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ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Tues., June 14, 1983

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## Light Flash Reported From Here To Indiana May Have Been Meteor

A brilliant flash of light that appeared in the sky early today may have been a meteor, some observers say.

Officers from the Jennings, Dellwood, St. Louis County and Moline Acres police departments reported seeing the flash about 1:30 a.m. Reports from Indiana, Illinois and western Kentucky said the light had been as bright as day.

The National U.F.O. Reporting Center in Seattle reported that it had received calls about the flash from Indiana to Missouri about 1:40 a.m. The private agency is hoping to get more calls so it can pinpoint the meteor's path.

"It was apparently a very large meteor that burned on entering the atmosphere," a center's staff member said today. "But there have been no

reports of a touchdown."

St. Louis County police had several calls about the light. A deputy sheriff in Jefferson County said he had seen the flash of light. Lambert Field control tower said it had one long-distance call reporting the meteor.

Sheriff's deputy Herschel Smith of Edwards County, Ill., said the meteor "lit up here like an aerial flare. Then it left an orange trail that hung in the sky for about 45 seconds after the main part went out."

Reports of sightings extended from north of Indianapolis through southeastern Illinois and into western Kentucky.

Doug Nutall, a radio operator at the sheriff's office in Lawrence County, Ill., said deputies had reported that the meteor was "lighting up the whole sky just like daylight."