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BODY SUBJ

REF LD201354 ANSWERIN

PRC: SCIENTISTS IDENTIFY XINJIANG UFO AS PLASMA FIREBALL

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BEIJING XINHUA IN ENGLISH 0548 GM " 20 APR 88

((TEXT)) BEIJING, APRIL 20 (X:NHUA)--THE <u>UNIDENTIFIED</u>
FLYING OBJECT (UFO) SPOTTED IN X:NJIANG LAST MONTH WAS A "PLASMA FIREBALL SPINNING AT HIGH SPEED I" THE ATMOSPHERE", ACCORDING TO SCIENTISTS AT THE INSTITUTE OF ATMOSPHERIC PHYSICS OF THE CHINESE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES.

IT WAS REPORTED THAT AT 21:35 ON MA CH 18, AS THE NO. 2606 AIRLINER FROM BEIJING TO URUMQI WAS APPROACHING THE QIJIAOJING AREA IN HAMI IN THE XINJIANG UYGUR AUTOL OHOUS REGION,

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PASSENGERS SAW A FLYING OBJECT OUT OF THE WINDOWS.

THE OBJECT, ABOUT THE SIZE OF A BASKETBALL, WAS "BEAMING LIKE A SEARCHLIGHT" AND FLYING ALONGSIDE THE PLANE. THEN THE OBJECT CHANGED DIRECTION AND SPLIT INTO TWO--A SMALLER BALL ABOVE AND A BEAN-SHAPED BELOW. PASSENGERS SAID THEY SAW A GREEN RING OF LIGHT AROUND THE OBJECT.

SCIENTISTS NOW BELIEVE THAT WHAT THE PASSENGERS SAW WAS AN IONIZED BALL OF GAS WHICH, ACCORDING TO HYDROKINETIC THEORY, RESULTED FROM THE ELECTRIC DISCHARGE OF LIGHTNING AND SEISMIC ROCK, AS WELL AS THE VIOLENT OSCILLATION OF ELECTROMAGNETISM IN THE AIR.

"THE EXISTENCE OF PLASMAS IN THE IONIZED STRATUM OF THE ATMOSPHERE IS COMMON," SAID ZOU YOUSUO, ONE OF THE RESEARCHERS AT THE INSTITUTE.

IN THE XINJIANG CASE, HE EXPLAINED, THE GAS FORMED BY ELECTRONS, IONS, AND UNIONIZED NEUTRAL PARTICLES WAS A HIGH-FREQUENCY DISCHARGE PLASMA APPEARING IN THE FORM OF A FIREBALL.

THE GREEN RING OF LIGHT WAS PROBABLY THE RESULT OF ELECTRIC DISCHARGE OF A HIGH-FREQUENCY MAGNETIC FIELD.

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