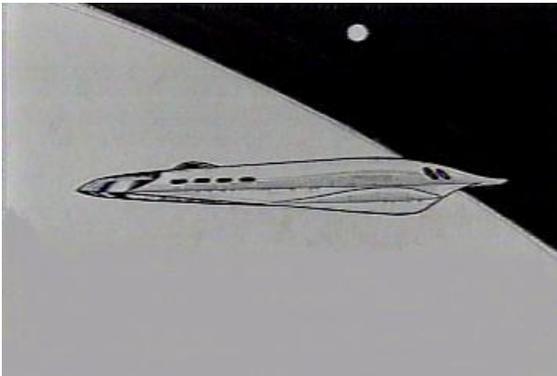


Cosmonaut Viktor Afanasyev

The myth: *"It followed us during half of our orbit. We observed it on the light side, and when we entered the shadow side, it disappeared completely. It was an engineered structure, made from some type of metal, approximately 40 meters long with inner hulls. The object was narrow here and wider here, and inside there were openings. Some places had projections like small wings. The object stayed very close to us. We photographed it, and our photos showed it to be 23 to 28 meters away"*.

Caption: Cosmonaut Victor Afanasyev commenting on a UFO sighting that occurred while en route to the Solyut 6 space station in April of 1979.

<http://www.abovetopsecret.com/forum/thread457637/pg1#pid6188606>
<http://www.abovetopsecret.com/forum/thread457637/pg2#pid6198014>



The reality: The first link is to a LONG and HIGHLY interesting interview [published Nov 11, 2005] with Afanasyev. <http://www.rg.ru/2005/11/11/kosmos.html>

Towards the end, the question is posed:

"Is it true that you saw a UFO?"

Afanasyev answers bluntly: "This, of course, is fabrications."

Then Afanasyev adds an even more informative story:

"But one time we actually observed a foreign object with a length approximately of 40 centimeters outside. We even photographed it. On that day the freighter 'Progress' was undocked from the station, so that, I think, simply something flew away. It can be, it found its way to someone. I do not know."

So a 40-cm [16 inch] object was seen out a window at the time an unmanned supply drone was firing thrusters to depart from the station.

This is the main reason why 'space UFO' myth-makers refuse to provide contextual information on famous stories and videos, such as date/time of the event -- they want people to NOT know what else was going on in space, such as activities that commonly kick up dust and break stuff loose, such as -- UNDOCKING.

As to the description "en route to the Solyut 6 space station in April of 1979", all of those biographical/career facts are false. Look at http://www.spacefacts.de/bios/cosmonauts/english/afanasiyev_viktor.htm "Born 1948, selected as cosmonaut 1985, made three visits to Mir (Soyuz TM-11, Feb 1990; Soyuz TM-18, Aug 1994; Soyuz TM-29, Feb 1999) and one to the ISS (Soyuz TM-33, Oct 2001)."

The second citation is a story from the Russian website <http://la-femme.net>, undated but probably in 2007-8 [based on Mitchell's specified age] and you don't need to speak Russian to tell -- when you visit it -- it's a slavik 'National Enquirer'. The website cites as ITS source another website, <http://zhizn.ru/>, but the search engine there did not find any articles about Mitchell or Afanasyev. A "yandex.ru" search for their names and the source website URL only directed me back to the la-femme.net article.

The story, about Edgar Mitchell's public statements, then adds that Afanasyev "confirmed [Mitchell's views, evidently] to a colleague, talking about his encounter with a UFO." Afanasyev is NOT quoted directly and the alleged 'colleague' who relayed the story is not named. Shocker.