, a near-polar orbit of 70 degs inclination, so it didn't come down to Manchuria or the Kamchatka Peninsula but flew into the Arctic Circle before coming down to North America.
- “Again, for the satellite to have been visible at those great distances it would have had to have been launched to a height of around 1,000 to 9,000 miles -- not 200 miles or so.”
- http://www.nicap.org/reports/820618china_report.htm

Sven Grahn confirms – too far north for Manchuria viewing

“I set the horizon mask to 0 degrees and used the initial orbit of Cosmos 1381, which is rather low. Observation post initially Harbin. This is what I got:

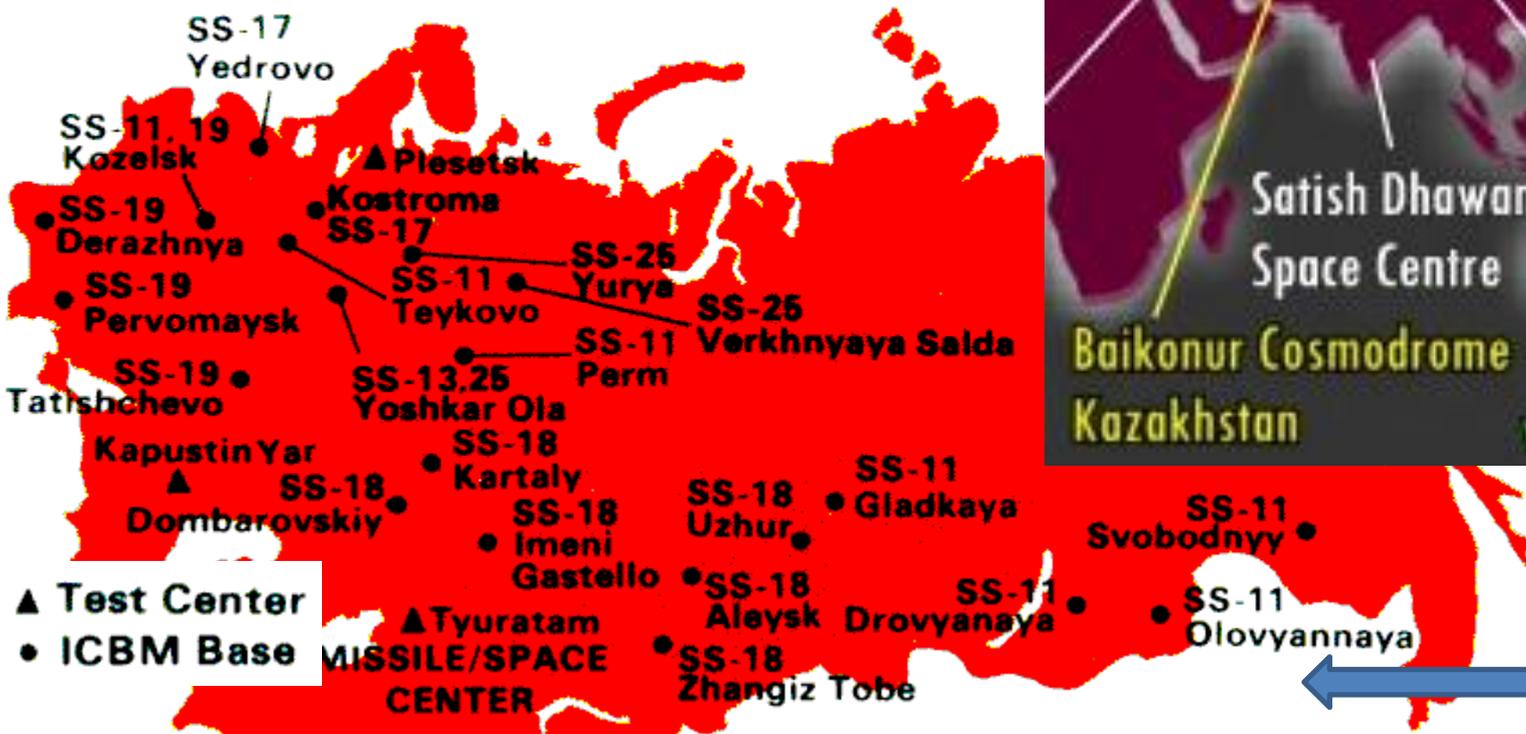


Discussion

- Similarity of three witnesses' vegetable analogies to existing images of launch plume had impressed me – perhaps overmuch.
- Sparks' numerical analysis was approximate but his overall conclusion was sound [and confirmed] – this launch had an alibi
- Track too far north prompted me to wonder if reported inclination was a press release typo [it wasn't], with my plaintive wish expressed the inclination had really been 65° instead of 70°, but was misdocumented. Vain hope? Maybe.
- **NECESSARY RESPONSE -- RESTART THE INQUIRY WITH SEARCH FOR OTHER CANDIDATES, POSSIBLY FROM OTHER LAUNCH SITES**
- Resource: Soviet ICBM launch list [in Russian]
http://kik-sssr.ru/Hronology_ONIS_43.htm
- AND world space launch catalog
<https://sites.google.com/site/anik1982space/>

