Official records list object as a meteor of unknown type, but some published data show explanation is impossible. Many witnesses reported cigar shape, some saw square windows.

“Baltic Bolide”
February 11, 1976
From Finland across Leningrad and southeast into Russia
Bolide над Ленинградом
Рисунок астронома
Д. Е. ЩЕГОЛЕВА

Meteor swarm or structured craft?

http://miger.ru/bbolid2.html

“Baltic Bolide”, Feb 11, 1976
“Meteor appearance” north & south of track

http://miger.ru/bbolid2.html

Болид над поселком Пролетарий Новгородской области
Рисунок инженера-конструктора Е. А. СКВОРЦОВА

Болид над Новгородом
Рисунок слесаря И. Т. СУМАНДЕЕВА

Bolide over Novgorod [I. T. Sumaneyeva]

Bolide over village of Proletariya in Novgorod Region [E. A. Skvortsov]

“Baltic Bolide”, Feb 11, 1976
“Meteor” ground track Finland to southeast

Region of Selizarovo
altitude 10 km

“Baltic Bolide”, Feb 11, 1976
Дополнительная информация [official data]

- Точка разрушения [point of origin]: 56.891402, 33.410361
- Дата падения [date of fall]: Среда, 11 Февраль 1976
- Время [time]: около [about] 19:00
- Радианта [radian]: 146°
- Тип [type]: Не известен [not known]
- Угол входа в атмосферу [angle of atmosphere entry]: 5°
- Скорость падения [speed of fall]: 6,5 км/сек [km/sec]

"Baltic Bolide", Feb 11, 1976
Account from fishermen

Yuriy Viktorovich Bichkov. On fishing trip near Lednevo (district Kobony), on an open shore, together with companions, he watched the meteor for 3 to 5 minutes

The overall impression of all who observed is:

a) the object was a quite correct form of cigar or dirigible, but without the cab. "Cigar" was aglow, had glowing windows and fiery tail gradually tapering.

b) it was generally agreed in the main group (10 persons), that it was an artificial construction, which may have landed a "Comrade" from another planet.

c) The length of the "cigar" was about the length of a train.

SOURCE: [http://miger.ru/bbolid4.html][JEO translation]

“Baltic Bolide”, Feb 11, 1976
Other witnesses

- *Shavykin Vasily Vasilevich, Sestroretska [near Finnish border]*.
  
  On February 11, 1976 about 7:00 pm, I watched a luminous body of regular shape, elongated, with a nozzle from which sparks were flying, then separated and were extinguished at a short distance. In appearance it closely resembled a passenger wagon with "play". Visible for one minute. Passed to the South.

- *Bortnikov Mikhail Konstantinovich, 1964, Leningrad, St., Sailor*
  
  “It was 25-30 times bigger than an aircraft, it covered half the sky. Moved slowly, gently and horizontally. Its sound could be heard. Its train was three times longer than itself and it gleamed from red to orange and covered the sky. The cigar was brilliant, and the tail was dull aluminum. On it I noticed some compartments and square hatches. I felt an unusual infatuation.”


“Baltic Bolide”, Feb 11, 1976
Fireball re-entry of 1976-009B, NORAD catalog number 8617, upper stage of the launch rocket for “Kosmos 799”.

Map and ground track courtesy of Ted Molczan
Discussion

• Typical rocket body reentry creating both fireball swarm reports AND structured craft

• Some craft reports mentioned row of square windows, searchlights, emotional reaction

• For unknown reason, Soviet government promoted ‘meteor’ explanation even though it released contradictory data [such as velocity]