SECRET/NOFORN

PROJECT SUN STREAK

WARNING NOTICE: INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS INVOLVED

PROJECT NUMBER:	0227 (Tng)	SESSION NUMBER:	1
DATE OF SESSION:	02 MAR 90	DATE OF REPORT:	05 MAR 90
START:	0907	END:	0922
METHODOLOGY:	CRV	VIEWER IDENTIFIER:	052

1. (S/STD) MISSION: To describe the target site (The air explosion in Tunguska, Siberia) in Stage 2 terminology.

2. (S/STD) VIEWER TASKING: Encrypted coordinates not set, so target number was used. No other cueing given.

3. (S/STD) COMMENTS: No Physical Inclemencies. 052 accessed the site quickly in Stage 1 and proceeded through Stage 2 quickly and efficiently. 052 has had problems getting sound perceptions in the past, but this has evidently been resolved. 052 needs a little more practice in dimensional perceptions, and will be ready to proceed into Stage 3 training.

4. (S/STD) EVALUATION: 3

5. (S/STD) SEARCH EVALUATION: N/A

MONITOR: 018

HANDLE VIA STIPPLE CHANNELS ONLY

SECRET/NOFORN

CLASSIFIED BY: DIA (DT)
DECLASSIFY: OADR

0252

2 March 9C

PF: none

AV: none

Ft. Meade

0907

018

0227

A. sloping up peak, hard down

B. Mountain

AOL BK

Mount Everest

0227

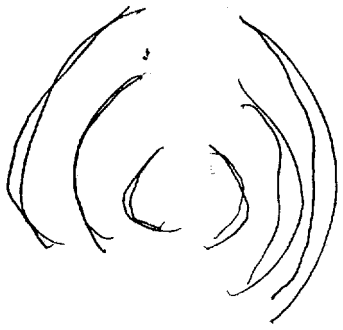
A - Big waves Access hard

B. Hill

S2

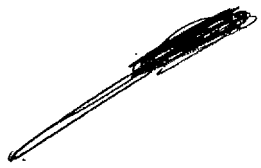
Black
Blue
Brown
Rumbling sound

Red
U/I smell
looking smell



ALBK
Bad smell

U/I Taste
SMOOTH



Bright

Conf BK
Can't make out
that smell

AI BK
Bad smell

AQL BK
Burning Rubber

hearing

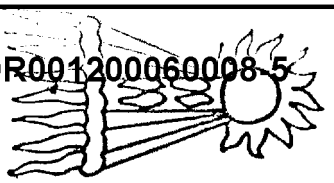
AI BK
feel like hearing

AQL BK
Rumbling starts low but gets bigger

Blue

AHE 0922

WHAT SET OFF THE BIGGEST BANG IN RECORDED HISTORY?



Shortly after 7 A.M. on June 30, 1908, early rising farmers, herdsmen, and trappers in the sparsely settled vastness of the central Siberia Plateau watched in awe as a cylindrical object, glowing with an intense bluish-white light and trailing a fiery tail, raced across a clear blue sky toward the northern horizon. At 7:17, over a desolate region of bogs and low, pine-covered hills traversed by the Stony Tunguska River, it disappeared; instantly, a "pillar of fire" leaped skyward, so high it was seen hundreds of miles away; the earth shuddered under the impact of a titanic explosion; the air was wracked by thunderous claps; and a superheated wind rushed outward, setting parts of the taiga on fire. At a trading post forty miles from the blast, a man sitting on the steps of his house saw the blinding flash and covered his eyes; he felt scorched, as if the shirt on his back were burning, and the next moment he was hurled from the steps by a shock wave and knocked unconscious. Four hundred miles to the south the ground heaved under the tracks of the recently completed Trans-Siberian Railway, threatening to derail an express. And above the Tunguska region a mass of black clouds, piling up to a height of twelve miles, dumped a shower of "black rain" on the countryside—dirt and debris sucked up by the explosion—while rumblings like heavy artillery fire reverberated throughout central Russia.

Since seismographs and barographs everywhere had recorded the event, the entire world knew that something extraordinary had occurred in the Siberian wilderness. But what? Scientists conjectured that a giant meteorite must have fallen, exploding from the intense heat its impact generated. On hitting the ground, such a body would, theoretically, have blown out a huge crater like the one in Arizona, three-quarters of a mile square, left by a meteorite that fell fifty thousand years ago, but the Siberian "impact site" turned out to be a dismal swamp, with no trace of a meteorite to be seen. Nevertheless, for want of a better explanation, scientists continued to ascribe the cataclysm to a meteorite, and Leonid Kulik, a mineralogist who headed government-sponsored expeditions to the Tunguska in the early 1920s and again in 1938–39, searched for evidence to support this view.