REVIEW OTHER SPACE/MISSILE LAUNCH SITES

Nuclear Forces-ICBMs



Observing region

http://fas.org:8080/nuke/guide/russia/facility/icbm/icbm_1.gif

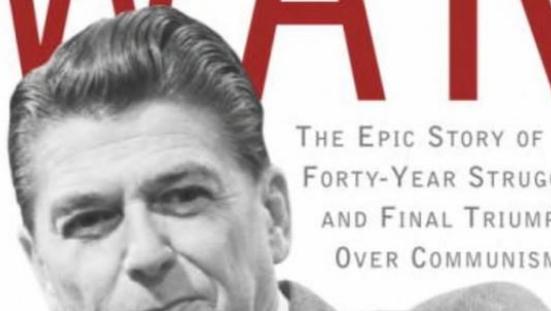
Search and contact queries for “other 1982 ICBM launches” led to key discovery – the date was the same as a massive Soviet missile/space “war game”

- “Pravda ... describes the USSR’s seven-hour exercise on June 18, 1982 as involving the launches of two ground-based UR-100 ICBMs and one RSM-50 (SS-18) SLBM from a nuclear submarine. The UR-100s are said to have been intercepted by two A-350R ABMs, and RSM-50 hit the target in Kura ground in the missile range in the Kamchatka peninsula. An 15ZH45 IRBM (SS-20) is also to have launched from Kapustin Yar ground in southern Russia.
- Pravda notes that the 1982 exercise included three satellites launched within the space of two hours: an IS-P (Kosmos-1379) intercepting satellite, a Zenit-6 (Kosmos-1381) spy satellite from Baikonur Space Center in Kazakhstan, and a Parus navigating satellite from Plesetsk Space Center in the North of Russia. During that exercise, the Kosmos-1379 satellite is said to have successfully intercepted a Lira target simulating a U.S. Transit satellite, the predecessor to the GPS which was then used by the Navy to track enemy missiles.

<http://missilethreat.com/russia-begins-nuclear-war-exercise-rivals-1982-seven-hour-nuclear-war/>

REAGAN'S WAR

THE EPIC STORY OF HIS
FORTY-YEAR STRUGGLE
AND FINAL TRIUMPH
OVER COMMUNISM



What was
happening in
the USSR's
skies on
June 18, 1982

MOSCOW NOW DECIDED TO FLEX ITS MUSCLES IN AN EFFORT TO intimidate Reagan. On the bright morning of June 18, 1982, a Submarine Launched Ballistic Missile (SLBM) burst from the North Sea, flying toward the heavens on a column of fire. Moments later, two ground-based SS-11 ICBMs and an SS-20 missile were launched. It marked the beginning of the most spectacular Soviet military exercise of the Cold War.

The exercise was a simulated all-out first strike against America and Western Europe. Soviet military officials dubbed it the "seven-hour nuclear war" and considered it an opportunity to demonstrate the "might of Soviet troops to the West." Perhaps now, Reagan would be more willing to negotiate and grant concessions, just as his predecessors had been.

As the launched missiles proceeded on their trajectories, they were suddenly intercepted by Soviet ABM-X-3 anti-ballistic missile interceptors. Later in the afternoon, a Soviet rocket placed in orbit a "combat" satellite, which practiced destroying U.S. reconnaissance satellites. The mock war ended with the "devastation" of the United States and Western Europe with nuclear strikes. In all, the simulated war was a powerful display of Soviet nuclear might. Western leaders, including Reagan, anxiously watched, but it was kept secret from the general public.

