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00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:06,800

Now there's been a sudden upsurge of interest in unidentified flying objects, or UFOs as

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00:00:06,800 --> 00:00:11,680

the enthusiasts call them. Earlier this week a policeman in Staffordshire reported seeing

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00:00:11,680 --> 00:00:17,180

a bright object in the sky and he took 12 photographs of it. Now a 7 day alert has been

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00:00:17,180 --> 00:00:22,700

declared by the biggest of the UFO societies, the British Unidentified Flying Object Research

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00:00:22,700 --> 00:00:28,820

Association. With me now is Mr Lionel Beard, the Association's Chairman. Now is this alert

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00:00:28,820 --> 00:00:33,780

as serious as it sounds? Oh yes, definitely. With all the reports coming in that we've

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00:00:33,780 --> 00:00:39,220

had recently we think it's essential that we should have called our members' attention

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00:00:39,220 --> 00:00:44,740

to this to get them out watching the skies during the coming week. Now about how many

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00:00:44,740 --> 00:00:51,620

sightings have you had reported to you recently? Well normally reports come in average about

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00:00:51,620 --> 00:00:58,060

one a day I should think, but over the last week or so I'd say probably reports are

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00:00:58,060 --> 00:01:02,140

averaging about three or four a day, probably more because they take a long time to reach

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00:01:02,140 --> 00:01:08,180

us. Now can you tell me what kind of things have been seen by people? Well the other night

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00:01:08,180 --> 00:01:16,020

I had one young lady from Stanmore. They saw two lights at about 10.30, she described

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00:01:16,020 --> 00:01:23,060

it as about a fifth of the size of the moon, squareish, and one of the lights flew off

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00:01:23,060 --> 00:01:28,060

fairly soon afterwards and when she went to bed at about 12 o'clock the other light

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00:01:28,060 --> 00:01:33,900

was apparently still with them so it couldn't have been aircraft landing lights and a number

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00:01:33,900 --> 00:01:40,220

of her father and a number of her friends saw it as well and off the cuff we didn't

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00:01:40,220 --> 00:01:46,100

have an immediate explanation for her. Have there been many similar reports to the report

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00:01:46,100 --> 00:01:53,580

given by the policeman earlier on this week? Well we learnt recently that over the past

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00:01:53,580 --> 00:02:02,220

two weeks egg shaped oval objects had in fact been seen over France, Italy, Germany, Spain,

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00:02:02,220 --> 00:02:07,820

probably not in that order but very similar type of objects. I think they also reported

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00:02:07,820 --> 00:02:14,060

conical shapes as well. In fact perhaps I should mention that UFOs are a little like

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00:02:14,100 --> 00:02:20,540

the fairer sex. They seem to come in all shapes, sizes and colours. Can I mention the different

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00:02:20,540 --> 00:02:26,820

perhaps some of them all common types? Thank you. Well the most common type of course is

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00:02:26,820 --> 00:02:34,060

the typical flying saucer shape perhaps some people say like two soup plates placed together

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00:02:34,060 --> 00:02:43,380

or a disc shape sometimes with a dome on top. Perhaps the next most common type is the elongated

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00:02:43,380 --> 00:02:52,860

object frequently described as cigar shaped. In fact I've had so many unusual descriptions

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00:02:52,860 --> 00:02:57,940

that one of the big problems about ufology is the fact that so few reports seem to be

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00:02:57,940 --> 00:03:04,060

alike. Well why do you think there's been this sudden flurry of activity? Well in the

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00:03:04,060 --> 00:03:12,660

UFO business we've learnt to trade on coincidences. Now as you already mentioned back in about

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00:03:12,700 --> 00:03:18,380

three years ago in 1967 there was a big flap which I think started off in about November

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00:03:18,380 --> 00:03:25,380

67 and there was two police constables in a patrol car somewhere north of Dartmoor,

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00:03:26,780 --> 00:03:36,780

Devonshire and they saw this object and it was like a flying cross. In fact they chased

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00:03:36,780 --> 00:03:43,780

on the countryside doing extremely high speeds. The report said they were doing 90 miles an

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00:03:44,260 --> 00:03:49,700

hour and we thought oh this is probably just one off report. There probably won't be any

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00:03:49,700 --> 00:03:53,700

more and we didn't do anything about it. We didn't alert our members. But the following

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00:03:53,700 --> 00:03:59,220

week it wasn't just ordinary people but police all over the country reporting light splashing

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00:03:59,220 --> 00:04:05,580

across the sky flying crosses and we just weren't ready for it but this time because

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00:04:05,580 --> 00:04:11,700

of this coincidence and there's also a coincidence that we have a flap. A flap is UFO jargon for

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00:04:11,700 --> 00:04:18,020

a lot of reports. When Mars is at a close approach to the Earth which it is at the present time

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00:04:18,020 --> 00:04:21,180

so you're well covered now. Thank you very much Mr. Beir.