Although this search proved fruitless, Kulik uncovered a wealth of information about the blast. Near the swamp into which the meteorite had supposedly plummeted, scorched trees, striped of branches, still stood, but around this weird "telegraph-pole" forest, except where intervening hills had shielded them, every tree within fifty miles had been blown flat, its trunk pointing away from the swamp. From this—and from his failure to find even a small impact crater—Kulik concluded that the meteorite had never reached the ground but had exploded two or three miles up in the air. The testimony of local herdsmen yielded other curious details: the blast's intense heat had melted the permafrost, causing water trapped underground for tens of thousands of years to gush forth in fountains, and those reindeer that had not been killed had developed mysterious blisters and scabs on their hides. Stranger still, examination of the trees that had been germinating in 1908 revealed that they had then grown at several times the normal rate.

During World War II Kulik was captured by the Germans and died a prisoner. The riddle he had worked to solve was forgotten. In August 1945, however, certain Russian scientists were abruptly reminded of it by the atom-bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, events which seemed uncannily familiar in both their manifestations (the fireball, the searing thermal current, the towering "mushroom" cloud) and their effects (the instantaneous and near-total destruction, the radiation burns on living flesh, the accelerated growth of new plant life, even the "telegraph-pole" appearance of scorched and branchless trees standing below the point at which an atom bomb was detonated).

Could the Siberian blast have been atomic? In 1958 a Russian engineer-turned-writer, Aleksander Kazantsev, published a story-article pinning that disaster on Martians killed on their way to Earth by cosmic rays or meteorite bombardment; their ship, with no one at the controls, hurtles into our atmosphere at unreduced speed and burns up from friction, triggering a chain reaction in its atomic fuel that sets off the explosion. Few informed readers by then still accepted the meteorite theory, and some, particularly younger men and women, found Kazantsev's hypothesis persuasive, but others rejected it in favor of an earlier alternate explanation, according to which the head of a comet had penetrated the atmosphere at such high velocity that the heat thus generated had caused the comet to blow up. (Skeptics pointed out, however, that a comet could hardly have approached Earth without being seen.)

Two further explanations involving natural causes have been advanced. The first is that a tiny "black hole"—a chunk of matter collapsed to minuscule dimensions and so dense that its gravity sucks up even light—hit Siberia and passed in an instant through Earth, emerging in the North Atlantic. The second asserts that an "anti-rock" of antimatter plunged into the atmosphere and exploded on contact with atoms of ordinary matter, producing a fireball of gamma rays. While this would account for the absence of residual material at the site, it is not, most experts say, compatible with observable physical effects of the blast. In the end, we do not know what caused the cataclysm in Siberia. We may never know. But today, fewer scientists than at any time in the past would be astounded to receive a message beamed from some corner of the universe inquiring into the fate of certain space voyagers who vanished on our planet in what we call the year 1908.

P.S. A Guest from the Universe?

The stage was being set for a world-shaking drama that was rushing to its fiery climax near the cold and sluggish Yenesei River of Siberia.

The date: June 30, 1908.

Out in space, miles from the earth, a gigantic object was rushing to destruction, headed for a thinly populated area near the Yenesei. Its speed was probably in excess of thirty thousand miles an hour. It was only seconds from destruction, trailing long streams of fire behind it as it entered the atmosphere.

On the river a fisherman tugged at the ropes leading to his nets. He paused in his work long enough to return the wave of a friend who sat on the shore, sheltered fortunately by a steep overhang. His friend on the bank was the last thing the fisherman would ever see.

He had less than five seconds to live.

A few miles from the river a herdsman, driving several hundred reindeer across the grassy flats, paused to fill his leather water bag at a shallow well. The bag fell into the water and he climbed down to retrieve it.

It was the luckiest move of his life.

Across the river, at the edge of a small grove of trees, a woodchopper and his two grown sons took time out from their labors to smoke their pipes, their axes leaning against the log on which they were sitting.

The stage was set.