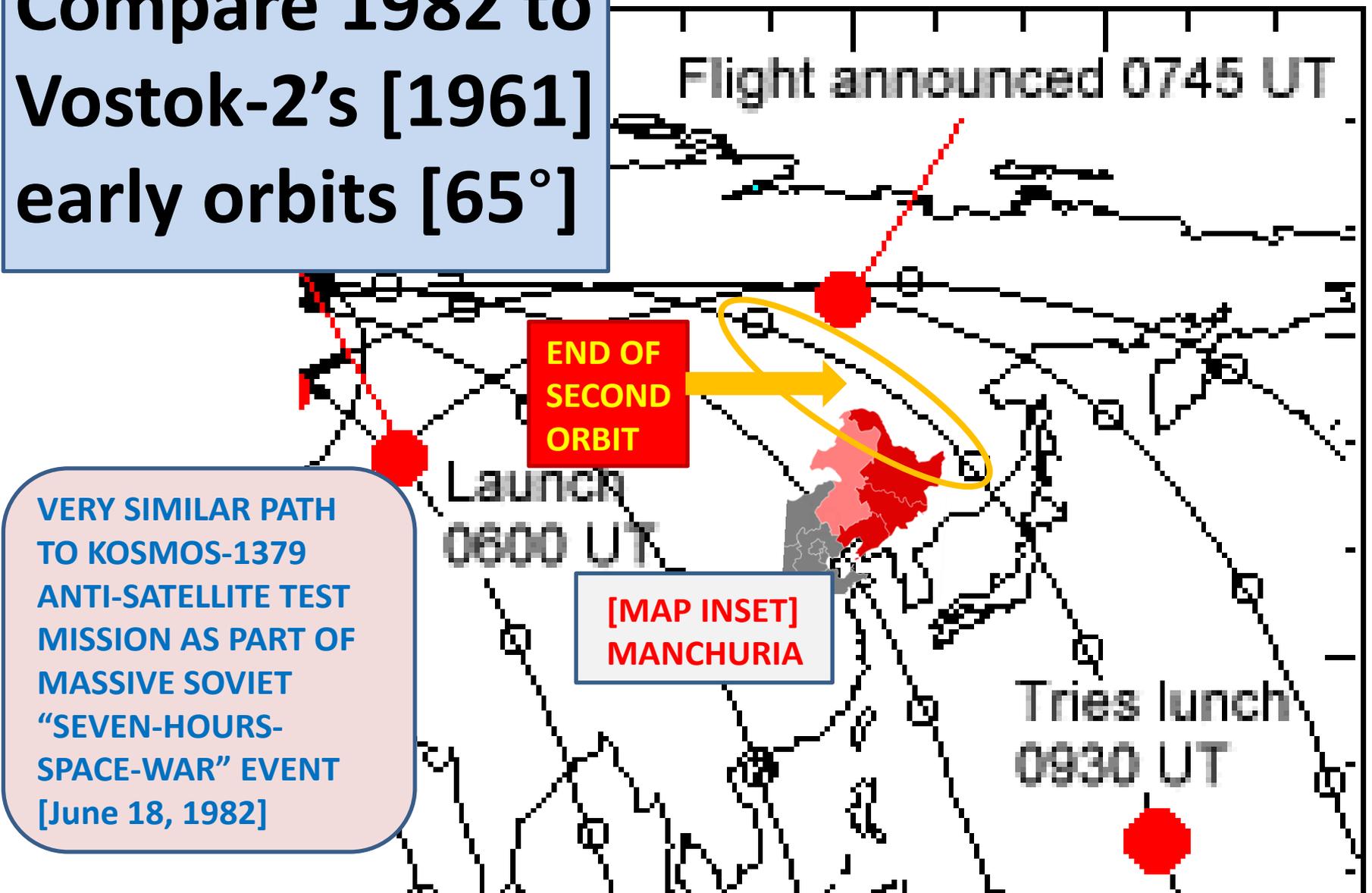
June 18, 1982 Launch Blitz

- None of the ICBM or other missile launches met the clock time and local visibility for the Manchuria witnesses
- Kosmos-1381 had been the 'teaser' but orbital analysis showed it didn't qualify.
- Kosmos-1380 from Plesetsk was too early and on an ascent track nowhere near Manchuria
- Kosmos-1379 had been launched three hours before the sightings [but WAS into a 65° orbit, which I had come to wish for]

