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USA

Conference on European Tomadoes and Severe Storms

**Tornadoes in Russia** 

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Descriptions of tornadoes in Russia are not unknown (e.g., Peterson (1981)); however, due to numerous

factors, the record is not extensive - especially considering the size of the country and the diversity of

climates. Gradually earlier records from areas adjacent to Russia (e.g, Finland, the Baltic countries etc.) are

revealing a greater tornado frequency than heretofore estimated. The same expansion of the record may be

anticipated for Russia.

Some accounts of Russian tornadoes have appeared previously (e. g., Nalivkin (1969), Peterson (1981), Rowe

(1987) et al.). While tornadoes have been reported in many regions, the greatest frequency of devastating

events appears to be across the central portions of the Russian Plain. (A particularly severe storm occurred on

9 June 1984 resulting in extensive damage and upwards of 400 deaths!) Waterspouts have often been reported

over the large Russian seas.

Although ther number of published accounts limits the formulation of a climatology, there are indications of a

June-September peak (Peterson (1984), Rowe (1987)), similar to that found for the Baltic countries. Too little

research has been carried out to identify the associated synoptic events.