

Police evidence adds weight to UFO

By IAIN WILSON

NO positive explanation has emerged for a UFO over Dumfries which was witnessed by, among many others, five baffled police officers.

Eye-witness accounts, made even more credible by those of the trained observers, proved so remarkable that the police called a special news conference within hours of Saturday's sighting.

The Ministry of Defence is saying little about its course of action, although emphasising that most unidentified flying objects

turn out to be aircraft, space junk, or caused by freak weather conditions.

Professor Peter Sweet, head of Glasgow University's department of astronomy, said yesterday: "I hope the investigators treat this seriously. The report has to be treated with more respect than others because the witnesses include policemen trained to be objective and very careful about their observations."

The RAF's West Drayton, Station in London which collates UFO information for the Ministry of Defence, has already re-

ceived a report from the Scottish air traffic control centre at Prestwick Airport which sent out an aircraft to investigate — with negative results.

The report says witnesses include "seven people at Dumfries Royal Infirmary, five policemen and a cast of thousands."

The object is described as oblong in shape, white in colour, with three equally-spaced lights at the front and two at the rear.

Many witnesses, including residents from Lochside council estate, said the large, brilliantly-lit, object was about 500ft. up, visible

for almost an hour, and hovered or moved slowly.

UFO sightings, at different times, were also reported at the weekend in Motherwell in Lanarkshire and the village of Straiton, in Ayrshire.

Air traffic control, who receive about two UFO reports a month believe the sighting was a meteorological phenomenon. It is possible that an aircraft, perhaps military, was in the area at the time.

Three of the police officers, Sergeant Bill McDavid, Constable Jim Smith and Policewoman Pamela Brown, all re-

turned to the area for a second look yesterday.

They were adamant about what they had seen after checking both in darkness and daylight the now blank sky. Sergeant McDavid said: "I've never seen a UFO before. I'm still sceptical, but I know what my eyes saw and I just cannot explain it."

One possible explanation is that the UFO may simply have been the lights of a building at a GPO transmitter mast. The object was roughly in the same direction as the mast on top of Riddings Hill.

A spokesman at police headquarters in Dumfries admitted last night: "This may be the simple explanation."

It has been established that GPO engineers were working at the transmitter station from 11 p.m. to 3 a.m. — and the UFO was sighted for almost an hour shortly after 1 a.m.

The police also say that the cloud level at times was below the oblong-shaped building, and the lighting in the station would have been shining out of the windows.

GLASGOW HERALD MONDAY

1/9/80