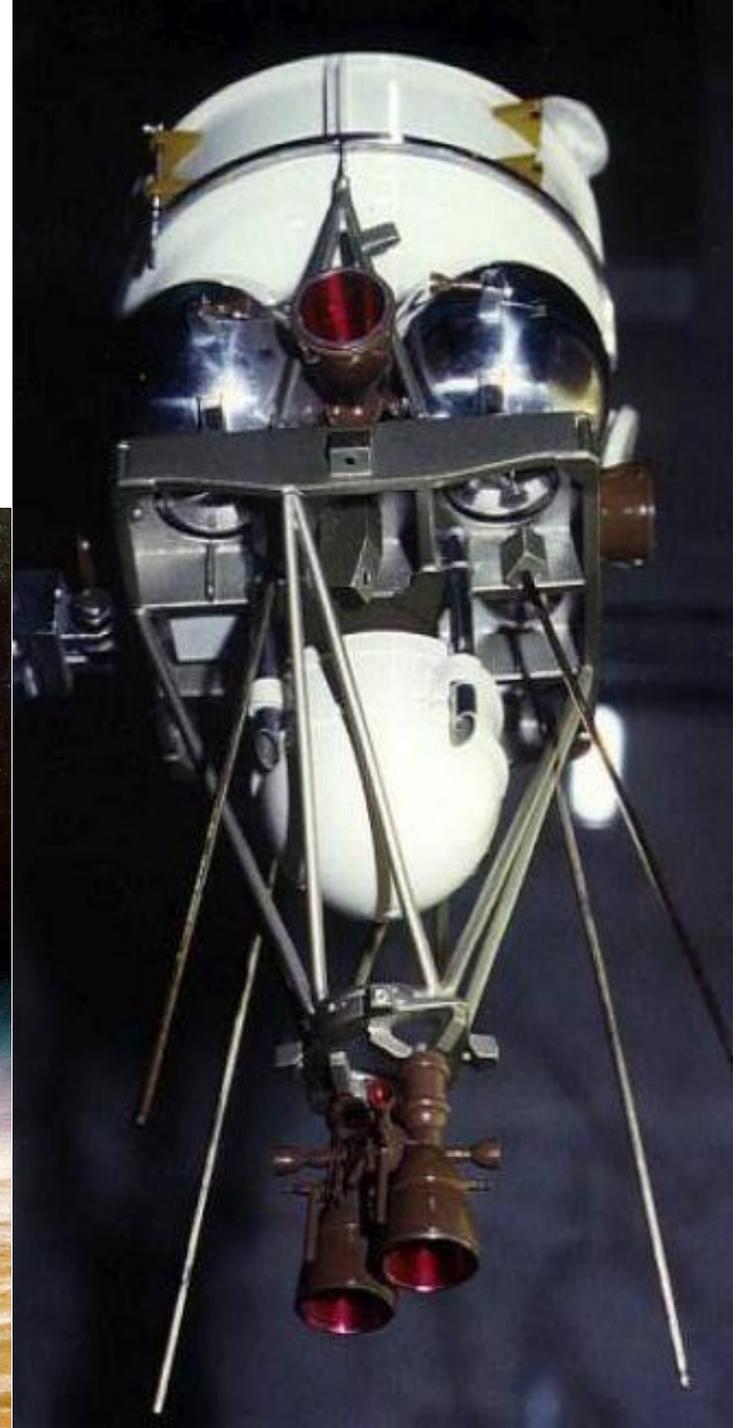
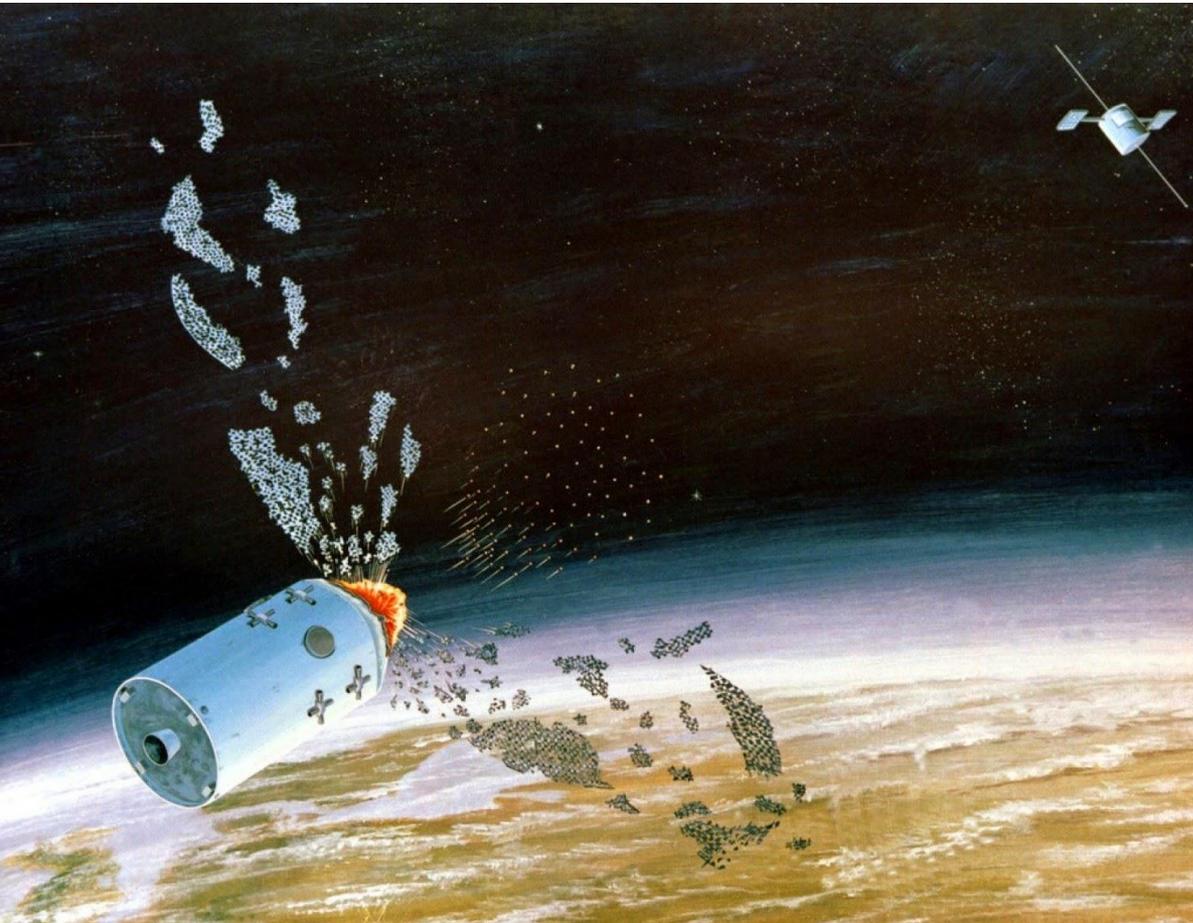
A modern Russian website provided fascinating additional details of the ASAT test

- <http://survinat.com/2012/08/seven-hours-of-nuclear-war/>
- **In** 11:00 4 minutes with the 90th site cosmodrome "Baikonur" launched rocket "Cyclone-2" (11K69), which led to low Earth orbit satellite-interceptor "Kosmos-1379" (EC-II 'Uranus'). At the 2nd circuit, he tried to seize the objective, which played the role of the target satellite "Kosmos-1378" (EC-M 'Lear') [JEO: Sic! Was 1375], to simulate an American navigation satellite type "Transit". Interception was unsuccessful — "Kosmos-1379" failed to approach the target at the right distance and it was blown up, without causing damage to the "enemy."

