

'E.T.—based upon fact'

LONDON, Sat. — The smash-hit movie ET which is enthraling millions with its tale of a little man from outer space, is based on fact, says Britain's leading expert on unidentified flying objects.

The Earl of Clancarty, chairman of the all-party UFO study group in the House of Lords, claims real extra-terrestrials have already landed on Earth.

And, he says, the world's superpowers know all about the aliens but are keeping the knowledge secret.

The earl, 71, claims his inquiries have revealed a cover-up by the governments of the US, Russia and Britain.

He says: "A UFO actually landed at Earl Mountbatten's home in Hampshire.

"It crashed and the remains are being kept for research purposes but the public is being kept in the dark."

Another crashed UFO is being held by the Americans at a secret base.

"There is a race by superpowers to find out how UFOs work," the earl said. "That is why there is a big cover up.

"We have monitored thousands of UFO sightings every year, in all parts of the world, Australia included. Many of them indicate strongly we have visitors from outer space," the earl said.

Evidence

Ten governments openly admit that there is strong evidence that flying saucers exist. They include France, Norway, Sweden and Brazil.

According to the earl, movie-maker Stephen Spielberg's films E.T. and Close Encounters, are inspired by extra-terrestrials.

He believes Close Encounters was based on a real meeting between beings from space and a US leader.

"President Eisenhower is supposed to have met aliens by arrangement at Edwards air force base in 1953," the earl claims.

"Eisenhower decided that the aliens were so advanced that the world was not ready for open contact.

"The aliens suggested an education program should be put in hand to prepare the way.

"This information came directly to me from an air force pilot who was present at the confrontation as an adviser.

"I believe E.T. and Close Encounters are part of that education program" the earl said.

The earl is no wild-eyed newcomer to the ranks of flying saucer enthusiasts.

A former executive for respected aviation magazines, he has written a number of best-selling books on UFOs.

As founder-member of a world-wide network of flying saucer investigators, he uses his elegant London home as a command post for harassing civil servants.

"I know they dismiss me as dotty and a bit of a crackpot," he admits happily.

"I'm quite used to that. It is all part of the big cover-up."

PURFORD

1983

16 JAN

SUNDAY TIMES