

Kirsan Ilyumzhinov Recounts an Unusual Claim of Alien Abduction



One of the more unusual alien abduction stories has once again resurfaced, retold by an equally unconventional figure: Kirsan Nikolayevich Ilyumzhinov. A former chess prodigy, president of the Republic of Kalmykia from 1993 to 2010, businessman and oligarch, Ilyumzhinov also served as president of the International Chess Federation (FIDE) between 1995 and 2018. In a recent interview, he revisited a story he has recounted on numerous occasions over the years.

According to Ilyumzhinov, the incident took place in 1997 in Moscow, where he claims to have been abducted from the balcony of his apartment by humanoid beings wearing yellow spacesuits. He says he was taken aboard their spacecraft, where communication occurred telepathically. “They put a spacesuit on me, told me many things and showed me around. They wanted to demonstrate that UFOs do exist,” he stated.

In this latest retelling, Ilyumzhinov added further details about the alleged encounter. The beings, he said, emphasized observation rather than intervention and appeared peaceful and non-hostile. He claims they told him that Earth had previously been home to five advanced civilizations before extraterrestrials created modern humans. He also asserts that chess itself is an extraterrestrial invention, as are religions, the pyramids, modern technology, and much of contemporary human knowledge.

The account, while frequently cited in discussions of UFO lore, remains unsupported by any physical evidence. Scientists and experts generally categorize such claims as personal testimonies that cannot be independently verified. Still, the story continues to attract attention, if only for the prominence of its narrator. As some observers have wryly noted, it is perhaps unfortunate that Ilyumzhinov did not retain a way to contact his alleged visitors, should humanity ever require outside assistance with its present global challenges.

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