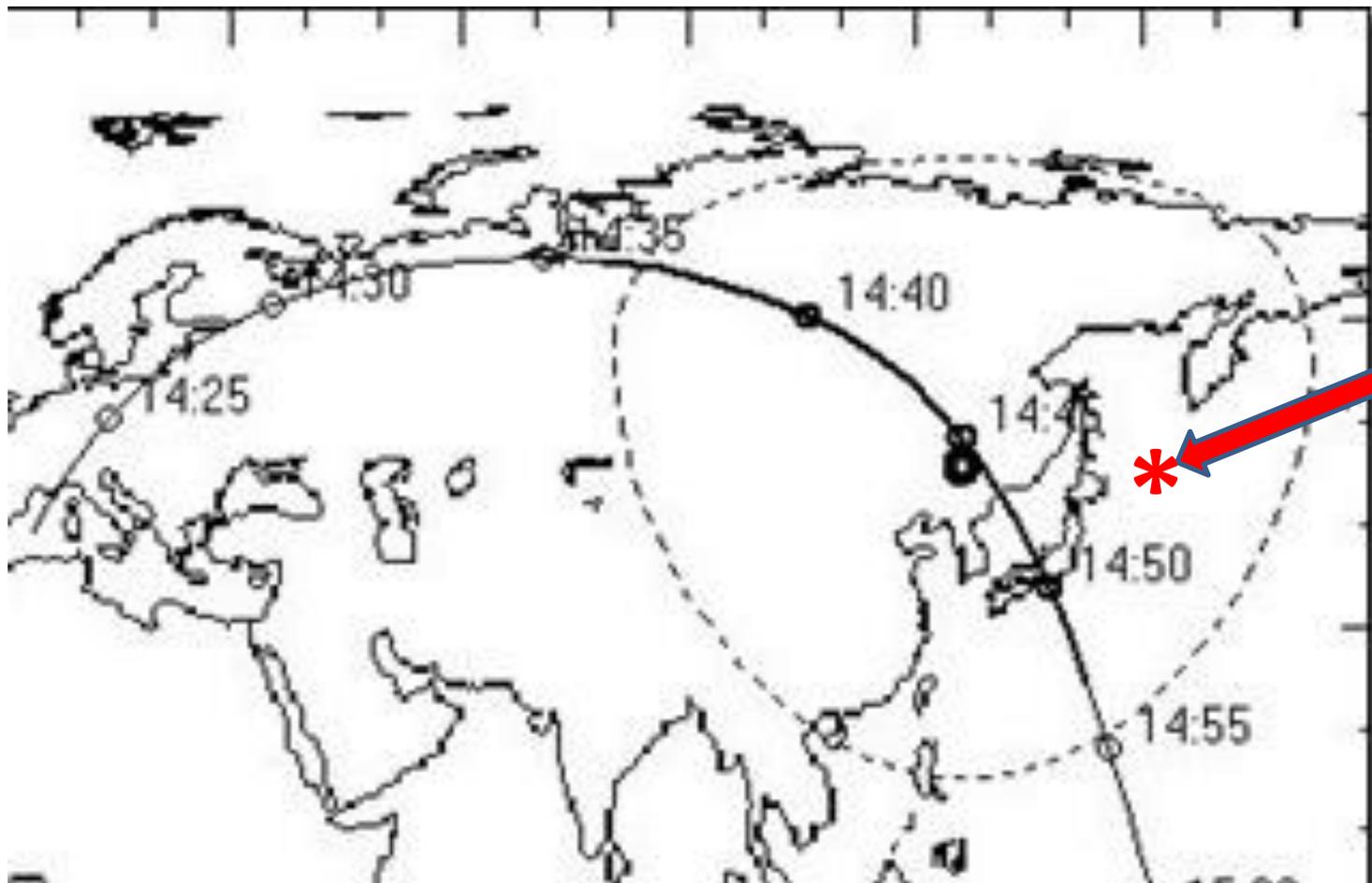
Compare 1982 to Vostok-2's [1961] early orbits [65°]



“Killer Satellite” Mission Description TBS



Grahn [2016]: Track of Kosmos-1379 high in sky over Manchuria and still sunlit



Position & flight path of JAL 402 sighting at “about midnight” [1500, or GMT + 9]

Sven Grahn's classic overview article

Simulated war in space - Soviet ASAT tests

Sven Grahn

Contents

- [Abstract](#)
- [Preface](#)
- [Polyot - propulsion flight tests?](#)
- [Kosmos 185 - the test series kicks off?](#)
- [Kosmos 217 - the first target](#)

- [Test Nr 14 \(1982\): The final round of tests!](#)
- [Some thoughts on target subsystems](#)
- [Control law near target](#)
- [A few remarks on the interceptor configuration](#)
- [List of launches](#)
- [References](#)