The gigantic thing that was plunging to earth exploded with a fury that was recorded around the globe. Of those in the immediate area, only the herdsman in the well and the man sheltered by the river bank survived. The fisherman was swept away. The woodchoppers were never found; but one of their axes was finally picked up a mile and a half from where they had been smoking their pipes. The herd of reindeer vanished in the twinkling of an eye. When the bewildered herdsman climbed out of the shallow well that had saved his life, he found himself in the midst of a charred and smoking world; he was scorched and penniless, but alive.

[redacted] miles [redacted] explosions ever recorded on earth. Something weighing thousands of tons had exploded into a great ball of seething fire that climbed into the clouds in a matter of minutes, leaving below it a stunned earth that sent its quivers to seismographs in many lands.

World War I spread even greater havoc of a different sort and scientists almost forgot the strange explosion in Siberia, which they had assumed to be some sort of huge meteorite. It was not until 1927 that a scientific study group reached the scene. They found a scorched and barren spot that showed plainly the effects of incalculable heat and pressure; trees brushed flat to earth for miles around the center of the blast, their trunks charred by its remarkable temperature. They found a few witnesses, including the herdsman and the man on the river bank, and some villagers who had seen the catastrophe from a vantage point miles away. After examining the scene and interviewing the witnesses, the scientists went away. They had determined that something from outer space had struck in those lonely reaches of the Yenesei, something that scorched and blasted —but something that left no craters in the earth to mark its collision. For want of a better name it went down in the records as the Tunguska Meteorite, and there it remained for more than thirty years.

A Russian scientist, Dr. Alexander Kazentsev, was a member of the Soviet team that spent considerable time investigating the scene of the Tunguska explosion. Like their predecessors, they were puzzled by what they found and puzzled even more by what they did not find. No craters. No logical, acceptable explanation for the recorded fury of the explosion.

Fortunately for science, Dr. Kazentsev was also a member of the Russian team that went to Hiroshima to study the effects of the atomic bomb which had obliterated that hapless city and most of its people.

Dr. Kazentsev was particularly impressed by a peculiarity of the blast; directly beneath the center of the airborne explosion the tops of the trees had been snapped off, while the trees remained standing. Somewhere, he had seen something like that before—but where?

Suddenly he remembered. At the scene of the "Tunguska Meteorite" in Siberia! Tree tops snapped off in one area, while for miles around the trees were brushed flat to earth, [redacted] at Hiroshima! But that phenomenon was known to be a characteristic of only nuclear devices. Did it mean that a nuclear explosion had taken place over that lonely Siberian terrain almost half a century before?

There was a relatively simple way to check the suspicion. If the explosion had been nuclear, there would be radioactivity in measurable quantities in the earth. And Kazentsev knew that when Professor Kulik had made the original investigation of the Tunguska blast in 1927, no check had been made for radioactivity; he also knew that Kulik had been disturbed by the complete absence of meteoric fragments.

A new expedition, headed by Professor Liapunov and including Dr. Kazentsev, was dispatched to the scene of the so-called Tunguska Meteorite. They spent months tracking out the radioactive pattern in the soil that sent their Geiger counters chattering; they interviewed an eyewitness who still recalled vividly the great ball of fire that rolled into the heavens and the strange mushroom cloud from which it stemmed. They dug up tons of soil to collect a scant handful of metal fragments. Then they went home to evaluate and study what they had found.

Dr. Kazentsev and most of his colleagues came to the conclusion that some sort of atomic-powered device of tremendous size had exploded over the earth at an altitude of 1.2 miles on the morning of June 30, 1908. He calls it a space ship.

In his official report filed with the Soviet government agency which directed the expedition, Dr. Kazentsev says that the blast damage and the radioactivity charts enabled the scientists to locate the point directly beneath the blast and to trace out the familiar atomic cone. Sifting the soil around the edges of this "cone" produced tiny bits of metal, some of which were not of any known meteoric nature and some of which seemed to be alloyed. The eyewitness accounts all agreed on the seething fireball and the mushroom cloud, which we now know to be characteristic of nuclear explosions. And exhumation of some of the long-dead residents of the area indicated that they had died of a "strange malady" indeed, for they were victims of excessive radioactivity.

Says Kazentsev, "The weight of evidence clearly places the explosion slightly more than (a mile) above the center of the destruction. The damage is identical to that produced by man-made atomic devices under similar conditions. The lingering radioactivity, the mixed metals, the descriptions of the explosion itself all coincide with an atomic explosion.