

# Those U.F.O.s are no longer a joke

THE intriguing topic of unidentified flying objects is being taken more and more seriously.

The Earl of Clancarty has studied UFOs for 30 years and is a pioneer UFO writer who set a trend since followed by armies of science fiction writers. His many books on the subject include *The Sky People*, *Men Among Mankind*, *Forgotten Heritage*, *The Flying Saucer Story* and *Secret of the Ages*, and he is founder of the UFO society, Contact International, who collect investigate and co-ordinate UFO accounts from all over the world.

Certainly it was a moment of triumph for him when he introduced a UFO debate in the House of Lords, in so many minds considered the very epitome of orthodoxy and tradition. For the first time in 700 years, the subject was being debated in a cool, factual way, with no jokes about nutcases and little green men. Indeed, why should the matter be taken lightly when reports are coming in at the rate of a thousand a month.

Many distinguished people took part in that historic debate, among them the Earl of Kimberley, the Liberal Party spokesman on aerospace; Lord Gainford, who stated in his speech that he had himself seen a UFO, Lord Davies of Leek and Lord Gladwyn, the ex-diplomat. These have since joined Lord Clancarty's UFO Study Group, which now number more than 20 Lords, including Admiral of the Fleet Lord Hill-Norton.

Lord Clancarty's study, where he writes his books under the family name of Brinsely Le Poer Trench, is

like an eagle's eyrie, perched at the very top of his lofty Belgravia home, its workmanlike atmosphere contrasting with the elegant luxury of the other rooms. On the walls are superb pictures, painted according to collected details of hundreds of UFO sightings with every detail included. These are the Titians and Rembrandts of the science-fiction world.

## Explicit

The Earl is tall, superbly dressed, confident, breezy, explicit in speech even when making the most astounding statements about UFOs and goings-on

By DENIS BARDENS

in outer space. He admits that he "got a bit of stick" for his seemingly crazy idea about the hollow earth but is proud to be a member of the Hollow Earth Society.

In fact, he is at this moment in touch with David H. Lewis in New York, who claims to have found a tunnel off the Hudson River which led down, through a maze of similar tunnels, into the bowels of the earth, where he found vast cultivated fields, an enormous energy station and robots.

"Odd that I've never heard about it," I ventured. "I'd have thought that would have had world-wide publicity."

"Twenty-five people are supposed to have gone down the tunnel, although the expedition was not

sponsored by the Hollow Earth Society," Lord Clancarty explained.

Lord Clancarty is glad to have got a powerful, varied nucleus of Lords interested in UFOs as a continuing operation. "We've had a talk by Charles Bowen, Editor of *The Flying Saucer Review*, and a talk on UFOs by American nuclear physicist Edwin Slade. Antonio Ribero, of Spain, who wants to lend us the colour film of the UFO in flight, has addressed the House of Lords group. So has another speaker, Z Sitchin, a New York businessman who speaks many languages and has written *"The Twelfth Planet."*

"He maintains that monkeys have been on the earth for 12 million years but that ordinary man arrived suddenly from outer space ..."

Lord Clancarty has long believed that unidentified flying objects exist and come from outer space. Once he saw a UFO himself—a strange object zig-zagging over the rooftops of South Kensington, emblazoned in an aura of eerie white light.

He believes that we stemmed not from apes but from life "planted" on earth from flying saucers. And Sir Fred Hoyle, the eminent astronomer, has asserted, to the surprise of some astronomers and the indignation of others, that life may have started, not on earth but in interstellar space. His theory is important, because if the "biological building blocks are not an earthly thing, but exist outside, similar life forms to ours may well exist elsewhere.

## Important

The House of Lords UFO Study Group, therefore is not cosy intellectual self-indulgence. There is a solid nucleus of bewildering and important fact. To underline this point, I asked Charles Bowen, Editor of *The Flying Saucer Review*—25 years old this year, and enjoying a world-wide circulation—what is the latest and most dramatic sighting in Britain.

"Undoubtedly the weird experience of Robert Taylor, forestry foreman of Livingston Development Council in West Lothian Scotland. He came to a cross-roads or clearing of the forest, where the fire-paths converge—a broad clearing. There he saw a dome-shaped thing with a flange round its equator with stems projecting from the flange.

"Two objects, like spherical, spiky objects came at him, and struck him. He passed out. When he came to, there were scuff marks where he had been dragged along. He managed to drag himself back on hands and knees and told his supervisor, who got in touch with the police. So far there's no explanation. The scuff marks on the soil, and marks left by the strange vehicle, were seen by two of our investigators, fortunately before they became covered with snow and before the invasion of curious sightseers."

Their detailed report will appear in full in Volume 25, No. 6 of the *Flying Saucer Review*. This occurrence was on November 9, 1979, and is still totally unexplained.

"The machine was not seen in flight," Mr. Bowen told me, "but from accounts we have collected it was something like other shapes that have been reported—spherical, but with a dome-shaped top."

I have seen a UFO once, proof to me that they do exist. It was over the Mediterranean, in 1961, off Tripoli—a flat-looking object, bright yellow at base, glowing red in its upper structure, and with a sort of superstructure of what looked like smoke but which couldn't have been as it kept its shape.