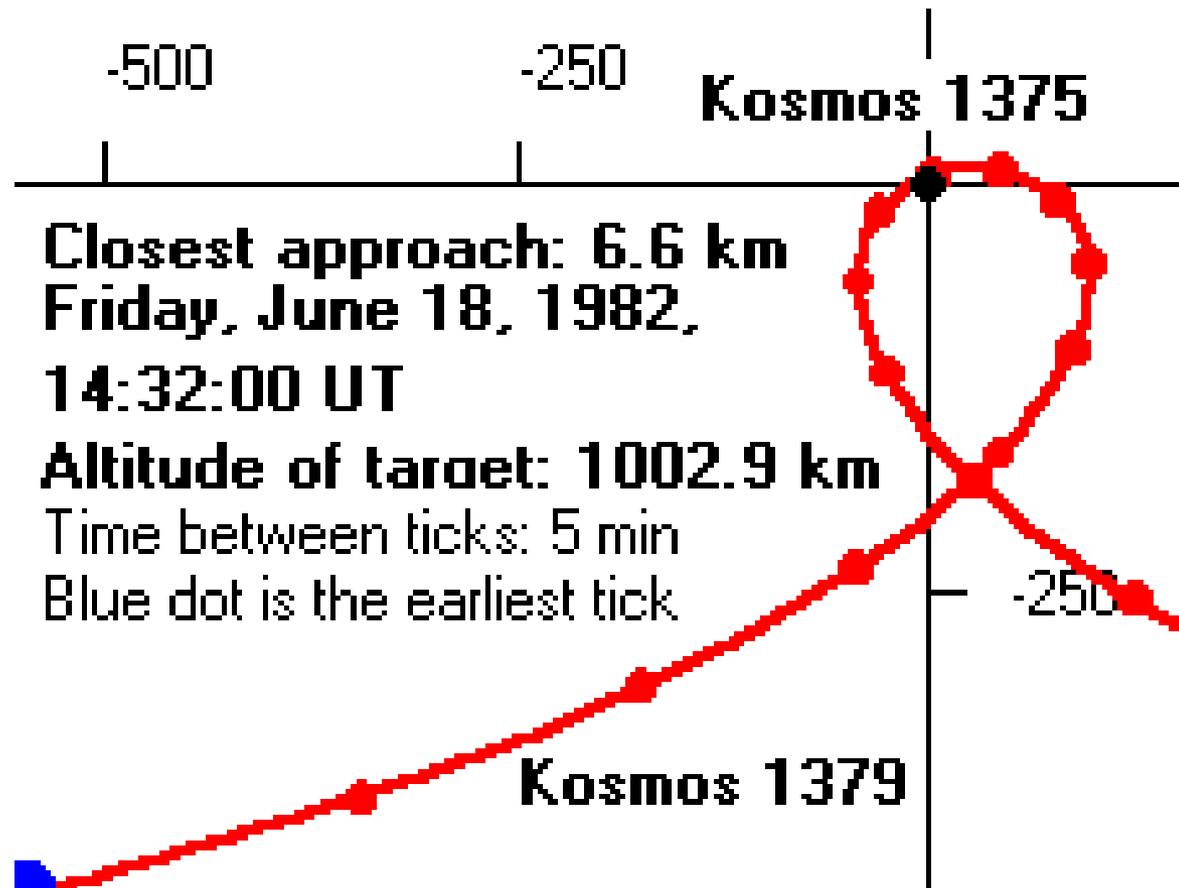
Grahn & Oberg, Washington DC, May 1975

Abstract

The flight profiles of Soviet ASAT tests are examined closely revealing that targets sometimes used stabilized ground tracks to simplify test conditions. In order to achieve high closing rates the difference in orbital periods between target and interceptor needed to be high. Therefore low orbit targets were attacked from "in front and above", while high orbit targets were attacked from "behind and below". Target telemetry was discovered as an intruder in the 144-146 MHz radio amateur band! This transmitter on the target probably also broadcast signals supporting a miss distance indicator. The control law near the target was designed to reduce the rotation of the line-of-sight to the target to zero. Fast and slow approaches were tried. A multiple intercept attempts by the same interceptor was performed.

<http://www.svengrahn.pp.se/histind/ASAT/ASAT.htm#Mark>

Relative motion plot of intercept



Grahn: Test Nr 14 (1982): The final round of tests!

- The test in 1982 was designed to evaluate the system performance after storage. The target, Kosmos 1375 was launched on 6 June 1982 into an orbit very similar to previous targets (980-1013 km, 65.84 deg). Target telemetry was again picked up in by radio amateurs.
- I was well aware of the launch opportunity for the interceptor - 12 days after the target as with Kosmos 1243. Indeed Kosmos 1379 was launched at about 1105 UT on 18 June 1982.
- I had rushed home from work to try to pick up the target and the interceptor. Strangely enough I didn't hear the target on 145 MHz, but heard the interceptor telemetry on 166 MHz at 1243.05-1245.10 UT.
- The closest approach occurred at 1432 UT and was successful.
- With this flight 19 years of testing ended and the system never flew in space again. Presumably it was kept in readiness at Baikonur for quite a number of years, perhaps to be replaced by an air-launched similar to the U.S. system.

SPACE WILD CARDS [June 18, 1982]

- Salyut-7
 - Launched April 19, 1982
 - May 13 -- Cosmonauts Anatoly N. Berezovoy and Valentin V. Lebedev are launched in *Soyuz-T5*, the first team to inhabit the space station.
 - WHERE WAS 'SALYUT' DURING THE SPACE WAR EXERCISE AND WERE ANY EVENTS COORDINATED WITH COSMONAUTS' OBSERVATION OPPORTUNITIES?
 - June 23 – Soyuz-T6 launched to the station
- STS-4 Columbia
 - Launched June 27, 1982, no overlap

COSMONAULTS AS OBSERVERS



**NOTE WORLD MAP WITH CURRENT
& FUTURE LOCATION INDICATOR**



Other cosmonaut descriptions sure “sound like” rocket launch observations but this crew made no public mention of anything on June 18 or other dates – this remains an open research lead.



