

PEERS TOLD

'NO UFO COVER-UP'

By Our Parliamentary Staff

THERE was no Defence Ministry "cover-up" over sightings of Unidentified Flying Objects, Viscount LONG, a Government defence spokesman, answered peers yesterday.

Over the last four years there had been 2,250 UFO sightings reported, and all had been passed to staff who examined them for possible defence implications, he said.

He told the leader of the Lords all-party UFO group, the Earl of Clancarty (Ind):

"If you are suspicious that the Ministry of Defence is covering up in any way, I can assure you there is no reason why we should."

The sole Ministry interest in UFO reports was if they revealed, for example, that a Russian or other unidentified aircraft might have breached our defence systems.

'Natural phenomena'

Lord STRABOLGI (Lab.) suggested most sightings could be accounted for by natural phenomena.

Lord HILL-NORTON (Ind.), former Chief of the Defence Staff, asked if it was true that all sightings before 1963 were destroyed as being "of no interest." If that was so, who destroyed them?

Lord LONG said that since 1967 all UFO reports had been preserved. "Before that time, after five years, they were generally destroyed."

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A. Clarke

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