Timeline so far....

- 1105 Kosmos-1379 [ASAT] launch
- 1300 Baykonur Kosmos-1381 launch
- ??? Other Siberian ICBM launches??
- ??? [Chinese military reaction to Soviets??]
- **~1400 Manchuria UFOs [10 PM local]**
- 1432 K-1379 ASAT/target closest pass over Manchuria going into shadow
- ~1500 Japan Airlines reports [unverified]
- 2 AM local Sakhalin & Amur
- ????? **OTHER ???**

Significance of this set of cases

- Multiple independent witness reports can be compared to assess the degree of variability and descriptive deviation from a presumably identical visual stimulus
- Reports of Electromagnetic Interference [EMI] can be assessed for level of coincidences of unrelated phenomena into a spurious cause-and-effect conclusion
- If a plausible prosaic stimulus can be developed, analysis of the degree of 'narrative drift' [enhancement and garble] required to account for development of each story may aid in development of techniques for assessments of OTHER reports of similar visual features visa-vis potential explanations

MIGHT become another chapter in the long book of Soviet/Russian missile/space activity fueling UFO reporting

- Petrozavodsk jellyfish UFO [Kosmos-955]
- 1984 'Minsk Airliner' ["exactly 4:10 AM"]
- 1967-8 "Crescent UFO" wave [Zigel's folly] - FOBS
- 2009 Norwegian 'Spiral UFO' – 'Bulava' SLBM
- Recent Kapustin Yar to Sary Shagan ICBM defense-evading warhead testing
- 1970's Chile-Argentina UFO wave [fuel dumps from Molniya launches]
- 1996 Yukon 'giant mother ship' [actually fireball swarm from Kosmos reentry]

CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Previous unrecognized coincidence of Chinese reports with exact period of most massive Soviet-era missile/space war game ever remains a powerful argument for some sort of cause-and-effect**
- Association of June 18 'UFO reports' with orbital interception test of Kosmos-1379 remains suggestive but unproven [Issue of potential observations of OTHER Soviet "killer satellite" tests may be fertile ground for further research]
- Premature enthusiasm for the Kosmos-1381 explanation is another warning to investigators [and to myself] of the danger of cherry-picking pieces of reports based on the desired direction of the conclusion.
- Pattern of eyewitness reports of missile/space events being classified as 'UFOs' gives excellent explanation of why US intelligence agencies SHOULD be very interested in such reports even if UFOs themselves are NOT "real"
- Closer study of this pattern could benefit serious 'UFO studies' by providing calibration of actual eyewitness perceptions/descriptions of bizarre visual stimuli when actual stimuli are known.
- **MOST OF ALL -- I am blessed in friends and colleagues, in their trust of me, & in their willingness to share expertise, insights, advice, and candid criticism**

APPENDIX 1

18 June 1982, 21:10, Great Xinganling Mountain Range

Cao Zhenhe, the Linhai Ribao (Forests Daily) correspondent at Ganhe Forestry Administration, Hu Banner, Inner Mongolia, wrote a detailed report entitled "UFO Over the Great Xinganling" dated June 24th, in which he wrote: "At 9:10 p.m., two huge luminous objects appeared in the sky over Ganhe Township in the middle of the Great Xinganling mountain range. The bigger one gave off a green light in the shape of a radiating ball. Its core could not be seen, and it remained stationary in the air. The other one was smaller but brighter and had an ellipsoid shape with a lustrous train of light. On the whole it looked like a luminous red turnip with a tilting tail. A cadre from the county's forestry administration told the author the following: "That night I was going home from a friend's house when the sky was suddenly lit up. I saw two radiantly luminous bodies in the sky to the west. The smaller one kept revolving, and giving out a light which was green and at intervals a golden-red. In about 40 minutes the larger one vanished, and towards 10 o'clock the smaller one also went out of sight. Ten minutes the same objects reappeared again, this time remaining in sight for more than an hour."

18 June 1982, 22:05, Manzhouli City

He Zizhi, a technician of the Railway Power Bureau, Manzhouli City, supplied a vivid description of a UFO incident: "At 22:05 on June 18, 1982, Chen Chengjun and two other night shift workers was the sudden rise of a red light from the horizon. It shot up like a stream of crimson sparks, and was followed by two radiant flying balls of light, one red and the other blue. A dazzling white star flew out from one of the balls of light, and this in turn discharged a fast swirling circle of white light which grew larger and larger and flashed rays toward the east. Surrounded by the circle of white light with a yellow tinge, the radiant star moved revolving towards the east, projecting a fan-like white light in the direction of its advance. By 22:10 the star disappeared abruptly. The whole process was silent."

Bian Sen of the Mechanized Road Construction Brigade, Great Xinganling Prefecture submitted this report: "About 22:05 on June 18, 1982, a strange radiant object appeared in the sky to the northwest of our region. It flew upward while discharging an evenly spread white mist downward. It was somewhat ellipsoid in shape, about 30 centimeters across (apparent), and of a luminous orange color. It halted its ascent at about 60 degrees elevation. Its train of glowing mist gave a shake, and a marvel followed. The radiant object was immediately surrounded by a circle of white mist. In the meantime the radiant object began to change itself. It dimmed down in the center, its periphery giving out a dzzzling phosphorescent light (a bluish-green and white). Viewed through my 5X binoculars I found that the object had distinct edges, and there were small glowing dots unevenly aligned along its circumference like portholes on the hull of a giant globe. The white glowing circle grew larger and larger and vanished in 30 minutes. Then the radiant object began to move toward the south and it began to change into the shape of a broom, with a bulb-like bright core forming the head. At first it stood vertically, the bigger end up and the tail pointed down, then it shifted slowly to a horizontal position and remained in the southwest sky. (Other observers claimed that not long after the appearance of the white ring they saw another glowing object nearby which looked like a torch.) By 22:50 the radiant object disappeared into the distance. It was silent throughout.

June 18, 22:05,
Great Xinganling
prefecture,
Heilongjiang
province

Wang Hongfei, squad leader of Gulian Brigade of the Heilongjiang Armed Forestry Police; Yan Mingus, driver of the same unit; and Ye Yongjin, Principal of Zhangling Public School, stated in their joint report: "At 1 P.M. on June 18, 1982, we started off from Zhangling on a survey trip. We drove along the highway to a point about 150 'li' southwest of the guardhouse on Xalu Mountain where the altitude was 1,396 meters above sea level. At about 10:10 p.m., when we were some 15 'li' from Bishui Forestry Center, we suddenly saw a beam of light shooting up from behind the hill. It was about 300 meters away, and its color was a mixture of grey, white and yellow. We stopped to look. Rising higher and higher the light beam turned into a spiral, growing bigger as it rose, its color turning creamy-yellow. At the summit of the column of light was a white plate-like object about 30 to 40 centimeters in diameter and dazzlingly bright. The spiral beam of light coiled 3 to 4 rounds like a volute spring. The plate-like object at the top stood at an elevation of 40 degrees with the ground. It revolved counter-clockwise, making a buzzing sound. Just a moment later the bright object shot up into the sky, emitting a train of blue light and flew northeastward. In another 7 minutes it disappeared in the distance. From later inquiries of inhabitants around the area we learned that the apparition was seen by hundreds, and that the blue light remained for about an hour before it vanished."

June 18,
22:10, Bishui
Forestry
Center,
Heilongjiang
[Zhangling]

18 June 1982, 22:00, Dongcheng Commune, Lilong County

Zheng Shicheng of Dongcheng Commune, Lilong County, wrote: "About 10 p.m. on June 18, 1982, when the film 'Campaign In Shanghai' had just ended, the audience saw a moon-like circular object rise in the northeast. It was very bright and had a tinge of red color. It rose straight up, and in about a minute's time suddenly shot out of sight." Another theater audience in an outdoor cinema group in Zhixin Commune in Yanji County saw a moon-like object moving at great speed in the sky. The night was cloudless and visibility good.

18 June 1982, 22:12, Urghihan Forest

In a report titled "Observation of UFO" that was prepared by Hou Wenlong and others of the Urgihan Forest Center of the Urgihan Forestry Administration, we read the following: "At 10:12 p.m. June 18, 1982, we were all walking past the clinic when we saw a red light behind the mountains to the north. We suspected a fire. Suddenly a luminous red plate rose up from behind the mountains. It went up at a moderate speed, like the flight of a withered leaf. It reached an altitude where it became the size of a man's fist, stayed 4 to 5 seconds and ejected a puff of radiant cloud which illuminated the sky around it. Suddenly it whipped past us at a tremendous speed, and finally vanished after giving off a revolving ball of smoke. The smoke remained in the air for another hour."

Lilong
and
Urghihan

Changkong

18 June 1982, 22:53, Changkong County

Jiang Haipo of Lishui Middle School, Changkong County wrote a report titled "Unidentified Flying Object Over Songliao Plain" in which he states: "At 10:53 p.m. June 18 1982, when we were watching an outdoor filmshow, the speaker suddenly went off, and somebody shouted: 'Fireball! Fireball!' I looked up and saw in the northeast sky, an object quite like the full moon in size, brightness and color. It moved in a southeasterly direction, grew bigger as it came nearer, till it became the size of a rising sun. Its light also intensified till it almost equaled the sun. The flight was silent and its speed tremendous. The clouds looked ablaze with the illumination. In about 3 minutes it vanished in the southeast."

Wrong date by 1?

17 June 1982, 22:00, Beian County Heilongjiang

Zhao Hongwei of the 1st Middle School, Beian County, Heilongjiang, submitted the following report: "At 22:00 hours local time on the night of June 17, I was wakened by my mother's cry. She told me something strange was happening outside. I got up immediately. Hurrying out, I saw in the sky to my northwest a light blue luminous spherical object the size of a basketball. It was sailing eastward at a speed slightly faster than a man-made satellite. It looked as if encircled by some gas, and as a result its periphery was rather hazy. The object, which gave off a light, suddenly halted in a northeasterly position, then curiously vanished, leaving in the sky a ring of gas about 3 meters in diameter, as shiny as a mirror. Presently the gas ring began to disperse in all directions, and its light dimmed till everything finally was gone. The whole process lasted 7 to 8 minutes. On the next morning my neighbors and acquaintances all claimed they had seen the same sight." Similar reports were received from Xu Liangren and Cai Mingxiao of Inner Mongolia, Ma Guiren and Sima Yuguan of Liaoning and Ren Ye of Heilongjiang.